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## Sugar and Spice

**DESIGN GOAL:** Some kitchen renovations aren't complete overhauls; they're the remodeler's equivalent of cracking open a box of cake mix rather than baking a cake from scratch—but the results can be just as sweet. That's what homeowner Holly Kuhn and her husband discovered when they decided to refresh their kitchen two years ago.

Built in 2000, the home is "like a big, old farmhouse," says Kuhn, who owns Old Glory Antiques in Centennial, "and the kitchen is absolutely what sold me on the house." But Kuhn, an unabashed fan of rich red tones, wanted to warm up the space and add a dash of modernity and eclecticism.

She and her husband preserved most of the existing red cabinets, as well as the concrete countertops. "I loved the countertops because they were different," she says. "And the more worn they get, the more I love them." To spice things up, they replaced one wall of cab-

inets with an old store counter, swapped the tile floor for alder wood to match the rest of the home and removed the embossed-tin backsplash in favor of classic white subway tile. They also enhanced the recessed lighting scheme with industrial-style pendant lamps over the bar.

**DEFINING DETAIL:** "The cabinets define the room—the red color, because there's just so much of it," Kuhn says. They complement the furnishings in the adjoining living spaces and provide the perfect backdrop for Kuhn's ever-changing collection of antiques—many of which are, of course, red.

**WHY IT WORKS:** Those antiques, coupled with the personal touches the homeowners added, give the kitchen character and make it feel less utilitarian, Kuhn says, while the subway tile, pendant lamps and concrete countertops propel the room into the 21st century. "It's just my favorite room," she says.



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