



**DESIGNER AND  
CONTRACTOR:**  
Custom Kitchens  
by John Wilkins Inc.

## PRESERVING THE PAST

When the cook of the house came to Custom Kitchens by John Wilkins Inc. of Oakland to discuss her remodel, she had done a lot of research about what she wanted. “We were able to tweak her ideas,” says designer Joy Wilkins, “and I think we wound up with her dream kitchen.”

Visitors to the L-shaped kitchen enter through an Ogee arched doorway, a Moorish detail evident elsewhere in the home. The pointed archway was also added to divide the kitchen from an adjoining breakfast area. “The entry to the breakfast room used to be square,” says Wilkins. “Changing it really opened up the space.” Double-hung windows over the sink reveal lush greenery, a color scheme echoed in the variegated Verde Fantastico granite countertops. The backsplash mixes subway tiles with a subtle decorative green-tile ribbon matching the granite, and green accent tiles form a geometric pattern over the stove.

An awkward layout of counters and cabinets in the former kitchen made cooking a chore instead of a pleasure. The kitchen had minimal storage and lacked overhead cabinets, so retrieving pots and dishes meant crouching down and digging through deep cupboards. The new kitchen offers 80 percent more storage—room for all the couple’s cooking necessities, from big cast iron pans to electric appliances. Because everything now has a place, countertops remain sleek and clutter free.