

Woman's Day® Special Interest Publications

# KITCHENS & BATHS

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See Page 121

STORE MORE  
**25** New Ways  
to Organize

**The Affordable  
Family Kitchen**

**Dream Bathroom  
for Any Budget**

**19 Colorful Design Ideas**



Woman's Day Kitchens & Baths  
Volume XVIII, Number 3

U.S. \$5.99

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**KITCHENS & BATHS™**

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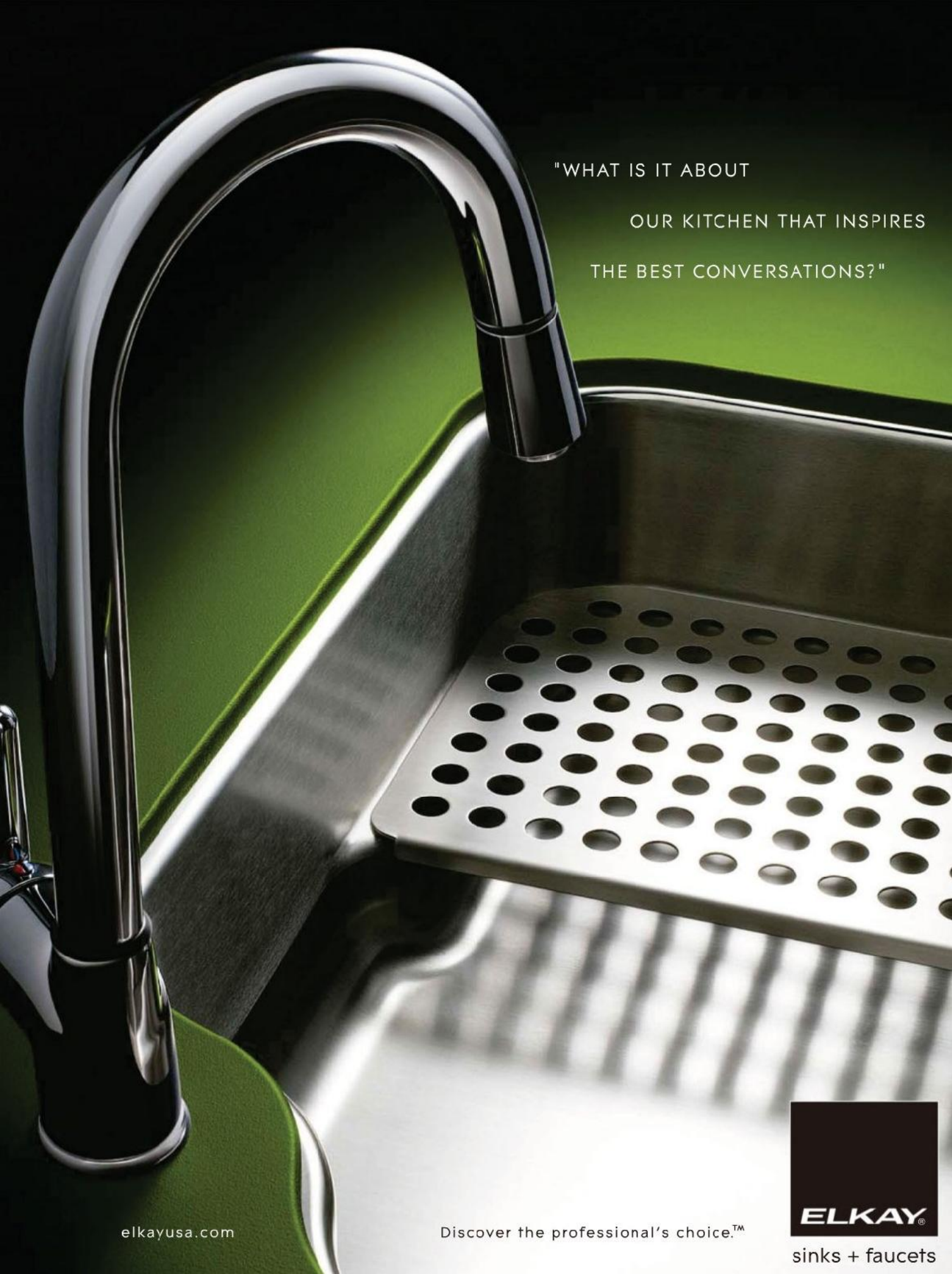
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## Beauty & Brains

It may have been a long time in coming, but I think the notion of good design being a necessity—as opposed to a luxury—is now widely embraced. Key to this has been the acceptance of a definition of “design” that goes beyond the visible: It’s not just about the shape, size and color of objects, but the grace, economy and intelligence of how things and places work.

Our annual Design Showcase (“In Living Color”, page 65) illustrates this point perfectly. Sure, the space is a delight to the eye with its vibrant palette of colors and range of materials, but it’s so much more. The heart of the design is the functionality of the project. It’s



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an enlightened, logical floor plan that anticipates how the kitchen and bath are really used. It’s how the cabinets store more stuff thanks to clever, built-in organizers. It’s how the sleek, head-turning appliances perform at such an advanced level that they make routine tasks personal rewards.

The team responsible for this year’s showcase, project director Mervyn Kaufman and interior designer Ingrid Leess, spent months crafting an array of great products into an inspiring environment. I hope you enjoy it.

*Leslie*

Leslie Plummer Clagett  
Editor

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Dear Reader,

There has been plenty of talk recently about green being the new black, and deservedly so. But let's not forget about the "old" green! It's a color that savvy designers have been turning to again and again with tremendous results.

Take, for example, the kitchen and bath Design Showcase (see page 65) presented by Woman's Day Special Interest Publications and *Home* magazine at

this year's Kitchen/Bath Industry Show in Chicago in early April. Vibrant new shades of green are used dramatically throughout the 600-square-foot installation, adorning walls (wood stained in Green Tea), surfaces (quartz counters in Apple Martini) and accessories (dining chairs in Hot Lime).

But color was just one vital component of the cutting-edge design on display back in Chicago. Innovative construction, ahead-of-the-trend appliances and super-efficient storage all helped make our Design Showcase a star attraction.

*Olivia*

Olivia Monjo  
Editor in Chief  
omonjo@hfmus.com

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### REMODELING & MAKEOVERS

Next issue on sale June 17

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- Clutter-buster tips
- Great ways to go green

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## what's new

Noteworthy trends and great new products for kitchens and baths

WRITTEN BY JULIE TARASKA



### WATERFALL

Simplicity defines Gessi's Rettangolo XL ceiling spout. Available with a chrome or satin-nickel finish, the 63-inch-long water basin fixture is totally tubular—and requires a separate deck-mounted mixing control. From \$1,380 for fixture; from \$405 for mixer. [gessi.it](http://gessi.it).

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## IDEA FILE



### HANGING IN THERE

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### YEAR OF THE DOG

Tracy Porter based her Foo Dog salt and pepper shakers on traditional Chinese imperial lions, which protect your home from evil spirits. These earthenware shakers sit on a multicolored pedestal when not in use. \$78. 866-388-7229; [tracyporter.com](http://tracyporter.com).

### HOT! HOT! HOT!

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turn to  
**page 113**  
and  
discover...

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**IDEA FILE**

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From \$562. [hansa.com](http://hansa.com). ♦



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# down to scale

Gerard Ciccarello offers ideas on how to warm up an oversize kitchen

WRITTEN BY JUDI KETTELER



A kitchen should be a family's home base, not a cold lab for preparing food. Gerard Ciccarello, CMKBD, of Covenant Kitchens, in Westbrook, Connecticut, turned a sleek, open kitchen with 9-foot ceilings into an inviting hub for a family of five.

## Q&A

◆ **THERE'S A LOT OF COLOR HERE. WHY DID YOU MIX UP THE COLOR PALETTE?**

Using multiple colors adds a lot of interest. When done well, color can really show off a room and add warmth. Using distinct colors makes each piece stand out.

◆ **HOW ELSE DID YOU MAKE THIS LARGE SPACE FEEL COZIER?** The use of color, but also the architectural elements. We did an arch between the kitchen and family room.

An arch is a classic element, and is pleasing to the eye, plus it brings down the ceiling height. We also used beadboard to get a more casual look, and we played with the heights of the cabinets, too, which helps the space feel less boxy. The crown molding all the way around the room also helps bring the ceiling down.

◆ **HOW DO YOU FIND THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF DETAILS AND TOO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS GOING ON?** You really have to go by the feel of the room. I like to use a mix of solid-door cabinets, glass-door cabinets and open cabinets. I think three makes a good balance, in general. Then you add splashes of interest around the room that play off each other. For example, we added an arch above the range hood to mimic the entryway arch.

◆ **WHAT'S BEHIND THE TREND OF MAKING KITCHEN APPLIANCES, CABINETS AND WORK AREAS LOOK LIKE FURNITURE?** It's a way to layer in details, and it personalizes a space. But it should always make sense in the space, and relate to other things in the kitchen. ◆



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# earth-friendly news

WRITTEN BY COURTNEY WALSH

## Erase Your Tracks

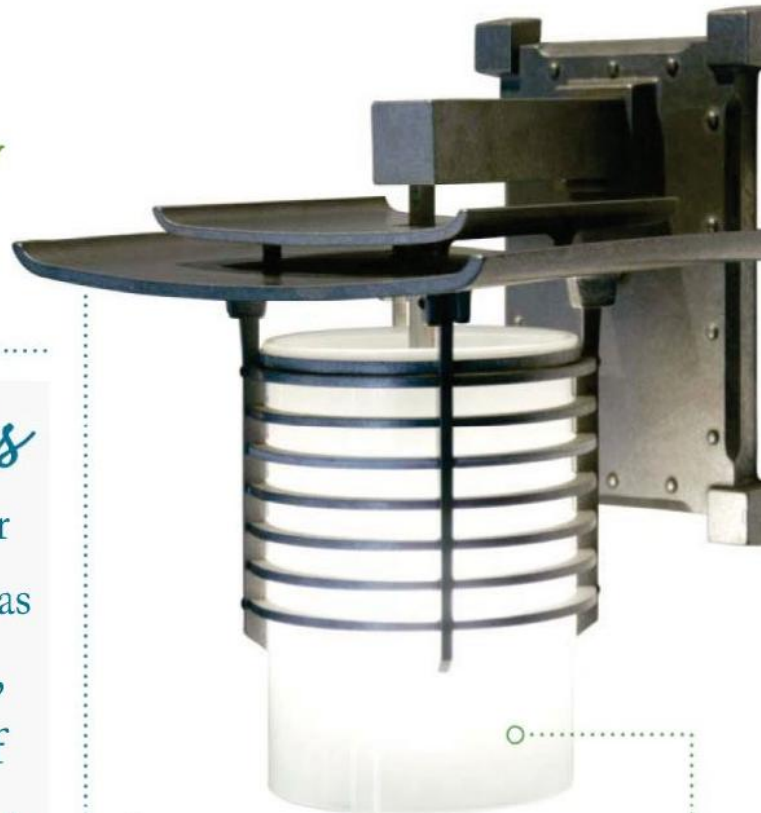
Looking for ways to reduce your carbon footprint? The Internet has many sites to help you calculate, reduce and offset the amount of greenhouse gases you've helped to produce. Two to try: *climatecrisis.net/takeaction/carboncalculator* and *carbonfootprint.com*.

## Do-It-Yourself Bubbly



One way to cut back on disposable soda and other carbonated-beverage containers that take up landfill space is to switch to reusable stainless steel water bottles. Or, make your own soda! Home-carbonation machines from Soda Club retain fizz longer than store-bought, and let you create your own soda, seltzer and sparkling water. The machines require neither batteries nor electricity.

From \$80, depending on options. Penguin kit, shown, \$250. *sodaclubusa.com*.



## Sconces Get the Green Light

CFL bulbs are only part of the eco-friendly lighting equation. Light fixtures are also available in sophisticated designs made from reused resources. Lighting for Tomorrow, a group of energy-efficiency organizations, awarded an Honorable Mention for Sustainability to Eleek's Takashima light fixtures, noting their high recycled content (100-percent recycled cast aluminum) and other energy-saving features. \$1,025. 503-232-5526; *eleekinc.com*.

## EcoCycle

Residential recycling isn't always the most glamorous of tasks, often spawning unwanted kitchen clutter in the form of unsightly bins. The Ecopod Recycling System corrals and crushes 50 plastic and aluminum beverage containers and neatly holds glass bottles, newspaper and plastic bags until it's time to take them to the curb. \$330. *target.com*. ♦



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# so fresh, so clean

Rinse away clutter in  
the laundry room

WRITTEN BY GINEVRA PYLANT



1



2



6



4

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[stacksandstacks.com](http://stacksandstacks.com).

