

# AMERICAN FARMHOUSE

# FARMHOUSE

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The combination of the kitchen sink with brass faucet and the custom kitchen island are beautiful and functional modern features.

# The Heart of the Home

This 101-year-old bachelor pad gets a modern farmhouse makeover to accommodate the needs of a growing, young family.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANGELA NEWTON ROY



Standing proudly in the historic Lyon Park neighborhood of Arlington, Virginia is a 101-year-old bungalow with recent renovations that would charm and delight any modern farmhouse style enthusiast. Bright, airy and warm, this house—once a bachelor’s pad—is now a cozy home to a young family of four.

When the homeowners purchased the house, they knew that something had to be done to make it their own. “We knew that the house had good bones, but the layout did not function well for our family,” say the homeowners. Although the exterior of the house kept its bungalow look, the interior needed work to accommodate a family with a toddler and a preschooler. The homeowners enrolled Michael Sauri, Co-Owner and President of TriVista USA Design + Build to help them with their dream project.

The custom-made, marble-topped island serves as the focal point in the kitchen. It has plenty of counter space for the family to prepare meals and spend time together.

*“The function in any space needs to come first.”*



(above) Matching white cabinets and shelving unify the living room and kitchen, as well as the overall look of the space.

(right) Tall white custom-built kitchen cabinets provide clean lines and much needed storage space.

#### THE PROBLEM

“When you walked through the client’s front door, you were originally greeted by a space that was very modern and cold,” says Michael. He realized immediately that the space was a complete mismatch for the family’s transitional style. A huge double-sided and awkward looking fireplace and two wide floor-to-ceiling columns separated the space. A dated wooden accent wall and irregular fixtures were begging for a change. The lack of kitchen cabinetry or pantry and the kitchen sink were a major problem for them. The family room was oriented to face the fireplace, but you couldn’t see inside the kitchen. This was also a problem for the homeowners because it was important for them to keep an eye on their young children if they were in the living room and the adults were in the kitchen. The flow of the entire space was confined with limited functionality, and it presented a challenge for a family with young children.





The bright and sunny dining room features hardwood floors and large black-framed windows that are the focal point in the room. As with the kitchen island, it features a beautiful painted cabinet that ties both spaces together.



The farmhouse sink is another typical element in any modern farmhouse kitchen. Michael used brass hardware for the faucet to add contrast against the white of the sink and give it a pop of color.



Michael updated the adjacent powder room with neutral shades of pewter green for the cabinet. A complimentary glass cloth wallpaper adorns the wall. Candle sconces frame the mirror, creating a charming space that carries forward the clean lines from the kitchen and living room.

## MAKING IT MODERN

Modern Farmhouse Style is all about neutral colors and clean lines with modern finishes. Here are some expert tips on how to incorporate this design style into your home.

**NEUTRAL COLOR.** Neutral color is the foundation of the modern farmhouse style. In this home, the walls are a neutral shade contrasted by the majestic black window and patio door frames. Michael also installed custom cabinetry in the kitchen in white. Hardwood flooring is used throughout the space, unifying all areas. The theme is carried into the powder room with the gray and white wallpaper and pewter green cabinet.

**CLEAN LINES.** Clean lines form the basis of a good modern farmhouse style home. You can achieve this either by having curvy lines or rectangular lines in your design. Rectangular lines are considered straight and unbroken. Wherever possible, Michael added elements of the same length and width to keep things rectangularly sound. This can be seen in the choice of cabinetry, the island, the counters and even the furniture. All of these give the overall space a rectangular appearance full of clean lines.

**MODERN FINISHES.** The modern farmhouse style benefits from modern finishes in the space. Michael used white lighting fixtures in the kitchen and the dining room. Brass hardware, handmade Zellige tile and a marble top were used to give the space an updated, modern appearance.

### THE TRANSITION

Michael suggested a complete demolition of the space. He removed the double fireplace, the wood accent wall and the fixtures. The columns couldn't be removed because they were part of the support system for the space. So, Michael had the width of the columns adjusted to create a better flow for traffic in the area. All this made the space "much more connected to each room," says Michael. It created an open and airier feel, which is a big part of the modern farmhouse style. With these adjustments, it is now easier for the homeowners to look over from the kitchen into the living room and the adjacent dining room, which makes life a lot easier with two young children in the house. Now there are separate areas for different activities for the family, but every spot is easily accessible and noticeable.

### THE HUB

The island is an important part of the family's home; it is where all the action happens when they come together to cook, eat and catch up with each other on their daily activities. Michael wanted to improve this important spot for them by building the center island

around the six-burner stove. This presented a problem initially with the ventilation system, but he resolved the issue by re-routing it. Now, the island is the focal point of the kitchen.

Brilliant and warm sunshine bursts through the majestic kitchen window lighting up the entire space. A modern farmhouse sink in white was added by the window. It is the homeowners' favorite spot in the kitchen. Another remarkable addition to the kitchen was the ceiling-to-floor and wall-to-wall custom-built maple wood cabinetry. With all the extra storage, the homeowners can now utilize the space to store items and keep the kitchen looking organized and clean all the time. Michael kept most things at the same dimension and tied the cabinetry together with the crown molding between the top of the cabinets and under the ceiling.

The renovations have made the home a perfect fit for the homeowners' young family. Now, everything works together in the space for them. It is not only beautiful, but practical, too. The homeowners are pleased with the changes. "We love the space, and it is the heart of our home," they say.