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**T**he downtown location of this 1928 Chicago co-op enticed Robin and William Moore to take a look at the property—it's only a four-block walk from William's work. But its 2,500 square feet of living space is what convinced the couple to buy it.

A narrow galley kitchen was its only drawback: the circa 1940s metal cabinets were showing wear, and the room's lack of natural light made the space feel depressing. "The kitchen wasn't anything like the gathering places you see in magazines," William says, who loves to whip up culinary delights when entertaining. "It didn't even comfortably accommodate cooking."

With the help of architect Michael Graham, William and Robin were able to transform the old kitchen and an adjacent butler's pantry into a welcoming, >> on 116

Attention to detail makes this slim kitchen as hardworking as many of its more commodious counterparts. Mottled granite countertops complement the pale honey hues of the cabinetry. The extra-deep granite sink (*above*) holds every size pot and pan that the Moores own. Fine-furniture-quality custom-made cabinets (*right*) effortlessly glide open and shut, while putting every inch of storage space to work.







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light-filled room. A new custom-made glass door and matching window replace a steel door and tiny window, flooding the now 10x20-foot room with light. Maple cabinets, finished in a pale honey tone, warm the long, narrow room without making it feel closed in.

At Robin's request, a new center island separates the work area from a walkway, and the side of the island opposite the sink doubles as a casual eating bar. "The island sink makes the layout more accommodating, but our new cooktop is the best feature of all," William says. "It takes a lot of the guesswork out of cooking, and that evidently is working for me, because our friends keep coming back for more."

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A local artist painted these colorful murals (*top left*) on canvas and then adhered them to the wall with wallpaper paste. A clear acrylic coating protects the paintings from fingerprints and spatters; cleanup is a wipe with a damp cloth. The storage wall (*above right*) holds more than double ovens: a microwave oven and a TV are hidden behind cabinet doors. A new wet bar at the far end of this storage wall relieves pressure on the main sink and replaces the old butler's pantry. The cooktop (*above left*) was custom made for the Moores and imported from France. Behind the cooktop, stainless-steel hanging racks keep utensils and pans within easy reach of the cook.