## tidy tips

Having an orderly laundry room doesn't require loads of work. Erin Doland, editor-in-chief of [Unclutterer.com](http://Unclutterer.com), offers advice on sorting through the mess:

- ◆ **RINSE CYCLE** Prevent pileups. Establish a laundry routine and stick to it: Mondays for clothes, Tuesdays for towels and Saturdays for sheets.
- ◆ **CHARITY CASE** Have a cardboard box designated for donations in your laundry room. Wash and fold castoffs and drop off as soon as the box is full.
- ◆ **ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY** Transform your laundry room into a space you will want to keep clean. Paint the walls a cheery hue, use pretty containers instead of ugly plastic bins and splurge on a nice table for folding and sorting.
- ◆ **TIME FOR CHANGE** Keep a coin jar and a small wastebasket near your washing machine, and always remember to empty your pockets. ◆



5



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<p><b>57</b></p> <p>percent of homeowners say they are more stressed out by their cluttered house than by global warming.</p> <p><small>(Lifetime Products)</small></p>	 <p><b>82</b></p> <p>square feet: The average size laundry room for households with incomes over \$100,000.</p> <p><small>(GE Consumer &amp; Industrial)</small></p>	<p>Boomers were responsible for</p> <p><b>50</b></p> <p>percent of the home improvement market in 2006.</p> <p><small>(The Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University)</small></p>
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**nearly 9 out of 10** Americans are doing something in the kitchen besides cooking, like paying bills, doing homework or playing a game.

(Electrolux)

<p><b>73%</b> of Americans age 50 and older say the kitchen is the most important room for them.</p> <p><small>(The Home Depot)</small></p>	 <p>about <b>1/2</b> of surveyed homeowners believe the quality of appliances and utensils makes cooking more enjoyable.</p> <p><small>(Internet Home Alliance Digital Kitchen Study)</small></p>	<p><b>56 percent</b> of residential architects report computer areas and recharging stations to be popular kitchen features.</p> <p><small>(AIA Home Design Trends)</small></p>	<p><b>6 OUT OF 10</b> PEOPLE READ IN THE BATHROOM.</p>  <p><small>(Bath Room Stuff)</small></p>
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<p>Nearly <b>28%</b> of the new and remodeled kitchens in 2006 had multiple sinks.</p> <p><small>(NKBA)</small></p>	<p><b>33%</b> of consumers would spend more money on their kitchen remodel if they could do it over.</p> <p><small>(RICKI Remodelers 360)</small></p>
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# PONDERINGS OF A PLANTAIN

I don't know how they do it, but some things just never lose their visual appeal. Me, I tend to look good for about a week, maybe ten days if I avoid full sun. After that, I start losing my charm quickly. I wonder if there's some special preservative out there that would give me that timeless look.



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 **DELTA**



# outdoor grills

WRITTEN BY JOHN LOECKE

## HOT PICK

Dacor's pro-style 52-inch Epicure built-in grill offers up to 109,000 Btu, an infrared ceramic rotisserie burner, halogen lighting for nighttime grilling, and two side burners plus an optional sear burner. Add the indoor-outdoor warming oven, and this grill may outperform your indoor range. From \$4,570. 800-793-0093; [dacor.com](http://dacor.com).

## HOT PICK

Made of sturdy steel, the Char-Griller Super Pro Charcoal Grill/Smoker features a large cooking surface with adjustable cast-iron grates, a removable ash pan for easy cleanup and a wire storage rack for trays or utensils. \$119. [lowes.com](http://lowes.com).



For the grilling aficionado, the choice between charcoal and gas comes down to a matter of taste. That debate aside, the variety of features and technologies offered on the newest grills make them easier to use and deliver better results than those sold a decade ago. While this is good news for grillers, the myriad options can make it tough to choose the perfect model. Hungry for help? Keep reading.

## WHAT'S COOKING?

First, focus on the food, not the grill. Considering what you cook will help you navigate the numerous features and narrow your choices. If steak seared to perfection is a priority, a grill with high Btu (British Thermal Units, a measure of heat energy) output or infrared burners will serve you best. Rotisserie features with rear-mounted infrared burners work well for roasting poultry—especially turkey. Some foods, like pork, require high initial heat for

scaring followed by lower heat for thorough cooking; fish requires lower temperatures. In both cases gas works nicely, as it can be easily controlled.

## HEAT IS ON

Next consider the type of fuel that the appliance will use. Charcoal, long the fuel of choice, has been edged out by gas (more Americans own a gas than a charcoal grill according to Weber-Stephen Products Co., manufacturers of the Weber grill), which is perceived to be more convenient. "There's something nice about being able to simply press a button and turn a knob to adjust the flame rather than hauling, stacking and lighting charcoal," says Sherry Bale, a spokeswoman for Weber. "You don't have to wait for things to heat up."

When it comes to gas you'll have two choices: Natural gas piped from your utility company directly to your grill; or liquid propane gas (LP) stored in containers that



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**SHOP SMARTER**



**HOT PICK**

From the look of this sleek island-style appliance, you'd never guess it's a grill. But the Fuego 02 is a portable propane gas grill with retractable lid, slate and teak countertops, and both modular and hidden storage. Battery-powered ignition lights with the push of a button. An optional conversion kit lets you connect the grill to a natural gas line. Hidden wheels allow for easy mobility. \$2,000. [fuegoliving.com](http://fuegoliving.com).

you connect to the grill. Natural gas works well for built-in grills, allowing the unit to function with the same ease as a gas stove that would reside in your kitchen. LP is particularly good for portable units (think tailgating or camping) since the fuel source is movable. "You can move the grill to the most convenient place, whether it's next to the pool or patio," says Bob Lewis, vice president of product development for appliance manufacturer Dacor.

Despite a more cumbersome setup, charcoal is still the fuel of choice for die-hard grillers. "It's the taste," says Bale. "They want the food they grill to have charcoal flavor." Of course the added beauty of a charcoal grill is its simplicity. At the core is a sturdy grate for fuel topped by a grate for food. A lid with air vents completes the package.

For those who want the best of both worlds, there are gas grills that can be

fitted with a special accessory pan that allows the cook to use charcoal.

**INNER BEAUTY**

Before you buy, be sure to take a look under the lid. Cooking grates take a beating from repeated heating and cooling, not to mention damage from salts and grease. That's why cast iron or chrome-plated steel have traditionally been the grate materials of choice. However, while sturdy, both of these materials were far from perfect. There were always issues with corrosion and sticking—not to mention weight. "They're difficult to lift, especially when fully loaded," says Bale. Nickel or chrome-plated aluminum are two lighter-weight but equally sturdy materials that offer not only superior heat resistance, but are also



**HOT PICK**

Beyond the sturdy porcelain enamel exterior (in black or copper) of Weber's Summit E-420 gas grill, you'll find four stainless steel burners with push-button ignition and a warming rack, plus a 12,000-Btu flush-mount side burner, two stainless steel work surfaces, grill light and tool holders. \$1,500. [weber.com](http://weber.com).



+



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## SHOP SMARTER

easier to lift—even holding food. This is important, says Bale, because you may need to get under the grate and adjust the briquettes before the food is finished.

To address concerns about durability, manufacturers have introduced grates with porcelain coatings. “Stainless steel grates are very attractive and have a long life, but the high heat will cause discoloration, and stainless steel is very difficult to clean,” says Lewis.

Infrared technology is another new development. Unlike a standard grill burner, which uses a series of small open flames to heat the cooking grate, an infrared burner concentrates the flame through a ceramic plate perforated with thousands of microscopic holes. With infrared, the delivery process converts the fuel to infrared energy, which heats objects rather than the surrounding air. The result, explains

### MONEY MATTERS

Charcoal grills range in price from \$50 to \$500. Those at the high end, like Weber's Performer series, feature work shelves, charcoal storage areas and automatic ignition systems that light the charcoal with the touch of a button.

Good-quality gas grills start at about \$200 and top out around \$4,000. The price of these grills rises as the size of the cooking surface, Btu output and extra features, like side burners, increases. Prices for freestanding grills often include the cart, but the prices for built-ins don't include the surround.

#### *good*

##### **\$50 to \$500**

Trusty charcoal is the fuel of choice for most grills in this category. Sizes range from petite portables to big carts. High-end charcoal units should have work shelves, charcoal storage areas and automatic ignition systems. Gas models begin to make an appearance at the upper end of this price range. Some assembly required.

#### *better*

##### **\$500 to \$1,000**

Looking for something simple to grill burgers on? All-gas grills are a good choice. At the low end of the price range, you'll find solid-porcelain enameled grill grates and side shelves. Common finishes for these grill bodies include porcelain-coated enamel and painted steel. Propane tanks should be equipped with a gauge that tells you when it's time to refuel. Some assembly required.

#### *best*

##### **\$1,000 to \$2,000**

Larger cast-iron or stainless steel cooking surfaces and features like heavy-duty side burners are two reasons to consider these heftier designs. Other reasons include built-in features like warming racks, tool holders and rotisseries. Also expect to find an attached work surface for platters and plates. Stainless steel finishes begin to make an appearance. Some assembly required.

#### *ultra*

##### **\$3,000+**

These professional-style designs have all the bells and whistles you would expect to find on a high-end indoor gas range, including powerful Btu output. Look for features like built-in rotisseries, removable griddles and wok attachments. All-stainless designs are the norm. Both freestanding and built-in models should come fully assembled.

Bale, is a much more concentrated heat that's capable of reaching temperatures in excess of 1,000°F—perfect for searing steaks. By contrast, a standard burner peaks at about 700°F. "They allow grillers to do anything outdoors that they can do on their range, including searing steaks," says Lewis.

#### FINE FINISH

Don't neglect to consider the exterior of a grill. Most lower-priced grills have enameled-steel housings, and though improved paint technologies enable these products to last longer than they used to, eventually they will rust out. Cast aluminum and stainless steel are

more costly, but more durable choices. While both materials will corrode slightly in harsh seaside environments, they won't rust. Stainless,


which has gained in popularity over the last couple of years, comes in different grades and alloys. Better models use

stainless finishes, like Weber's Char Q charcoal grill or the Fuego, which features a slim rectangular shape

without a hood. But stainless tends to show every spot of water and dirt. An alternative is color. Weber recently upgraded its Genesis line of grills with porcelain-enameled exteriors in black, blue, green and copper. Sears has a Kenmore gas grill that's available in red and blue. When you consider the style of grill you want, think about portability. Freestanding models range from small tabletop cookers to substantial wheeled carts. But built-ins designed to drop into a solid frame are gaining ground.



If your plans call for a built-in, make sure the grill you choose is designed for zero-clearance installations where it can touch the surround safely. ♦

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thicker gauge stainless steel (typically 18) or a 321 alloy. Construction, of course, has an impact on styling. The trend is toward sleek designs with

plans call for a built-in, make sure the grill you choose is designed for zero-clearance installations where it can touch the surround safely. ♦



# garden variety

Floral tiles add a touch of blooming color

WRITTEN BY CARLA JORDAN



## NATURAL BEAUTIES

Designed in traditional Arts and Crafts style, Garden Flower tiles are hand-carved, pressed and glazed so each tile is unique. Eight colors, Green Tweed Polychrome shown. 4×8-inch tile; \$32 each. 928-776-7527; [terrytiles.com](http://terrytiles.com).

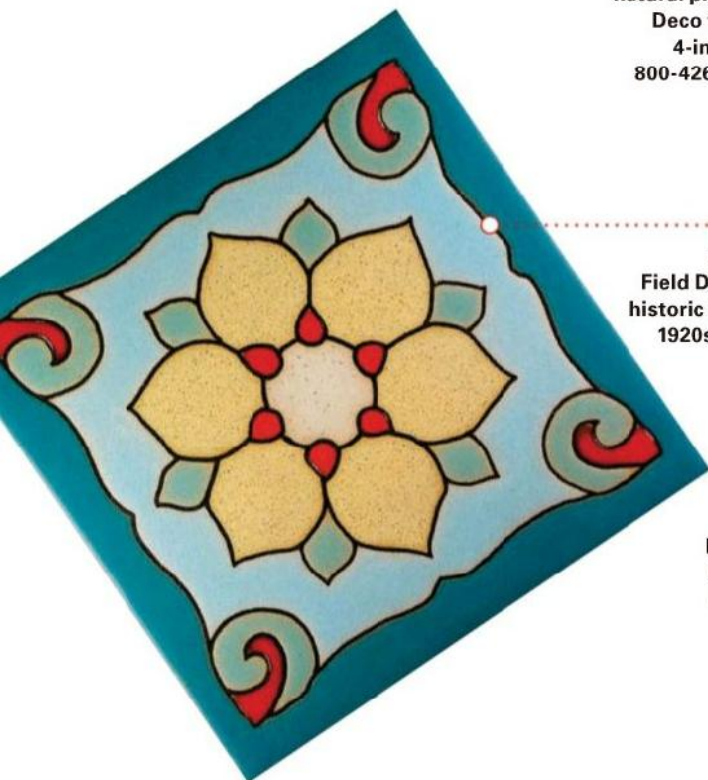
## CROSS-CULTURAL

Intricately patterned Florenz fuses the simplicity and elegance of modern Japanese design with the flowing, organic lines of American Victorian and Art Nouveau styles. Available in Lapis Blue (shown) and 21 other colors. 6-inch square tile, \$22 each. 800-311-9995; [countryfloors.com](http://countryfloors.com).



## MUSEUM PIECE

Etched on travertine stone, then hand-dyed in Italy using natural pigments, each Vitruvium Deco tile is a mini work of art. 4-inch square tile, \$14 each. 800-426-4335; [senecatiles.com](http://senecatiles.com).



## CALIFORNIA DREAMING

With its beachy color palette, Field Deco 125 re-creates the look of historic Malibu Potteries tile from the 1920s. 6-inch square tile, \$26 each. 323-235-4151; [calpot.com](http://calpot.com).

