



## BELLE ÉPOQUE

The glass door on the Traubert fridge, which has separate freezer drawers underneath, means no standing with the door open searching for what you need. Chris originally wanted a black stove but was swayed by the red knobs on this stainless steel and black model from Wolf. Puffin, Ward of Mouth, today phone. [NewstyleAntiqueMarket.com@icloud.com](mailto:NewstyleAntiqueMarket.com@icloud.com); York Management Group; Top Pacific Hardware Flooring Hardware; SumnerHillHardware.

## In this dramatic 11-by-14-foot

kitchen, Modin Rouge meets Coasting Tiger, Hidden Dragon. Homeowner Chris Kowal, a musician, spent 18 months trawling through books to find the perfect theme for the kitchen renovation of his 1800 home. He then recreated one, in exacting detail, from a photograph in *Kitchens* by Chris Casson Madden (Clarkezon Press/Publishers, 1991) that caught his imagination.

"It's an Asian colour palette, but the grape-and-leaf cabinet moulding definitely has a European flavour," says Chris, who admits he has a real fondness for colour.

Nickel hardware, liberal use of marble and stainless steel counters — reminiscent of the old-time bars in French clubs — are pure bistro references. "I knew stainless steel counters would mark, but they add to the industrial character."

The walls and cabinetry were painted brilliant Chinese red, then the cabinetry's exterior was sprayed with mattesque black lacquer. For an aged effect, the lacquer was strategically rubbed off the frames to let the mottled red show through. The cabinetry's nickel-plated knobs also have antiquated charm. When it came to appliances, however, Chris opted for the thoroughly modern convenience of commercial-grade units.

Chris and painter Bill Maurice saw that no detail was overlooked: opulent touches include black abony inlay on the hardwood floor, and bookends of Nero Portoro marble, also employed for the backsplash and fireplace hearth.

"I practically live here when I'm not working," says Chris, who says he only has to flick a switch on the shoptop gas fireplace to settle in for a comfy winter evening.



**TOP RIGHT:** Chris incorporated open shelving over the fireplace, clad in Nero Portoro marble, to display his prized Shirley Thompson Cobalt china collection. "The fireplace was always there, but I had it entered forward so it would stand out more," he says. The previous island blocked the fireplace.

this new butcher-block-topped island was carefully placed to allow for a clear view. Ebony floor inlay (satellite black inlay), Union Universal Woods, marble, Crystal Tile & Marble brass finish, The Fireplace Shop ceiling moulding, Cascade Mouldings, clock, Hastings coffee maker, Colson **RIGHT: Stainless steel counters and accessories add a sleek, industrial element to the sensual black and red colour scheme. The inset steel does a half-inch above the edge of the counter to prevent nicks from chopping.** **Bottom, West of Main:** chrome canisters, Banco Plus by Southland. **RIGHT:** This tall, shallow spice cabinet was designed to hide a fast-dial ball mill.



walls and cabinet interiors, Burnt Ochre (P1849-01) by Para Paints.

**BOTTOM LEFT:** Coffee maker, plate, Cabinet: cream and sage dishes, Fluid Living; coffee, jam, Drabik's Cupboard; bread, All the Best Fine Foods.

