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The Challenge:

The kitchen of this Back Bay duplex was filled with natural light, but was isolated from the rest of the apartment. The aesthetic didn't fit the style of the couple, who have a collection of both antiques and Danish modern pieces, and the layout didn't work well for cooking or as the hub for an active family with young children.

The Solution:

The opening between the entry and the kitchen was enlarged, the coat closet relocated, and wasted space under the eaves was captured for storage, making the useable kitchen space five feet wider. The custom walnut built-in between the windows creates a dramatic focal point and provides lots of storage space; an appliance hutch and pantry are concealed in the corner, and the built-in wooden drain board keeps the counter uncluttered.

The Fun Detail:

The walnut apron at the peninsula conceals hidden drawers, one per child, for their coloring books and crayons, transforming meal prep into family time.