## OLD-WORLD ELEGANCE

Neo-Baroque New Decors Fleur Noir tiles feature fanciful black-and-gold floral designs against a rich red ground. 12×24-inch tile, \$130 each. 704-522-6300; [ceramichelea.com](http://ceramichelea.com).





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# breathing room

Layout and style blend to create a fresh, airy space

WRITTEN BY BILL PARTSCH

This kitchen is meant to be relaxed. Its easy-going decor—traditional but not fussy—is both clean and rustic at the same time. What’s more, the design emphasizes functionality, with an array of ideas that make the space work better without sacrificing its laid-back appeal.



## DEEP THINKING

A peninsula made of double-depth cabinets does more than create a pass-through to the adjacent family room. It’s also loaded with storage, has tons of countertop space, and creates a clear yet unimposing spatial border.

## ALWAYS OPEN

Appliance garages are great for stashing toasters and such, but this one has a twist: no door. It separates small appliances from overall countertop clutter while keeping them in sight.

## ENGRAVED IN STONE

A drainboard grooved into the countertop next to the island sink eliminates the need to have a dish rack busying up the landscape. In addition to being practical, the grooves also visually echo the beaded panels of the cabinets.

## KICK WITH A TWIST

Toekicks modified to resemble furniture legs make the cabinets look like they’re individual pieces of furniture, and add to the airy feeling of the open space.





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# centrally located

Small doesn't have to mean cramped

Anyone using this kitchen shouldn't have to go far to do most tasks. The overall design puts everything in easy reach. A few thoughtful touches, however, pack this compact space with useful features.



## GATHER ROUND

Transforming an island edge from straight to curved makes it longer, which lets more guests belly up to it. In addition, the bowed side of this island is cantilevered, which gives more leg room underneath and more serving area on top.

## VARIETY SHOW

A mixture of storage options relieves visual tedium and provides practical benefits. To avoid constant opening and closing of cabinets, frequently-used cookware sits on open shelves, and dishes are in glass-door cabinets for easy access.

## FILLING STATION

The pot filler faucet is so dubbed because it eliminates the drudgery of sloshing gallons of water from sink to stove. And if a recipe calls for adding just a little water (perhaps for deglazing a pan) you're all set, without having to move a step.

## FIND THE POWER

This kitchen is nicely set up for one cook. But an outlet installed at the end of the island makes it a snap to set up an extra prep zone when things get busy. ♦

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# six months to a new bathroom



WRITTEN BY BERNADETTE BACZYNSKI

Thinking about remodeling your bathroom? Remember the golden rule of any home-improvement project: The more planning you do up front, the happier you'll be with the final result. Use this checklist to get yourself started and keep you on track.

## THREE TO SIX MONTHS AHEAD

- SET UP A FILE** to keep track of ideas, products and business cards. Tag photos in books and magazines. Make careful notes of manufacturers' names, product ID numbers and where you saw the item.
- KEEP NOTES** of must-haves and wish-list items, so you know where you will and won't compromise. Keep in mind what's working and not working in your present bathroom, including storage and the placement of fixtures and windows.
- VISIT MODEL HOMES** and friends' remodeling projects, again noting what will and won't work for you and your home. Bring along a camera to record ideas that you like.
- BEGIN RESEARCHING CONTRACTORS** by checking with local professional associations, asking friends

for referrals, noting yard signs of remodeling work in progress. Many home-improvement stores also offer full-service design and remodeling help.

- GO WITH A PRO** if your project involves major structural changes. It's important to have an architect or bathroom designer involved; the contractor may make some referrals. Even a straightforward face-lift can benefit from professional design input.
- VISIT YOUR BANKER** or mortgage lender to discuss financing options and how much you can afford, and your financial planner to discuss tax advantages. Whatever your upper range, figure on spending about 10 percent more.

## ONE TO THREE MONTHS AHEAD

- NARROW DOWN** the field of contractors to three, reviewing credentials, license and insurance status and professional affiliations; check the Better Business Bureau for complaints. Ask for references and, if possible, visit an in-progress project, noting the site's neatness and the atmosphere, to get a sense of what you'll be living with.
- SETTLE ON A CONTRACTOR**, making sure expectations are clear. Get everything in writing, perhaps having contracts checked over by an attorney before they're signed. Also be sure you understand and are comfortable with how money will be distributed. There's generally a start-up payment, several interim disbursements and a balance due upon completion.
- BE CLEAR** on who should order what; generally, the contractor will handle orders and schedule deliveries. If you choose to buy fixtures on your own, bear in mind that the contractor may not be contractually obligated to install what he doesn't provide.



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*This kitchen was created with the Gley Cove door style in Maple finished in Champagne with Chocolate glaze.*

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## CHECKLIST

- DO ALL YOUR BATH RENOVATIONS AT ONCE** since it's more cost efficient, and contractors will work with you to keep at least one fixture operable. Depending upon the size of the project and the level of detail, a full bathroom renovation requires about four to six weeks, start to finish. Why go through it twice?

### WEEKS BEFORE AND DURING

- LET THE NEIGHBORS IN ON YOUR PLANS**, including things like daily construction schedules and major deliveries. Your courtesy will likely make them more willing to endure any temporary inconveniences.
- TALK WITH THE CONTRACTOR** about day-to-day routines, including where deliveries will be stored, where work areas will be set up, which bathroom workers will use. Keep pets away from the site.
- CLEAR OUT LINENS AND TOILETRIES** and set up a temporary grooming space that's out of the way of the workers. Fix individual totes for family members to keep personal items portable and organized.
- ARRANGE A FEW SLEEPOVERS FOR THE KIDS**, if possible. Besides everyone enjoying the break, it will help keep chaos to a minimum. Have a family meeting about the process, emphasizing patience and cooperation.
- KEEP COMMUNICATION OPEN** so everyone knows what to expect and what is expected of them. Be available for questions, either on-site or by phone. Often, contractors will run into snags that require homeowner input or approval; if they are unable to reach you quickly, it can cause expensive delays.

### FINAL DAYS

- NOTE ITEMS TO BE FINISHED**; you and the contractor will have a final walk-through, making a punch list of to-dos before you sign off. ♦

### *helpdesk*

#### FOR MORE IDEAS AND ADVICE:

National Kitchen & Bath Association, [nkba.org](http://nkba.org)

National Association of the Remodeling Industry, [nari.org](http://nari.org)

National Association of Home Builders, [nahb.org](http://nahb.org)

Smart Consumer Services, [smartconsumerservices.org](http://smartconsumerservices.org)

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# 11 ways to go green



WRITTEN BY SUZANNE MORRISSEY

Going green is as easy as screwing in a CFL lightbulb. Here are a few other environmentally friendly choices you can make in your kitchen and bath.

## BATHS

- 1 FIX A DRIP.** Drip, drop, drip, drop. That leak in the bathroom sink is not just annoying. It's costing you loads of cash in water and energy bills and wasted gallons. Get it fixed ASAP, and if you can't get the plumber scheduled right away, use this old trick: Tie a string on the faucet and allow the drops to dribble silently down into a cup or small bowl. Use the collected H<sub>2</sub>O to water your houseplants.
- 2 GET CLEAN.** Avoid using harsh chemical cleaners in favor of natural cleansers (soap, water, vinegar, baking soda). You'll do a favor for the environment and yourself.
- 3 BE WATER WISE.** Low-flow toilets have come a long way. New models max out at 1.6 gallons of water per flush, but the very latest models can use even less.
- 4 BE WATER WISE SOME MORE.** Tankless water heaters are a great energy saver. There's no reason to keep a giant tank of heated water at your beck and call all day and night. Bonus tip: Go the extra mile when you turn on the shower by placing a bucket or other container under the showerhead. In the few moments it takes for the water to heat up, you can gather enough for the dog's bowl and the houseplants. Don't waste a drop!

**5** Smell sweet. Cut down on harmful chemicals and gasses released into your home by using low- or no-VOC paints when giving the bath, or any other room, a fresh color.

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## SIMPLE SOLUTIONS

### KITCHENS

**6 BE WATER SMART.** A simple hardware store doo-dad called an aerator on your kitchen (or bath) faucet cuts down on water consumption, sacrificing very little if any water pressure. For less than \$15, you can install one of these yourself and save up to 500 gallons per year.

**7 Vent a little.** Proper ventilation in the cooktop hood of your kitchen keeps bills down and air quality up.

**8 THINK SMALL.** The kitchen is the energy gobbler of the home. If you're planning a remodel, building new, or just replacing an old appliance, remember that bigger isn't always better. In addition to looking for energy-efficiency ratings on your new purchase, consider going for a smaller model that uses less energy to begin with. Bonus tip: New drawer-style dishwashers help cut back on water use for smaller loads.

**9 LIGHTEN UP.** Opening up a kitchen with skylights and windows that allow natural sunlight to stream in not only helps your mood stay perky, it is a natural, free way to light your space. No budget to add windows? At least let the light in by removing heavy, light-blocking window treatments.

**10 DIVIDE AND CONQUER.** Dedicate a little space for recycling bins or bags to make living green convenient for the whole family. You can purchase color-coded units with separate compartments and lids, or create your own recycling center with inexpensive bins from the home center or discount store.

**11 GO, GREENS!** Try your hand at going green by growing herbs or salad greens in the kitchen. Bringing in a natural element adds some coziness to your home's busiest room, and naturally cleans the air you breathe. (And of course, nothing beats adding your own fresh basil to that pasta at the dinner table.) ♦



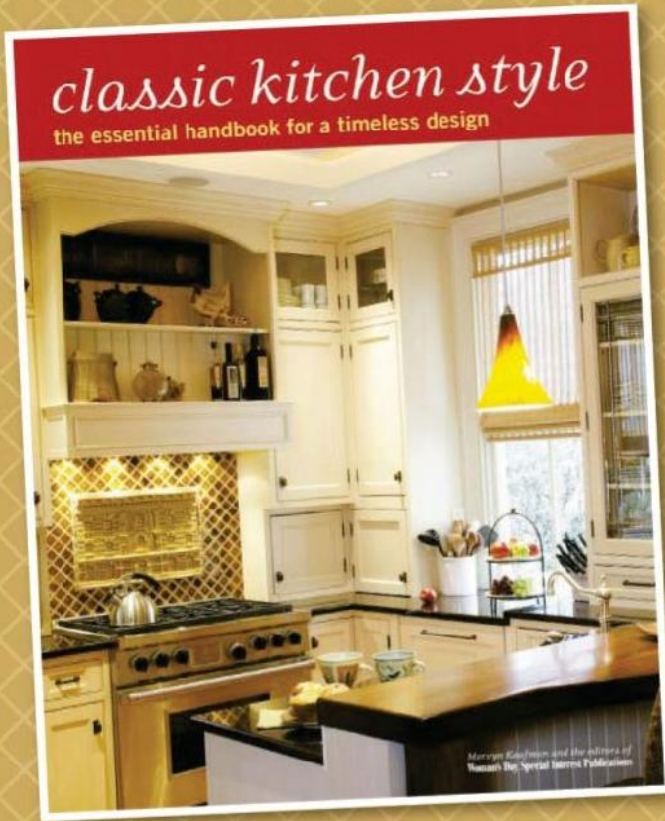
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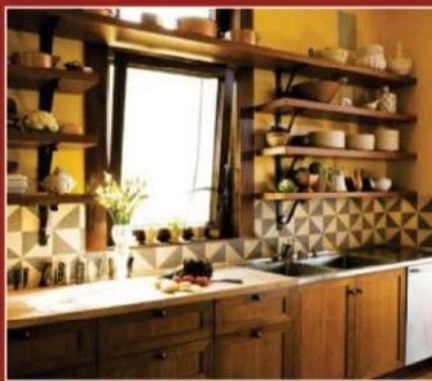
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# on the edge



A touch of trim gives cabinets a face-lift

WRITTEN BY LINDSAY DAMAST

## Tip Sheet

More budget-wise ways to update your cabinetry, and the overall feel of your kitchen:

- ◆ **Less is more:** Remove some cabinet doors altogether to create exposed shelves, perfect for displaying pretty pottery or servingware.
- ◆ **Clear view:** Replace solid doors with glass-paned doors, then paint the inside a contrasting color for impact.
- ◆ **Peep show:** Replace cabinet doors with frosted glass panels to create a more open feel without putting all your dishes on display.
- ◆ **Go bold:** Paint cabinets a daring primary color, then eliminate other colorful kitchen accessories that contrast or compete for attention.
- ◆ **Artistic license:** Treat cabinet doors and drawer fronts as your canvas, and stencil designs or paint geometric shapes.
- ◆ **Finishing touches:** Change up the hardware—modernize boring pulls and handles by choosing trendier brushed satin-finish pieces, or embrace a more antique feel by adding wrought-iron elements throughout.

