



TABLE FOR TWO

Although initially conflicted about ousting the plants occupying the windowed corner of her own kitchen, architect Katie Hutchison knew that with only 135 sq. ft. of kitchen space to work with, maximizing function was critical. A built-in bench together with a side chair and a petite dining table make an intimate breakfast or snacking nook. The bench face and drawer are a custom green-painted poplar with a benchtop of old-growth eastern white pine to match the flooring. The pine was stained nutmeg and finished with tung oil. The bonus storage space in the drawer below the bench is accessed from the front.

To relieve her guilt about displacing the plants, Hutchison designed wood window shelves to welcome a few smaller specimens back to their favorite sunny spot. A shelving unit above the chair balances out the overhead cabinets along the work area's wall and provides a new home for some of Hutchison's favorite cookbooks.

Design: Katie Hutchison, Katie Hutchison Design, Salem, Mass.

Construction: Len Tremblay, Salem, Mass.

Photographer: Katie Hutchison

WHEN MULTITASKING IS ON THE MENU

In a kitchen eating area only 4½ ft. square, is it possible to combine a relaxed gathering spot with additional storage and an air return for the furnace, yet keep the space bright, comfortable, and uncluttered? Meld ingenious design with components that do double duty, and the answer is yes. The cushioned bench with its slightly angled back provides comfortable seating for two or three, houses the air return, and still has room for a pull-out drawer. The dropped ceiling and the red-and-orange color-blocked floor contribute to the intimacy of the space, while chairs opposite the bench allow easy access to the maple butcher-block pedestal table. The interior window provides light to the adjacent stairwell and a view of the front door.

Design: Alexia Zerbinis and Keyan Mizani, eM/Zed design LLC, Portland, Ore.

Construction: Ed Reinsteinn, Portland

Photographer: Keyan Mizani

