

IN THE MIX

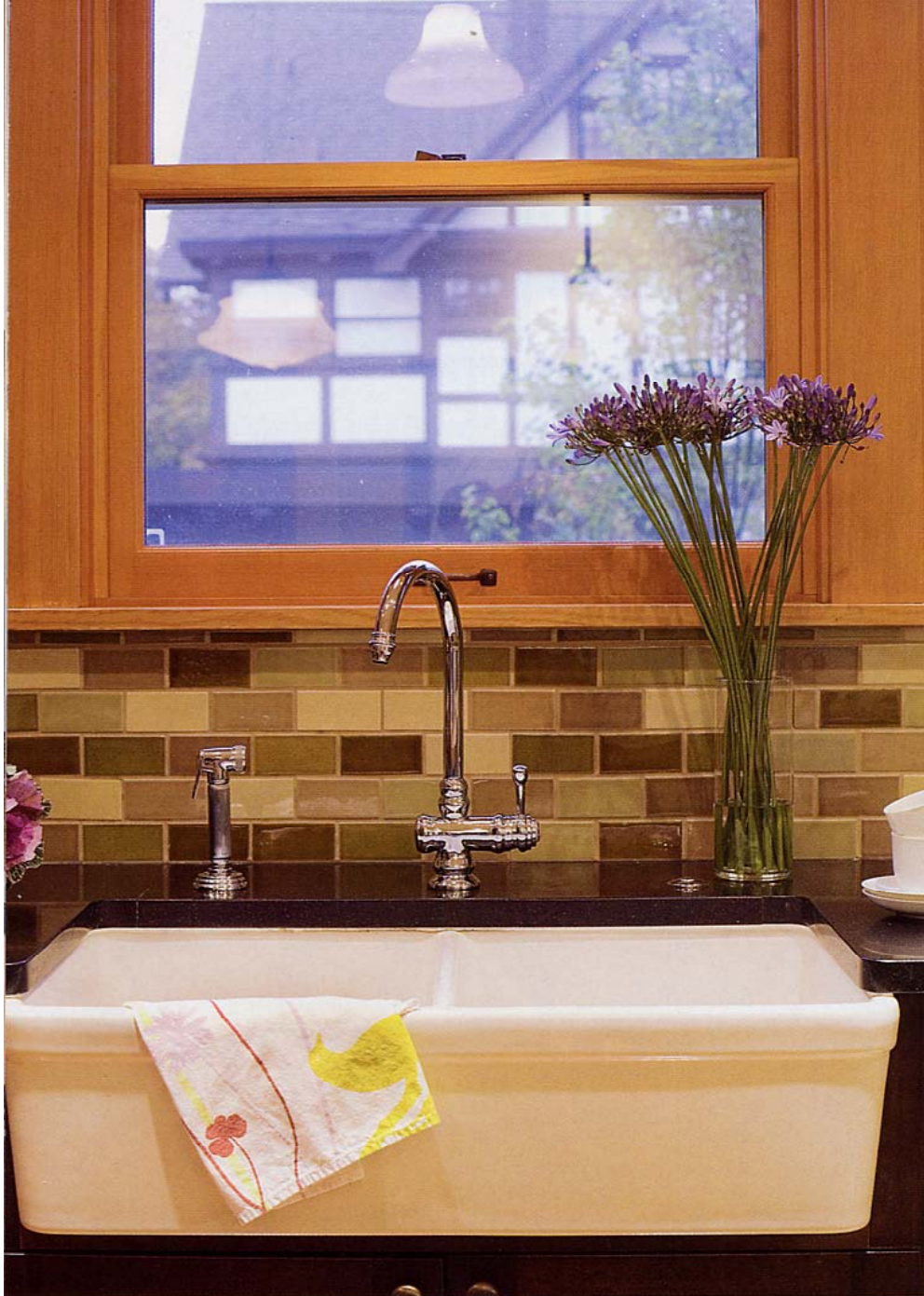
KIDS, COLORS AND COOKERY BLEND BEAUTIFULLY IN CAPITOL HILL



SCRAWLED IN PINK SIDEWALK CHALK on the refrigerator fronted with medium-density fibreboard sprayed with chalkboard paint, menu items including Pork Madras and Pear Crisp announce the presence of a gourmet cook in the Hillman household. The nether regions of the same appliance bear the smudged, candy-colored evidence of two (considerably shorter) Picassos-in-training. It seems that in this flexible, kid-friendly kitchen, even the icebox is expected to multi-task.

When Susie and Matt Hillman, a former 7th and 8th grade schoolteacher and a software developer, respectively, purchased their American Foursquare in 2004, lowered ceilings and an octopus of interior partitions left over from earlier remodels had rendered the famously proportional rooms decidedly asymmetrical. Luckily, the Hillmans already knew a good archi-





* TEAM

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BUILD Houseworks Construction Company, 20315 Broadway Ave., Suite A1, Snohomish; 425.483.3422; houseworksc.com.

COST \$48,000.

KITCHEN CONVENIENCE Endowed with extra shelving for toys, games and cookbooks, the walnut-topped kitchen island also encases a knee-high, built-in microwave. Now, popcorn-craving shorties can make their own.

EARTH FRIENDLY ELEMENT Hidden behind custom-designed cabinetry, smoothly gliding pullout bins provide easy access to spacious recycling containers.

Page 40–41: This is not your mother's subway tile. A course of color therapy, courtesy of Ann Sacks, brings out the belle in the backsplash. Schoolhouse lighting by Hudson Valley complements a delightfully educational kitchen complete with a dry-erase world map, fridge-top chalkboard and books. Left: A previous remodel had banished the kitchen to a corner, while stripping away any trace of its 1907 pedigree. Below: A Farmhouse sink, like this model by Whitehaus, was on Susie Hillman's kitchen wish list from day one. Opposite: Jonah, four, and Audrey, two, chill out in their kid-friendly kitchen while mom Susie Hillman surfs recipes. With its neatly turned feet and other furniture-grade details, the Hillman's island was inspired by the wooden tables that hold court in French country kitchens.

tect in Patricia Brennan, of Patricia Brennan Architects. She had updated their last kitchen, a well planned space that they reluctantly had relinquished after the arrival of Jonah, now four, and Audrey, now two, when they kicked off the search for roomier digs.

The newly reunited team set out to recapture the graceful lines and meticulous detailing that are the rightful inheritance of this gracious 1907 house. Ceilings were restored to their original lofty heights; crown moldings now flow unbroken between the open kitchen and the adjacent great room; and newly installed bead-board peeps from behind rows of stemware, just as it might have 100 years ago.

While architectural integrity is important to the Hillmans, so is personality. The couple's love of color is reflected in a collection of creamy shades with names that sound good enough to eat. Honey, latté, melon and two other marzipan hues have transformed that old-fashioned standby—the subway-tile backsplash—into a meltingly lovely green tea-and-golden mosaic that glows with contemporary warmth. "It's a riff on tradition," explains Susie. "I wanted to mix it up."

To this end, these skilled mixologists have created a smooth design cocktail, wherein traditional woods, such as mahogany and walnut, and contemporary materials, such as granite and stainless steel, blend with the audaciously modern idea that kitchens are for more than just cooking. Case in point: the colorful dry-erase world map that encourages kitchen-counter travelers and pop geography quizzes between courses. Tucked just down the hall, laundry facilities and a compact mudroom offer a lesson in chore-time convenience. In an alcove next to the refrigerator, a phone, laptop dock, file drawers and storage for the children's toys and art supplies make up a household mission control center in a room that Susie sums up, simply, as, "the center of our universe." ✦