Looking to spruce up your kitchen cabinets, but lack the funds for a brand-new installation? Adding details, such as ornate trim on upper cabinetry, can dramatically alter the look of boxy stock construction. “It’s fun because there are so many possibilities,” says Paul Radoy, manager of design services for Merillat Cabinetry. Corbels work well in traditional kitchens, and can be quite plain, or intricately carved with floral details or scrolls. Twisted rope molding inserts channel a European feel, and fluted

molding strips add dimension when applied beneath cabinets or to countertop edges. The finish on molding, trim or accessories doesn’t have to match that of existing cabinetry. “The trend now is to mix up the finishes,” Radoy says. If you’re mixing, make sure you go for some bold contrast in tones, but keep it all within the same color family. And feel free to get creative: Radoy suggests stacking moldings for a more substantial change, or adding bands of color between larger crown moldings. ◆

# My Style



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# designed within reach

Making kitchens and baths accessible to all

WRITTEN BY BILL PARTSCH

People with all their abilities intact frequently take them for granted, and don't anticipate the physical or sensory limits that age, medical conditions or other circumstances can create. Universal design, for many, connotes wheelchairs, but it also helps people who just don't get around as gracefully as they once did, plus those who are sight or hearing impaired or have trouble using their hands. Prudent homeowners can have spaces that serve their needs now and in the future. In many instances, adjusting for universal design can actually make a space easier to use for everyone.

"If people are planning to grow old in their home," says certified kitchen designer Robert Feinberg, of Allied Kitchen & Bath in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, "we'll try to anticipate what their future needs are, so that they won't have to rearrange their entire house."

For example, installing a wall oven at an appropriate height (typically 30 to 40 inches from the floor) and having a cooktop with an open area below it are both great for wheelchair users. The mere act of separating oven from cooktop, however, makes the kitchen more accommodating to everyone using it.

This setup does sacrifice some storage. Separate cooking appliances also tend to cost more, and then there are installation costs. "Splitting a cooktop from an oven is usually double the price of installing a range," says Tania Fendel, of The Kitchen and Bath Center in Evergreen, Colorado. "Say you spend \$900 more to do that. If it makes cooking easier, I would think it's worth it."

To make sure cooking appliances will be easy for everyone to use, avoid knobs—choose touch controls. In some cases, touchpad appliances are also among the technologically most sophisticated, including induction cooktops and programmable ovens.

Drawer-style appliances are also handy for the mobility impaired. In a two-drawer dish-



This bath shows off several universal-design ideas, including open space under the vanity for wheelchair users and lever faucet handles for no-grip operation.



A young child with light brown hair, wearing a white polo shirt with blue and grey stripes and light-colored pants, stands in a dining room with their hands covering their eyes. The room features a tiled floor, a dark wood dining table with a white upholstered chair, and a window with orange curtains in the background. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

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## WISH LIST: UNIVERSAL DESIGN



The rolling cabinet provides both accessible cookware storage and a work surface at a convenient height for wheelchair users.

washer, “the lower drawer is easy to reach for someone in a wheelchair,” Feinberg says. “With a bottom-mount freezer, they can reach the freezer drawer and the bottom few shelves in the refrigerator, too.” Side-by-side refrigerators are another accessible option, he says.

For cabinets, Feinberg recommends open shelving, “so people don’t have to negotiate around open doors or drawers.” Levers are best for faucets so those who have difficulty using their hands don’t have to grip the handle to get the water flowing or adjust temperature. “Also, I would recommend a gooseneck,” Feinberg says. Impaired or not, “If you want to put a big pot in a sink, you don’t want to have to negotiate around the spout.”

Safety is always an issue in the kitchen, of course, but in universal design, it takes on extra dimension. For example, a family with a sight-impaired person might want to choose an induction cooktop for maximum safety, as its burners only heat up when magnetically conductive cookware is placed on them.

Safety is of greater concern in the bathroom, where ease of use boils down to working the faucets, getting on and off the toilet and getting in and out of the tub.

Designers suggest avoiding a tub altogether and going with a shower only because it’s easier to enter and exit. “If a home has a separate tub and shower, that’s one thing,” Feinberg says, “but if there’s only room for one or the other, the

### must-have

An electronic eye permits hands-free use of this faucet; the gooseneck makes it easier to maneuver and fill big pots.

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## WISH LIST: UNIVERSAL DESIGN

homeowners might want to think about just having a shower." Tubs with doors are another option. They have seats in them, and the doors are guaranteed not to leak, Fendel says. However, she says, "They can cost \$7,000 to \$10,000."

Fendel recommends investing in a comfort-height toilet, one whose bowl is about 16½ inches tall, two inches taller than a standard model. ("Those thick seats that people use to modify a standard-height toilet are just awful," she says.) "It's helpful if you find it hard to get up," Fendel says, "or if you have long legs. It's not so good for people who are 5 feet 4 or shorter."

Two major safety issues in the bath are slipping and scalding. Adding traction to floors certainly helps maintain a stable footing, designers say, but the best way to confront this issue goes on the walls: grab bars. "Most people don't do this, but it's a good idea to include grab bars in your shower," Fendel says.

The failure of most consumers to add grab bars to their bathrooms frustrates designers. The safety benefits are indisputable, but the fact that they need to

be anchored to the wall typically makes installing one a more arduous undertaking than, say, adding a towel bar. This is why, Fendel says, "Even if people don't want grab bars now, I'll put in sufficient blocking and backer board so they can put them in down the road without any hassle."

Technological advances have made installation easier for some models, and more importantly, the institutional look is no longer standard for grab bars. "You can find really nice ones now," Fendel says.

To reduce hot-water dangers in the bath, use anti-scald thermostatic valves. On a related note, Fendel says shower-door configuration—outward swing so that someone who falls won't keep the door from opening—should apply to the bathroom door as well.

In well-executed universal design, virtually anybody should be able to use a given space. With more stylish products and sensitive design, it may become increasingly impossible to tell whether a kitchen or bath was designed for a wheelchair user, a blind person, someone with arthritis, or a fully capable person. ♦

### must-have

In addition to induction cooking's inherent safeguards, this cooktop offers the option of controls marked in braille or raised lettering.

Diva de Provence 36-inch, five-burner induction cooktop, \$3,000; tactile markings, \$20 extra. 888-852-8604; [divainduction.com](http://divainduction.com). (The clear dots are 3M Bumpsons, available separately.)





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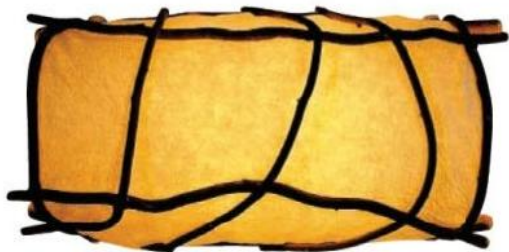
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WRITTEN BY CARLA JORDAN



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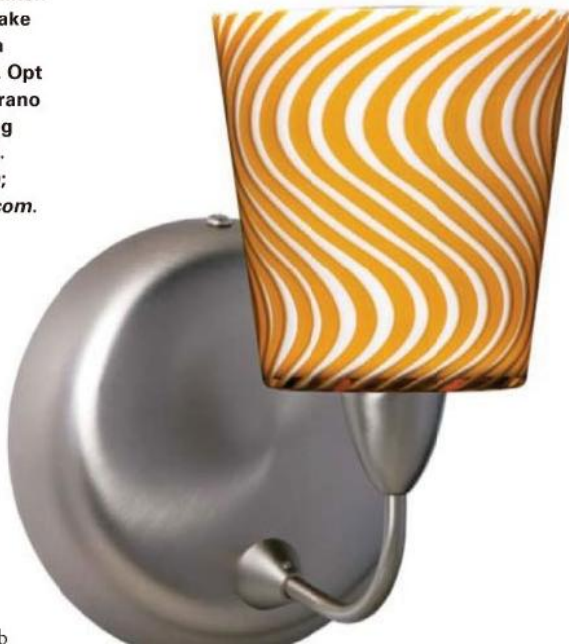
## SPARKLE PLENTY

The flirty Purple Bijoux is adorned with jewellike acrylic crystals and has a polished steel base. \$60. 800-782-1967; [lampsplus.com](http://lampsplus.com).



## REACH OUT

This sophisticated linen shade gives the Drake swingarm sconce a contemporary flair. Opt for the pleated Murano glass shade to bring out its classic lines. \$360. 847-410-4400; [willmetlighting.com](http://willmetlighting.com).



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# urban chic

Bold shapes make a small kitchen look substantial

WRITTEN BY RACHEL YOUNG



## style notes

### STEEL YOURSELF

A restaurant staple, stainless steel is a bold, low-maintenance choice for a backsplash or countertop. It adds a modern edge and reflects light beautifully.

### GREEN LIGHT

Lighting options aren't limited to traditional kitchen choices, like pendants. Curvaceous table lamps in green shed light and serve as a focal point.

### THROUGH THE GLASS

Make the most of glass-front cabinets with an interesting back wall, like this rich grained wood. Interior lights illuminate the wood and the treasures inside.

### TOP BRASS

Nickel and silver-toned knobs are common in kitchens these days, but aged brass, with a warm patina that suggests it's been well loved, is a fresh choice.



### KILLER FILLER

Country Kitchen 11-inch pot filler. From \$120, depending on finish. 800-777-9762; [rohlhome.com](http://rohlhome.com).



### CURVES AHEAD

Alsy Art Glass table lamp in green. \$109. [homedepot.com](http://homedepot.com).



### SIT UP

Manhattan backless bar stool. \$169. 877-723-5522; [bellacor.com](http://bellacor.com).



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# french farmhouse

Earthy terra-cotta tiles anchor a modern take on a Provençal kitchen

## style notes

### MODEL CLAY

Terra-cotta tiles are a traditional choice for a farmhouse floor in the Provence region of France. The natural variations in tile color and the hexagonal shape make this floor a showstopper.

### HIGH ARCHES

Repetition of a design element creates a unified look. Arches in the center island are echoed on the range hood, the glass-front cabinets and a dramatic doorway.

### MIX AND MATCH

Mismatched wood stains—here, the honey-toned island and richer coffee stools—keep all-white cabinetry from looking too uniform and give a lived-in effect.

### SUBWAY STYLE

Originally, white was prized for its clean look, but subway tiles now come in a rainbow of colors, like this sunny yellow.



### FASHION PLATE

French Garden Valence dinner plate. \$33. [villeroy-boch.com](http://villeroy-boch.com).



### CLASSY COPPER

Mauviel M'héritage 6.4-quart copper stockpot. \$485. 888-478-4606; [cookware.com](http://cookware.com).



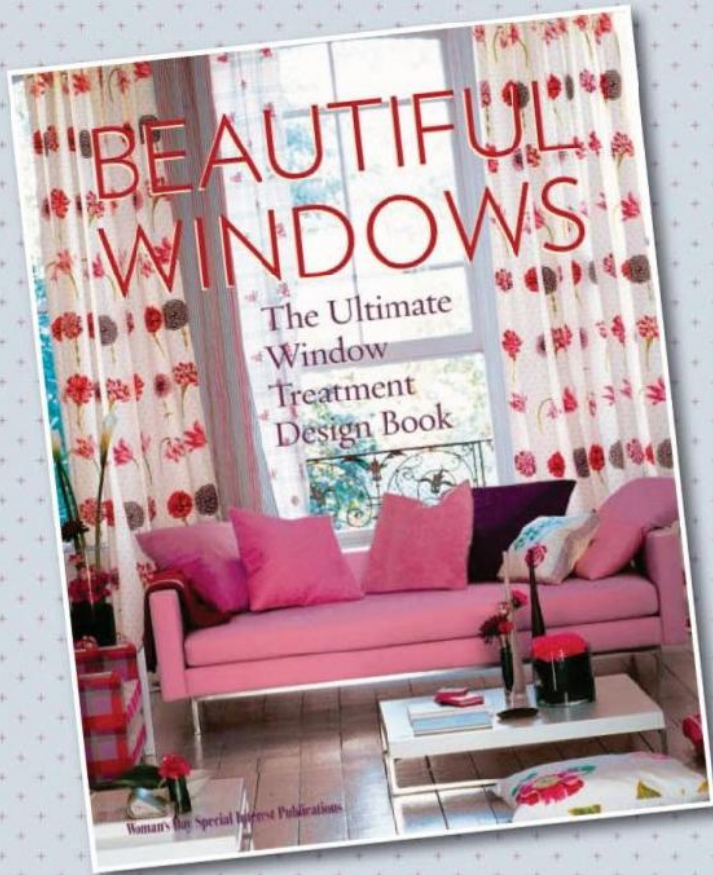
### BACK IN THE SADDLE

Saddle seat stool in walnut finish. \$70. 800-494-7544; [plowhearth.com](http://plowhearth.com).



### ARTY FIXTURE

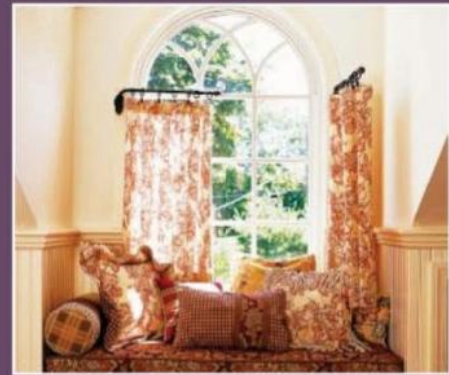
Robert Abbey Beaux Arts pendant. \$102. 800-462-7638; [croftandlittle.com](http://croftandlittle.com). ♦



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# major kitchen makeovers

WRITTEN BY JEANNIE MATTEUCCI



**BEFORE:** An old linoleum floor and worn laminate counters in dated colors reflected the age of the kitchen.

**AFTER:** Instead of a single fluorescent ceiling fixture, the now 278-square-foot kitchen has recessed cans in the ceiling, under-cabinet lighting and a hanging fixture over the breakfast table.

## 1 big change

Eric and Susan Boroff of Millersville, Maryland, did their homework before updating their aging 145-square-foot kitchen. “By watching TV renovation shows and looking at magazines, we quickly realized we didn’t need an eight-burner range—we’re lucky if we get rice done on most nights,” says Eric. The busy couple, who have two young sons, asked Mark T. White, CKD, owner and chief designer for Kitchen Encounters in Annapolis, Maryland, to make some major upgrades, including removing an interior wall and adding a 10×10-foot addition that makes room for a center island with an adjoining table. “A cherry pedestal supports the tabletop and matches the cherry we used for the Shaker-style cabinets,” says White. A light-tone granite was used for the island top and counters. Instead of a backsplash, nonoperable windows installed on each side of the range provide views of a neighboring horse farm. “We’re in the kitchen a lot now. It’s relaxed, but with a refined style,” says Eric.

### IN THE DETAILS

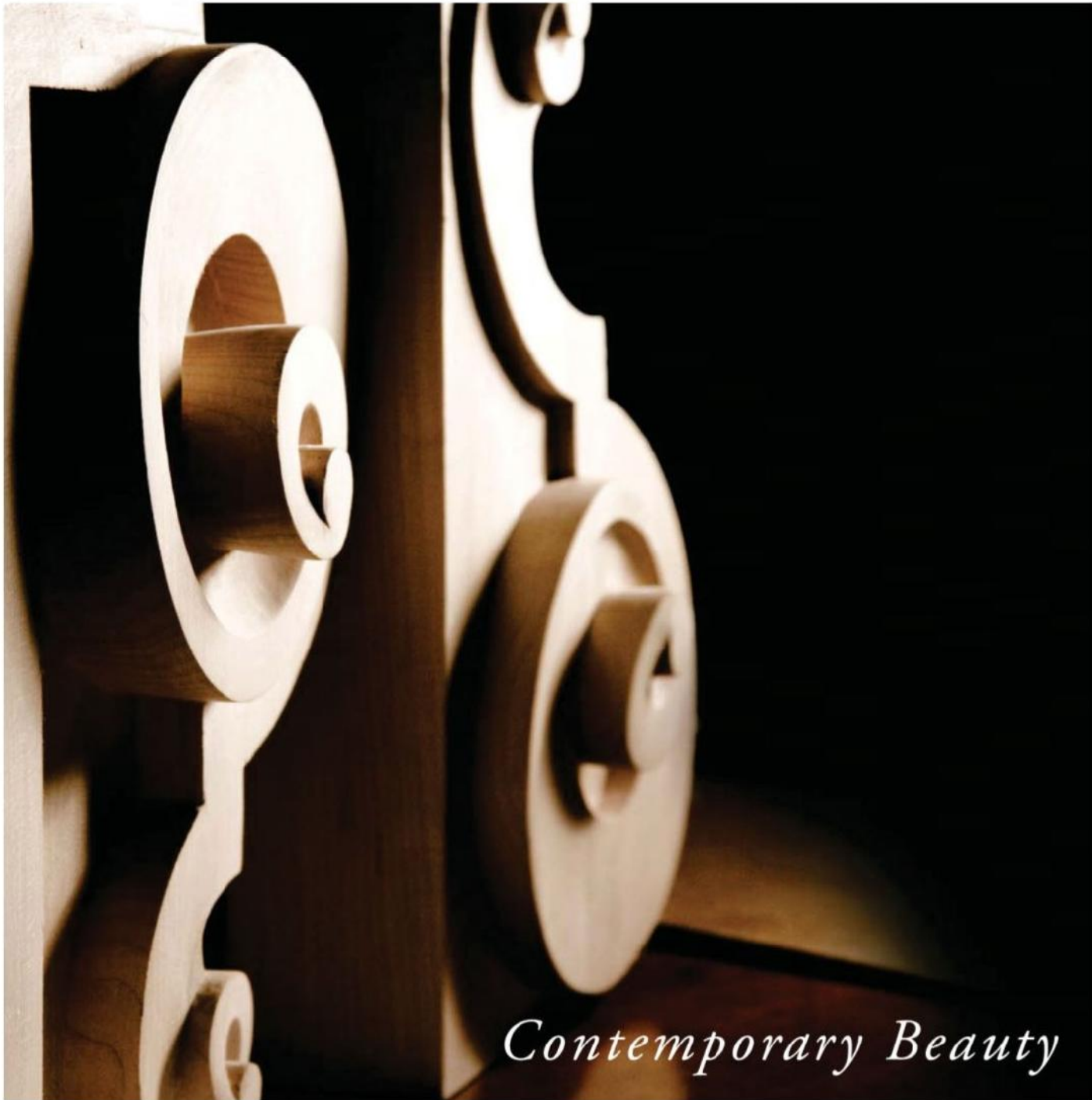
- ◆ **APPLIANCES** Eric and Susan kept their budget under control by keeping their almost-new range and microwave but purchasing a new dishwasher and upgraded refrigerator. “It’s a deep unit, so we gave it a built-in appearance by making the cabinets around it deeper,” says White. Refrigerator drawers let the kids grab a drink on their own.
- ◆ **FLOORING** The long length of the kitchen floor was one reason the couple decided to go with red oak. “We had a big space to cover, so we couldn’t go for something super exotic,” says Eric. A pair of custom-made area rugs with a Mission-style border incorporate the warm tones used throughout the renovated kitchen.
- ◆ **PANTRY** French doors open to reveal the kitchen’s corner pantry unit, which features wraparound shelves from floor to ceiling. “It holds everything, which is nice,” says Eric. “Our 5-year-old knows which shelf is his, so he can get his applesauce on his own.”



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# 2 lighter and brighter

The kitchen in Faye and Richard Rosenberg's Northbrook, Illinois, home was definitely ready for a change. "We only had one narrow pantry cabinet, one little counter and no place to display my antiques," says Faye. The couple, who share their home with their three daughters, hired Jeff Eichhorn, of Orren Pickell Designers & Builders in Lincolnshire, Illinois, to create a brighter space with more storage and a better connection with the rest of the house. "We really wanted to harmonize the main areas of their home," says Eichhorn, who pushed the kitchen out seven feet in two directions and combined and expanded the kitchen and breakfast room. A mix of white-painted and pine cabinets keep the kitchen clutter-free. A center island with four built-in storage bins, durable granite counters and a distressed tumbled stone tile floor create the sophisticated farmhouse feel the couple wanted. "It's functional beyond belief," Faye says, "and it's extremely welcoming."



**BEFORE:** The layout of the old 150-square-foot space created a tight passage between the kitchen and breakfast room.

**AFTER:** A new pro-style four-burner range with a pot filler and shelf creates a focal point for the new 400-square-foot kitchen.

## IN THE DETAILS

- ◆ **CORNER SINK** An extra-deep stainless steel sink anchors the corner of the kitchen and gives Faye panoramic views of her backyard through large casement windows. "It lets me wash big pots and pans," says Faye. "You don't see dishes when you walk in."
- ◆ **HUTCH** Located at the far end of the kitchen, a glass-front hutch gives Faye a place to display her collection of antique pottery and glassware. "I love being able to see my pieces," says Faye. It also gives the couple the perfect spot to set out a buffet for dinner parties.
- ◆ **WARMING DRAWER** One of Faye's favorite additions to her kitchen is the electric warming drawer. "I love it and use it constantly," she says. "I recommend going for the biggest one possible." The drawer has three settings and allows Faye to keep plates hot while she prepares daily meals or hosts dinner parties.





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## BEFORE & AFTER



**BEFORE:** The old kitchen had knotty pine cabinets that had seen better days.

**AFTER:** A large center island with seating and storage anchors the now 310-square-foot kitchen.

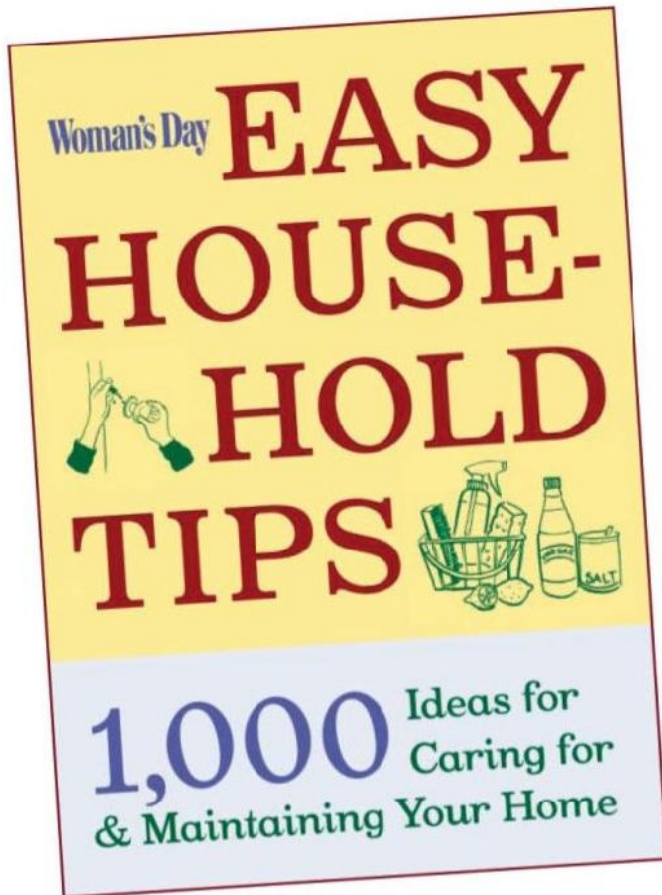
### 3 total transformation

While Daniel and Anne Marie Dangler, of Wellesley, Massachusetts, loved their traditional Cape Cod-style house, they were not so thrilled with its dated 200-square-foot kitchen. “It needed a lot of updating,” says Anne Marie. “There was not enough seating space and it had no dishwasher. For 12 years, I had to wash every dish by hand.” The couple, who share their home with their 11-year-old daughter Hannah, hired designer Mariette Barsoum, CKD, owner of Divine Kitchens of Westborough, Massachusetts, to create an updated two-cook kitchen that flows with the rest of the home’s first floor. “This project was part of an addition,” says Barsoum, who gutted the old kitchen and created a larger, more open floor plan adjacent to the family room. In addition to the dishwasher drawers Anne Marie desperately wanted, the kitchen now includes a convection oven, built-in microwave and warming drawer. The couple splurged on a high-end, pro-style cooktop but saved money with a moderately priced stainless steel refrigerator. Other decisions, like choosing red oak for the floor and an unusual Italian granite for the counters, helped this warm and inviting kitchen come together. “Anne Marie wanted a space where you can come home, take off your shoes and just relax—and that’s what they now have,” says Barsoum. ♦

#### IN THE DETAILS

- ♦ **BACKSPLASH** Small tumbled stone tiles set in a running bond pattern create a rustic backsplash that complements the granite used on the island and perimeter counters. “I think the natural materials really go well together,” says Anne Marie. “If we used shiny ceramic tiles there, it wouldn’t fit the room.” Custom Asian-inspired metal inserts behind the cooktop create a pleasing focal point.
- ♦ **CABINETS** A combination of finishes was used to visually connect the kitchen and family room. Painted and glazed cabinets in a soft cream tone were used for the main wall of cabinets while stained cherry was chosen for the island base and nearby butler’s pantry and desk area. Glass cabinets around the sink window make the kitchen feel more spacious and allow Anne Marie to display her pottery collection.
- ♦ **LIGHTING** Because this kitchen doesn’t get very much natural light, a combination of recessed ceiling fixtures, under-cabinet lights and three pendants over the island—all on dimmers—illuminate the space and make it feel comfortable and inviting.

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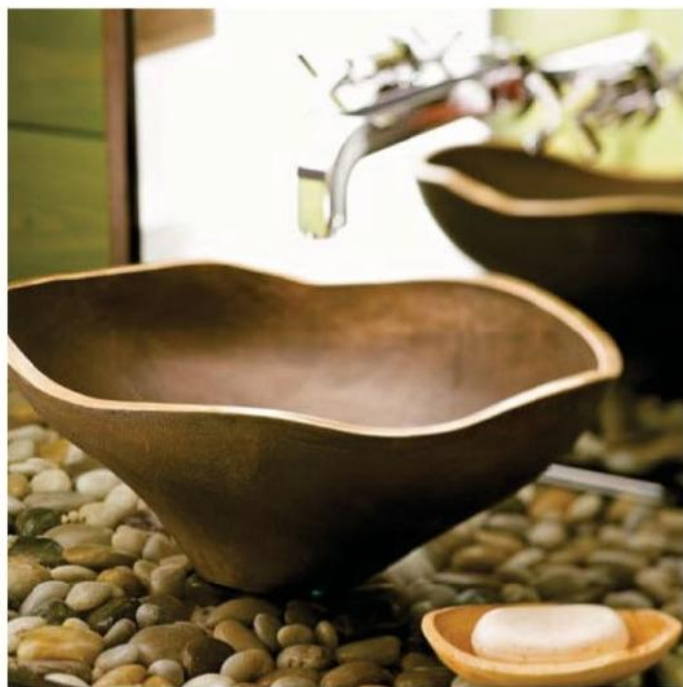


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# IN LIVING COLOR

A showcase kitchen and bath in a brilliant palette catches the eye and captures the endless beauty of natural materials

"I THINK THERE'S NOTHING FRESHER THAN GREEN IN A KITCHEN," says interior designer Ingrid Leess, who collaborated with the gifted design team at Merillat to conceive this year's Design Showcase project, built for display at the Kitchen/Bath Industry Show in Chicago. With multiple cabinet styles and finishes from Merillat, plus resource material from the American Hardwood Information Center, Leess produced a design for Woman's Day Special Interest Publications and *Home* magazine that brings fresh ideas and sparkling tones to spaces ultimately rich in innovation and full of surprises.

PRODUCED/WITTEN BY MERVYN KAUFMAN  
DESIGNED AND STYLED BY INGRID LEESS  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GOULD BESSLER

2008 DESIGN SHOWCASE





Separating meal-prep and cleanup zones from the dining area is a 3½×8-foot two-level island with space for a butcher-block-topped cart that doubles as mobile storage and a way to roll drinks and dishware to an outdoor patio. A barn-style door slides open and shut; a privacy element for the showcase bath beyond it.



“A major challenge in creating this year’s Design Showcase for Woman’s Day Special Interest Publications and *Home* was to include a notable mix of natural and natural-looking elements,” says Paul Radoy, manager of design services for cabinetmaker Merillat. “We have dark, light and white hardwood cabinets, quartz countertops, a woodlike floor, realistic-looking faux-stone walls and grained-wood trim—all playing off the dominant green, a color that enabled us to present a truly contemporary look.”

Designer Ingrid Leess points out, however, that “the greens you see are not all the same. None of them match, but all are complementary. Different shades of green create a lively effect, much more vibrant and interesting than a uniform tone—sort of like different greens you see in nature.”

Green-stained cypress appears as trim throughout, principally on the huge sliding door, framed by a stone doorway, that separates the showcase kitchen and bath areas. “Stone adds texture, character and warmth,



**ABOVE:** Green glass tile forms a sparkling backsplash behind the quartz countertop that wraps three sides of the kitchen. Pendants and track lights supplement sun-bright light pouring in through windows flanking the induction cooktop, with its special steel cookware.

**LEFT:** Drawer storage to the left of the cooktop is fitted out for cookware, gadgets and tableware in various sizes.





## Resources

**CABINETS:** Laredo maple in Dove (cooking walls), Hadley oak in Peppercorn (island), Labelle cherry in Cider (coffee corner), Merillat

**HARDWARE:** Aluminum indented pulls (cooking walls), solid cylinder (coffee corner), Merillat

**SLIDING BARN DOOR:** Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association

**WATER-BASED STAIN:** Green Tea, Minwax

**WALL PAINT:** Gleeful, Sherwin-Williams

**APPLIANCES:** Gaggenau

**COUNTERTOPS:** Apple Martini (peripheral), Blizzard and Eggshell (island), CaesarStone

**BACKSPLASH:** Glass Blox tile in Lime Shimmer Mosaic, Crossville

**TILE GROUT:** Spring Attitude, TEC Specialty Products

**BUTCHER-BLOCK:** Steel cart, cutting board, John Boos

**LIGHTS:** Track lighting system, Opal Rain pendants, Sea Gull Lighting Products

**WINDOWS:** Transom-over-casement, Pella

**FAUX STONE:** Andante Fieldledge, Eldorado Stone

**SINK:** Double undermount in stainless steel, Elkay

**WASTE DISPOSER:** InSinkErator

**FITTINGS:** Allora faucet/soap dispenser in Brilliance Stainless, Delta

**INDUCTION COOKWARE:** Professional style in brushed stainless steel, All-Clad

**CLOCK RADIO:** Undercabinet model, Philips

**TILT-HEAD MIXER:** KitchenAid

**DRIED FOOD STORAGE:** Oxo

**KITCHEN GADGETS:** Ekco

**TABLEWARE:** Hearthstone in Bay Leaf, Corelle





**ABOVE:** The butcher-block-topped steel cart has utensil and cutlery drawers, a storage shelf and a steel rod where towels and tablecloths can be draped.

**RIGHT:** The dishwasher tucks in under the island's off-white quartz countertop, which frames an undermount double sink.



especially when juxtaposed with very graphic, colorful fabrics in what might otherwise be fairly traditional spaces," says Leess. Most of the 600-square-foot showcase is absorbed by the kitchen, which includes a built-in dining banquette, a coffee corner, a wine bar and at least three meal-preparation zones, including a butcher-block-topped cart that can be rolled anywhere in the kitchen or out to a patio or deck—wherever it might be needed.

The quartz-surfaced center island, which offers multiple work spaces, is on two levels. The sink dominates the lower level, which is about 3 inches under the 39-inch height of the upper surface. "Adding those extra inches helped us create a kind of shield," says

Nellie Ondrovick, a Merillat interior designer. "If there are dirty dishes in and around the sink, you wouldn't have to look at them while sitting at the table in the dining area. And from that particular vantage point, the countertop becomes a kind of art piece in the way it almost seems to float."

In plan, the kitchen contains two contiguous work triangles: from refrigerator to sink to double wall ovens, and from ovens to sink to cooktop. Placed directly above the built-in convection oven is a combination steam-convection oven, which lets you use either process (or both) and tailor the heating mode to each dish you cook.

Directly under the sink is a waste disposer; to the left, a dishwasher. Anyone



## Resources

**CABINETS:** Laredo maple in Dove (cooking wall), Hadley oak in Peppercorn (island), Masterpiece series, Merillat

**HARDWARE:** Aluminum indented pulls, Merillat

**COUNTERTOPS:** Apple Martini (cooking wall), Blizzard (lower island), Eggshell (upper island), CaesarStone

**BACKSPLASH:** Glass Blox tile in Lime Shimmer Mosaic, Crossville

**TILE GROUT:** Spring Attitude, TEC Specialty Products

**FLOORING:** Cappuccino Oak laminate, Alloc

**WALL OVENS, DISHWASHER:** Gaggenau

**SINK:** Double-bowl undermount in stainless steel, Elkay

**FITTINGS:** Allora pull-down faucet/soap dispenser, Delta

**ROLLING CART:** Butcher-block top with steel shelf, maple drawers, John Boos & Co.

**DRIED FOOD STORAGE:** Oxo

**CLOCK RADIO:** Undercabinet model, Philips

**LEFT:** A professional-style steam/convection oven is installed directly above a single oven, both built into white cabinets that line the far wall. Awning-style doors on upper cabinets are translucent, so only shelves and colors on the shelves within are visible.



**OPPOSITE:** Canted into a corner beyond the three-door bottom-mount refrigerator/freezer is the coffee corner and bar center. There is a bar sink and faucet, a toaster (not shown) and a built-in coffee machine, beneath which is a stainless steel-fronted drawer where stored cups and mugs can be kept comfortably warm.

**RIGHT:** A unilever pullout faucet in stainless steel is mounted beside an elegant hammered-steel bar sink that could also be used to hold ice or wash fresh vegetables.

**BELOW:** The lighted corner cabinet to the right of the bar sink has two circular shelves that revolve at the touch of a finger, so that cookware and bakeware are accessed easily.



## Resources

**CABINETS:** Labelle cherry in Cider, Classic series, Merillat

**HARDWARE:** Solid-cylinder pulls in aluminum, Merillat

**COUNTERTOPS:** Apple Martini, CaesarStone

**BACKSPLASH:** Glass Blox tile in Lime Shimmer Mosaic, Crossville

**TILE GROUT:** Spring Attitude, TEC Specialty Products

**REFRIGERATOR-FREEZER, COFFEE MACHINE/WARMING DRAWER:** Gaggenau

**BAR SINK:** Hammered stainless steel, Elkay

**FAUCET:** Allora single-handle bar/prep-sink style in Brilliance Stainless, Delta

**OVENWARE:** Creations in Emerald, CorningWare

“Different shades of green create a lively effect, much more vibrant and interesting than a uniform tone—sort of like different greens you see in nature.”



Handmade cushions and pillows topping an L-shaped base with storage drawers soften the banquette that's set against a wall of faux stone. The speaker mounted high on the painted wall connects to a built-in music system. The fixed oversize circular window is meant to be a major source of natural light.

“Stone adds texture, character and warmth, especially when juxtaposed with very graphic, colorful fabrics.”

standing at the sink is at the functioning heart of this kitchen's command center, with storage cabinets and drawers, appliances, and myriad work surfaces all within easy reach. The stainless steel cookware is formulated specifically to function on the sleek surface of the induction cooktop. Mounted above it, a spare, understated but highly powerful 48-inch-wide exhaust hood more than meets the demands of sophisticated modern-day gourmet cooking.

Firm cushions and soft pillows define the family dining area. Here, spindle-back chairs in the dominant green tone pull up to a table tucked into an L-shaped banquette with storage bins that, when pulled out, light up to provide visible access to tablecloths, beach blankets, books, magazines—whatever large items need to be stored there.

“Choosing very graphic, brightly colored fabrics whose patterns suggest organic shapes brings elements of fun and liveliness to this area,” says Leess. She also points out that the huge round fixed window in the wall beyond the banquette is placed to flood the area with sunshine.

Accessible to the dining area, on one side, is glassware storage and a super-capacious combination wine cooler and beverage holder. On the other side is an undermount bar sink—as useful for washing fruit and vegetables as keeping fresh flowers nourished—plus the coffee corner, with its built-in stainless steel coffee machine, warming drawer for coffee cups and a four-slice



**ABOVE:** A step-down cabinet arrangement is within a step or two of the banquette area. On the left is a wine cooler/beverage combo with a glass door; in the center, shelving for glassware plus drawers for linens. Flooring is laminate in a wood grain and tone.

**BELOW:** One drawer in the storage cabinet is actually a pull-out shelf at a height convenient for wine, sodas and juices to be uncorked or opened before serving.



## Resources

**CABINETS, BANQUETTE:** Laredo maple in Dove, Masterpiece series; Silver Screen translucent glass doors, Merillat

**HARDWARE:** Indented pulls in aluminum, Merillat

**CHAIRS:** Maine Cottage

**CIRCLEHEAD WINDOW:** Fixed, 42¾-inch diameter, Pella

**FAUX STONE:** Andante Fieldledge, Eldorado Stone

**WALL PAINT:** Gleeful, Sherwin-Williams

**AUDIO SPEAKER:** wall-placed, 10×14 inches, NuTone

**FLOORING:** Cappuccino Oak laminate, Alloc

**WINE/BEVERAGE STORAGE:** Gaggenau

**DINING CHAIRS:** Edna in Hot Lime, Maine Cottage

**PILLOW/CUSHION FABRICS:** Donna Gorman/See Design

**TABLEWARE:** Hearthstone in Bay Leaf, Corelle

**CORKSCREW:** Ekco





toaster. The area is well-equipped to make preparing breakfasts a breeze.

The drop zone just outside the kitchen, as envisioned by designer Ondrovick, “is a kind of transition from the outdoors, drawing you in.” Adds Leess, “It’s a space that eases your

coming in and going out, a place to file bills, store stamps, recharge your cell phone and iPod. There are drawers you can toss handbags into and bins beneath the upholstered bench to stash outdoor footwear.” Radoy points out that in a real home this particular

## Resources

**CABINETS:** Fusion cherry in Cider, Classic series, Merillat

**HARDWARE:** Cable pulls/label holders in satin nickel, Merillat

**CIRCLEHEAD WINDOW, ENTRY DOOR:** Fixed window, 24¾-inch diameter; mahogany-toned out-swing entry door, Pella

**FLOORING:** 12×12-inch Urban Fabric Porcelain Stone tiles in Taupe, Building Blox collection, Crossville

**TILE GROUT:** Smoke Chimney, TEC Specialty Products

**WALL PAINT:** Off Beat Green, Sherwin-Williams

**COUNTERTOPS:** Quartz in Apple Martini, CaesarStone

**CUSHION/PILLOW FABRICS:** Donna Gorman for See Design

**OPPOSITE:** Just outside the kitchen is a drop zone, where incoming mail can be sorted, notes can be scribbled and cell phones and iPods can be efficiently recharged.

**LEFT:** In the seating section of the drop zone are pillows and an upholstered cushion, creating a comfortable spot for donning or removing outdoor footwear. Directly under the seat is boot storage. Drawers beyond it are designed for handbags and other essentials.





**OPPOSITE:** Mirrors mounted against a wall of stained cypress define sites for his and hers sinks. The three-drawer cabinet between them is a discreet version of a traditional medicine cabinet. Circular tiles set into the ceramic floor almost magically change color when stepped on.

**THIS PAGE:** Identical cast-bronze vessel sinks rest on a single sheet of half-inch-thick glass, which tops a wall-to-wall arrangement of smooth pebbles and stones.



drop zone might be the first space you would encounter upon entering the home from the driveway or garage: “It’s a tightly organized space designed to encourage anyone using it to take pains to stay efficiently organized.”

Chrome hardware adds a note of refinement to the otherwise rustic barn door that separates the showcase kitchen from the sun-bright bathroom. Adding to the overall organic feel of the space is the leaf-patterned fabric valance hung above double windows beyond the foot of the tub, plus the unique glass-and-stone countertop beneath a pair of shaped-bronze vessel sinks.

Here, half-inch-thick tempered glass extending the full width of the vanity covers an arrangement of smooth, multicolored stones. “The effect is similar to looking down through clear water in a stream bed,” says Merrillat’s Radoy, “and the metal sinks seem to float.” The vanity itself, wall mounted 8½ inches off the floor, also appears to be hovering. “To add more airiness to the setting, rope lighting is strung along each edge of the mirrors,” Ondrovick says. Set into the tile floor is a pair of circular soft-surface insets whose iridescent colors change with every footstep.

## Resources

**CABINETS:** Montresano maple in Dove (doors, shelving)/oak in Peppercorn (cabinet top), Masterpiece series, Merrillat

**HARDWARE:** Dog-bone pulls in satin nickel, Merrillat

**WOOD-PLANK PANELS, BARN DOOR:** Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association

**WATER-BASED STAIN:** Green Tea, Minwax

**WALL PAINT:** Pure White, Sherwin-Williams

**FLOOR TILE:** Urban Landscape 24×24-inch ceramic tiles in Chelsea, Florim

**TILE GROUT:** Peter Cottontail, TEC Specialty Products

**FLOORING INSETS:** Blue/green Circles in the Sky tiles (each a mix of polyvinyl chloride and nontoxic liquids), 80 centimeters in diameter, Jockimo

**VESSEL SINKS:** Two free-form shapes in Cast Bronze, Elkay

**FAUCETS:** Wall-mounted Axor Citterio lav sets with cross handles in Chrome, Hansgrohe

**LIGHTING:** Stockholm sconces/mini-pendants in Espresso finish, Sea Gull Lighting Products

“A repetition of color, texture and line extends continuity, making the space look comfortable, approachable and fresh.”





At the center of the room is a 6-foot-long freestanding bathtub set in a dark wood stand which, says Radoy, “adds an Asian touch.” The tub is positioned to face a tiny outdoor garden backed by a faux-stone privacy wall. “We’ve created a little place to repose and relax,” he says. The 3×6-foot

shower, with its space-saving sliding glass door, is wrapped in bands of tile that, says Leess, “carries movement through the space, echoing the horizontal cypress boards in the barn door.” The sawed-off tree stump, a found object whose bark was carefully removed, brings a natural accent into one

## Resources

**CYPRESS TRIM:** Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association

**WATER-BASED STAIN:** Green Tea, Minwax

**LIGHTING:** Stockholm sconces in Espresso finish, Sea Gull Lighting Products

**DOOR, WINDOWS:** In-swing French door with snap-in privacy screen/transom-over-casement window with sealed-in adjustable blinds, Pella.

**FAUX STONE:** Andante Fieldledge, Eldorado Stone

**FLOORING:** Urban Landscape 24×24-inch porcelain tiles in Chelsea, Florim

**TILE GROUT:** Peter Cottontail, TEC Specialty Products

**FREESTANDING SOAKER TUB:** Era in White with wood base, Jacuzzi

**TUB FITTINGS:** Floor-mounted Axor Starck Tub Filler in Chrome, Hansgrohe

**TOILET:** Titan one-piece model in White, Eljer

**TOILET SEAT:** Whisper Close in White, Bemis

**TISSUE HOLDER:** Arzo in Chrome, Delta

**BASEBOARD HEATING:** Aluminum radiator, Runtal

**FABRICS:** Donna Gorman for See Design

**OPPOSITE:** A freestanding tub in a wood frame faces a mini-garden and a privacy wall of faux stone. Windows have opaque white blinds sealed between layers of glass. They can be raised and lowered by fingertip-touch levers.

**THIS PAGE:** The toilet is set in its own private niche. A double strip of aluminum baseboard heating ensures that the space can be kept pleasantly warm.



corner of the shower while providing a place to rest soaps and shampoos. Visible just outside the shower is the barn door, a wicker bench seat and all of the other green-stained cypress elements. “I love that there is color in the grained wood,” Leess says. “I also see a kind of wave effect here. A repetition of

color, texture and line extends continuity, making the space look comfortable, approachable and fresh. Nothing is too precious. Everything here and throughout our Design Showcase is intentional. Concepts are repeated, of course, but there are reasons for all that the design team has done.” ♦



## Resources

**SHOWER SYSTEM:** Shower pan/teak shower tray/ Teutonic enclosure; glass with stainless steel handle/rod, MTI Whirlpools

**SHOWER FITTINGS:** Arzo single-control/square overhead spray, Delta

**FAN LIGHT:** Humidity Sensing ceiling mount with white grille, Broan

**PORCELAIN SHOWER TILE:** Terra Nuevo in Crystal (white)/Urban Landscape in Chelsea (brown), Florim

**TILE GROUT:** Peter Cottontail, TEC Specialty Products

**WICKER TABLE-BENCH:** Maine Cottage

**ELECTRIC TOWEL WARMER:** Neptune wall-mount in Chrome, Runtal

**FAUX STONE:** Andante Sealed Ledge, Eldorado Stone

**SLIDING BARN-STYLE**

**DOOR:** Southern Cypress Manufacturers Association

**WATER-BASED STAIN:** Green Tea, Minwax

**OPPOSITE:** An all but invisible sliding glass door closes off the shower stall, with its squarish spray and handle hardware. The shower floor covering is teak, which is closely matched in tone by bands of brown that enclose the tiled-in space. Set in the ceiling is a humidity-sensing combination fan/light.

**THIS PAGE:** A chrome-faced towel warmer is installed on the wall outside the shower. The bench-height table offers seating as well as a shelf for towels. The green-stained sliding door closes off the bathroom, as needed.

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# kitchens & baths

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# KEEPSAKE KITCHEN

A kitchen becomes a gathering point for generations of a family

WRITTEN BY NANCY A. RUHLING

PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM YOCHUM

STYLED BY GISELA ROSE

W

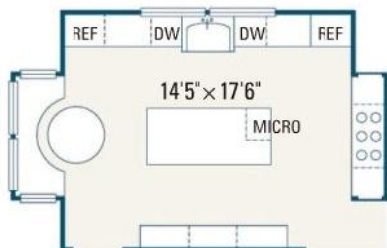
When Kim Cardosi and Don Jasinski updated the kitchen of their century-old Craftsman foursquare in the Frank Lloyd Wright Historic District of Oak Park, Illinois, they took great care to blend the old and new to create a space that was equally at home for eating and for entertaining.

“We wanted a light, bright space that kept the architectural intent of the home and functioned for a modern family,” says Kim. “We have three daughters who are 20, 18 and 15. They all play on field hockey teams. We always have parties and sports banquets, sometimes for 60 to 100 people, and regardless of where the party starts, everyone always ends up in the kitchen.”

They doubled the size of the kitchen, to a little more than 300 square feet, by incorporating an inefficient butler’s pantry and adding a 4x7-foot bump-out for a bay window and window seat, the ideal spot for the girls to hang out, chat on the phone and do their homework. Large windows were added over the sink to wash the room with sunlight, and the quarter-sawn oak ceiling beams and woodwork in the dining room were copied and painted white to lighten the look.

The center island functions as a dining area, a prep area and a place to spread out buffets and baked goods for family and friends to socialize around.

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS



**ABOVE:** At a little more than 300 square feet, the new kitchen is about twice the size of its predecessor. Part of that growth came via annexing a butler's pantry adjacent to the old kitchen.

“We wanted a light, bright space that kept the architectural intent of the home and that functioned for a modern family.”



**ABOVE:** A bump-out with bay window and seating area gives the three high-school- and college-age daughters in the family a place to take care of homework and social networking.

**OPPOSITE:** A hefty range with double ovens and powerful gas burners ensures that the culinary demands of the household can be satisfied easily, even when company comes over.

Kitchen designer Jean Stoffer, based in River Forest, Illinois, supplied the creative period details, which include an oak floor, red-glass drawer knobs, a breakfront that showcases a collection of vintage silver and Depression glass, and a matching refrigerator/pantry and refrigerator/freezer that look like cabinets. The room's showstopping ele-

ment is the dramatic Victorian-style treatment surrounding the stainless steel sink and countertop. “The countertop, which was a salvage piece, was two feet too short, so we built drawers that were inspired by the hanky drawers of a 19th Century dresser on each side and added curved brackets,” she says. “The space gave us room for a lamp and collectibles,



## *design points ...*

### **PERIOD ELEMENTS**

Kitchen designer Jean Stoffer managed to blend today's conveniences into a Craftsman motif. Here are a few of the ideas she employed:

**A CLASSY POT FILLER** faucet (left) erases the burdensome task of hauling heavy pots of water from the sink to the range.

**RUBY-RED GLASS KNOBS** (right) adorn some of the drawers, adding a quaint touch.

**AN ISLAND MICROWAVE** (below, left) blends in, thanks to the presence of other metal finishes in the space.

**THE STAINLESS SINK** and countertop (below) came as a single unit from salvage. As the piece was slightly too small for its allotted space, Stoffer surrounded it with flourishes from the 19th Century.





and the little drawers are used to store everything from takeout menus to pot holders.”

The central island, the heart of the kitchen, does triple duty: as a food-prep area, a dining table and a big buffet for the pounds of pasta and homemade sugar cookies Kim fixes for family, field hockey teams and friends. A

double oven and two dishwashers make cooking and cleanup a snap.

“Whether I’m baking cookies or shining the antique silver, I like to turn life’s chores into a party,” Kim says. “And when my daughters and I do these tasks in the new kitchen, it’s a real bonding experience.” ♦

**The impressive display of vintage silver and Depression-era glass in this hutch contributes to the overall space’s balance of modern sophistication with classic elegance.**



# OLD WORLD, NEW LOOK

A designer draws from European sources to create this comfy kitchen

WRITTEN BY JAMIE GOLDBERG

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRIDLEY & GRAVES

Designer Rob Stepp describes this kitchen's style as "Tuscany comes to The Greenbrier." It's apt for a space designed to handle casual entertaining in the forested heart of West Virginia. Long known as a historic resort, The Greenbrier is also home to a community of custom residences.

The kitchen that Stepp's Huntington, West Virginia-based firm, Creative Kitchens Incorporated, has created is perfect for family and neighborhood gatherings. Like the classic Italian country kitchens that inspired it, the look is characterized by the rich tones of the cherry cabinetry and the architectural motif

**Ornamental but not ornate, the cabinets establish a quiet elegance in the room. An arch appears at the range hood and the window valance, a detail that softens the kitchen's hard angles.**







**ABOVE:** Paneling the bottom-mount refrigerator allows the stainless range to brighten the intimate room.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** A drawer-style microwave not only conserves counter space, it is also safer and neater to use than swinging-door model ovens.

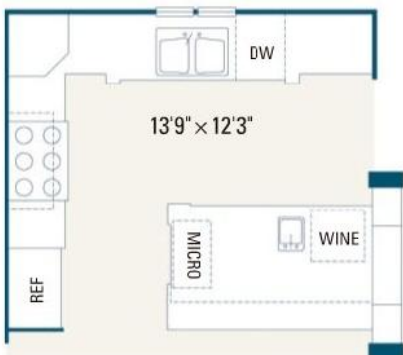
of a keystone arch—“reminiscent of an Italian villa,” the designer says.

Those handsome arches are repeated throughout the space: topping the pass-through between the kitchen and gathering room, cresting the valance at the sink window, even on the paneling behind the bar. The cabinets’ distressed finish—highlighting the natural joint cracks, worm holes and edge-wear of the wood—is in keeping with the



rustic character of the kitchen. Madura Gold granite counters bring additional warmth (and durability) to the picture.

While this kitchen’s appearance exudes old-world ambience, it is thoroughly modern in its conveniences. “The appliances and fixtures were planned with the belief that the cook should have all the luxuries of a master chef,” Stepp says. Even though this home is designed for weekend and vacation use, the



**ABOVE:** A hands-free convenience co-opted from the doctor's office, foot pedals control the flow of the faucet.

**LEFT:** Every important feature of this compact kitchen is intelligently placed, so that movement is efficient and storage is maximized.

A slew of contemporary conveniences are concealed behind the traditional styling and timeless materials of this classic kitchen.



designer adds, people who have top-notch kitchens at home do not want to sacrifice such comforts at their getaway spots. With an eye to that level of expectation, the dual-fuel range fitted with a griddle easily handles weekend morning pancakes, while its ample oven can hold a couple of crowd-pleasing roasts. For quicker, more casual snacking, there's an easy-access microwave drawer right at the end of the peninsula.

Wanting the space to feel homey, while still incorporating the latest technology, Stepp chose the refrigerator's configuration—bottom-mounted freezer drawers—with the

intent of giving it a farmhouse armoire look. Similarly, he sheathed the range's ultra-quiet blower behind a wooden hood that coordinates with the cabinetry. More functional features include a pot filler faucet at the range, a pedal-operated faucet at the main sink and a wine cooler and additional prep sink located in the peninsula/breakfast bar.

All of these amenities, in conjunction with an expertly planned work flow, make it very easy for the cook to enjoy mingling with guests while taking in the mountain stream views right outside the window. Best of all, for this experience there's no airfare to Italy required!

## design points

### ALL WITHIN REACH

No matter how chic or costly it may be, a kitchen's ultimate success turns on its convenience. The room must be sensibly sized (meaning suited for either one or multiple users), with an optimal balance of storage, work space and appliances that are more than eye-candy. This kitchen maximizes counter area and puts awkward angles to

good use with its appliance garage set on a 45-degree angle (below left). It makes the most of a limited work area while eliminating clutter. It may be permissible to install an electrical outlet inside the garage; check your local building code. Once solely found in restaurants, the pot-filler (below) has become a staple of home kitchens, cutting the round-trip trudge to the sink-and-back in half. ♦



Tall, solid walls are not a prerequisite for a successful kitchen. This room gains tremendous spatial flexibility from a pass-through on one side and a feature-packed peninsula on another.



One of the homeowners took on the task of researching appliances, because he does all the cooking. He chose this 48-inch model, with dual ovens and open, high-Btu gas burners.





**RIGHT: Shopping online netted substantial savings. A sink that retailed locally for \$1,500 turned into an Internet bargain for \$500.**



# THE PERSONAL TOUCH

To revitalize his own kitchen, a designer takes a hands-on role

**WRITTEN BY THERESA MCTAMMANY  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRIDLEY & GRAVES**

**R**obert Hunt knows a good thing when he sees it. So, when he and partner Van Creely stumbled upon a 1918 Arts and Crafts-style cottage situated along the historic Delaware River Canal, they snapped it up on the spot. “There aren’t any homes like it in Bucks County,” says the real-estate-savvy Robert, describing the well-proportioned rooms, hand-wrought woodwork and molding—all

original features of the 90-year-old home. The kitchen, however, was another story. “It had wall-to-wall carpeting, fake brick walls and zero counter space,” he says. “But the house was in good condition, so we weren’t that concerned.”

Two years after moving in, they tackled the kitchen, planning and sourcing the materials themselves, and letting professionals handle





“Do your homework beforehand.  
The discounts are out there.”



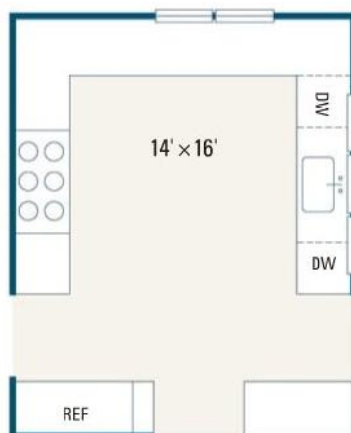
A table stands in for an island. It serves as a prep area and spot for casual dining. It also divides the space visually and functionally into halves: the cooking area on the left and the clean-up zone at right.





**ABOVE:** The buffet cabinet not only shows off china and glassware, it houses a small flat-screen TV. The screen hides behind beaded-panel pocket doors at countertop level.

**RIGHT:** Using the existing footprint, the foremost advantage of this simple, sensible U-shape over its predecessor is the addition of ample counter space.



the major work. To simplify things, they stuck to the original 14x16 footprint, converting a former 4x4-foot pantry into a mudroom that would connect to the kitchen. “It was a collaborative effort,” Robert says of the U-shaped design, which took three months to finalize. In the meantime, Van researched various appliances. “It was logical for him to do this, since he did the cooking,” says Robert.

Their enthusiasm and attention to detail is apparent throughout the well-organized, clutter-free space. A farm table replaces the requisite blocky island. Equipped with pull-up seating, it also provides a place for casual meals and splits the space into two distinct

## design points

### HIDDEN AGENDA

Though this kitchen wasn't exactly starving for space, some deft storage solutions help keep it clutter-free and functioning smoothly. Here are a few of those ideas:

- ◆ Instead of having to fetch a cutting board from a cabinet to prepare every meal or parking one on the counter and effectively restricting that space to prep work, this kitchen has a pull-out cutting board (left) to the left of the range.
- ◆ The area on the side of the fridge was turned into shallow open shelves for cookbooks and canisters (below, left). In many homes, when a cabinet run terminates with a refrigerator like this, the far end is disregarded. This solution is a huge step up from an exposed, magnet-riddled refrigerator side.
- ◆ Everyday small appliances such as the toaster and coffee maker have a home of their own in the appliance garage (below) to the left of the sink. This keeps these items out of sight when they're not in use. It includes an electrical outlet.



work areas. One half is for serious cooking—the kitchen has a 48-inch range with two ovens and a fridge with bottom-mount freezer drawer. On the opposite wall, an extra-deep sink, two dishwashers and recycling center expedite clean-up chores.

For a lighter, less formal look than the dark woodwork and floors that dominate the rest of the house, they chose a classic palette of ivory-painted, recessed-panel cabinets with polished nickel hardware, paired with honed black granite countertops, a subway-tiled backsplash and butter yellow walls. Beneath the carpet and layers of linoleum, they found—surprise!—the original pine plank

floors, which they refinished themselves.

Storage also shows ingenuity and charm. A large glass-fronted buffet takes up where the limited wall space leaves off. Felt-lined buffet drawers hold silverware; the large cupboards below allow similar items to be stored together. Clutter is banished; an appliance garage near the sink stows the coffeemaker and toaster.

While the kitchen is adequately stocked with choice amenities, which was the best bargain buy? A deep-basined sink bought online for a fraction of the retail showroom price. “Do your homework beforehand,” Robert says. “The discounts are out there—provided you know exactly what you want.” ◆





**LEFT:** Intricate stone details, like the “rug” in this bath, can come in kit form or may be custom fabricated, using precise water-jet technology.

**OPPOSITE:** Although marble has a reputation as a “cold” material, the caramel tones of the stone in this room bring visual warmth to the space.

# CONTINENTAL FLAIR

French style is brought to bear in this refined master bath

**WRITTEN BY THERESA MCTAMMANY**

**PHOTOGRAPHS BY JEFF MCNAMARA**

**STYLED BY AMY LEONARD**

When it came time to plan the bath for their new master suite, Connecticut-based homeowners Doreen and Michael DeDomenico chose to replicate the same four-star style and comfort they had experienced first-hand at The Four Seasons Hotel in Paris. For help, they turned to Laura Sigg, of Country Design II in New Canaan, Connecticut.

Sigg borrowed lavishly from the legendary establishment, transforming a small sitting room into an ooh-la-la space designed to make the owners feel like pampered guests. “Having lived in Europe and stayed in fine hotels, I wanted to experience that same feeling of luxury every day,” Doreen says.

Doreen’s fondness for French antiques, many acquired during the couple’s five-year stay in Brussels, also figured prominently into the design equation. “She loves anything carved or ornate,” says Sigg, who generously employed luxe materials such as marble and finishes in

warm hues of honey and butter cream to evoke a Gallic flavor.

The room’s pièce de résistance is an elaborately detailed marble-topped vanity that could have stopped Marie Antoinette dead in her tracks. “It was a surprise gift from Michael,” says Sigg of the handsome piece, whose furniture-like styling evokes the feeling of a cherished antique. But it’s not: The vanity, crafted by Debra Tan, of True North Cabinets, combines stock units and factory-made millwork with custom handcrafted elements. “I wanted it to feel like it was part of the architecture of the room,” she says, admitting the design underwent several revisions before both cabinetmaker and client were satisfied. “It needed to have the grandeur one associates with a fine Parisian hotel,” Tan says.

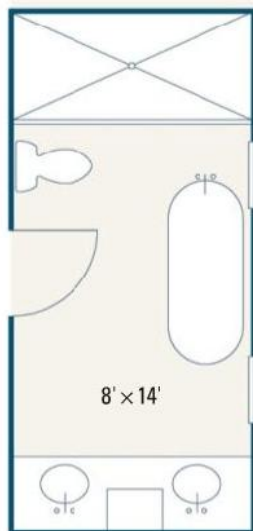
The 8×14-foot room includes a super-sized shower enclosure equipped with a variety of bracing shower units—hand-held, wall-





**ABOVE:** An antique ceiling fixture adds sparkle to the space. Its diminutive size is suited to a small room.

**BELOW:** The location of the door and the two windows in the room helped give structure to the space. At one end of the bath, the vanity benefits from indirect, raking light, while the tub gets pride of place between the windows.



**Bathers stepping out of this tub won't experience cold feet—the stone floor is heated. Austrian shades at the windows are another luxe touch.**

mounted jets, and two overhead rain fixtures. An integral bench brings comfort to the installation. “It’s over the top, I know,” Doreen says, “but it was Michael’s only request.”

While a blush-colored marble slab was chosen to top the vanity, less expensive tiles in warm honey and butter cream were installed both on the floor and in the shower. To visually separate wet and dry areas—while ratcheting

up the luxury quotient—Sigg designed a tile “rug” bordered with a scrollwork pattern as a complement to the bold checkerboard layout of the shower wall.

“I am totally satisfied,” says Doreen, admitting the couple no longer has to venture “across the pond” to experience European luxury firsthand. “We have it all right here,” she says. “This is really special.”



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The bath's Belle Epoch  
ambience is heightened  
by the two-sink vanity,  
replete with crystal knobs,  
pewter-finish faucets and  
handcrafted cabinets. ♦

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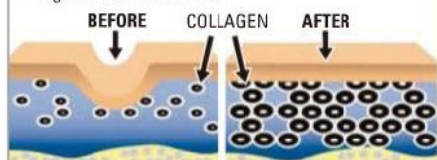
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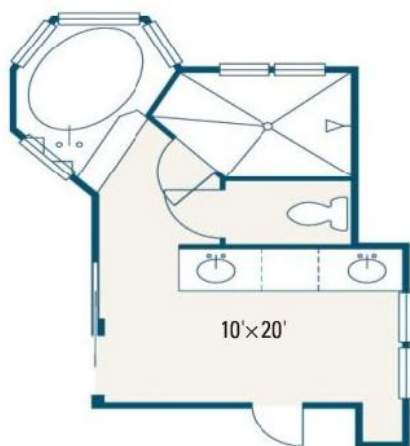




The whirlpool tub sits beneath a bay window that looks out onto a private area of the home's garden. Consequently, the homeowners can immerse themselves in a luxuriant bathing experience—and get a great view with bountiful natural light—without concern for the neighbors.

**RIGHT:** The suite is divvied up into several sections, including separate areas for vanities, bathing fixtures and a private toilet.

**FAR RIGHT:** Light refracting through the glass block adds sparkle to the shower and steam-bath experience. Showerhead positions vary to accommodate bathers of different heights.



WRITTEN BY BILL PARTSCH  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON



# A PLACE TO UNWIND

Separate sinks and bathing fixtures help give this master suite a magic touch

After a long, hard day of running the rat race, sometimes all you want to do is come home and regain your sanity—without the distractions of family. This idea was a large part of Mark and Jane Kendall's motivation for creating an indulgent master suite in their home in Orinda, California.

The Kendalls have three sons, Rylan, Ross and Chris, who at the time of the remodel, “were entering their teenage years,” Mark says. “We wanted a chance to create a private spa retreat to have a moment of peace.”

The Kendalls tapped interior designer Catherine Macfee, also of Orinda, along with

certified kitchen designer Arsenio Perez, of KB Associates in nearby San Mateo to help them realize their goal.

The resulting ensemble includes areas for a double vanity, a separate tub and shower, private toilet, closet (complete with island), and a fireplace. “The whole suite is designed to be an environment,” Mark says. “After you’re done with the tub, you can sit by the fireplace in a big chair.”

Jane describes the style of the room as traditional but yet comfortable. “It’s not a very formal home,” she says. “I like the bead-board, cottage, East Coast kind of look,” as



**LEFT:** The double vanity with makeup area is the decorative anchor of the space. Its green marble countertops set a tone that is picked up in, among other places, the light sage painted walls.

**ABOVE:** In an otherwise unassuming corner, a built-in hamper cabinet and open shelves for towels provide a visual counterbalance to the vanity.

evidenced in the vanity's beadboard panels.

Atop the off-white vanity are slabs of green Esmeralda marble. "I found the marble for the countertops and built the room around that," Jane says. The green color repeats in tumbled marble mosaic tiles and the light sage painted walls.

A whirlpool tub with recirculating heat pump sits below a bay window. Separate from that is a walk-in shower that includes two steam units. Showerheads are at various positions on the wall to accommodate Jane and Mark's differing heights. There's also

a 12-inch sunflower head up top, plus seating. "We put in a nice bench," Mark says, "so it's comfortable to linger in there."

Natural light is plentiful, both via large windows and glass block. "We have glass block that has a prism aspect to it," Mark says, "which, in the walk-in shower, really captures a sparkly light. If you're taking a steam bath or a long shower, the environment really becomes kind of magical."

Jane says, "I love the fact that I have a place to go when there's a bunch of teenagers around. I have a place to close off." ♦

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Create a personal spa in the comfort of your own home with a luxurious Aquatic whirlpool bath. Offering the finest in hydrotherapy performance, Aquatic features over 100 whirlpool bath designs for one or two people. AQUATIC INDUSTRIES. **\$2.00**

### 302. American Lighting Association.

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**305. MTI Whirlpools.** MTI Whirlpools is an industry-leading manufacturer of custom acrylic whirlpools, air baths and soaking tubs; bathroom, kitchen and utility sinks; shower bases and specialty products. MTI also offers a complete line of shower and tub enclosures. MTI WHIRLPOOLS. **Free**

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**350. Aqua-Pure.** Everything you always wanted to know about your water. Aqua-Pure, maker of premium drinking water filtration systems has produced this quick overview of the contaminants and additives commonly found in our drinking water and highlighting their effect on water quality and health. Written in plain English, readers will gain a basic understanding of this increasingly important issue while discovering a number of easy and economical solutions to providing quality drinking water in the home. AQUA-PURE. **Free**

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## DECORATING ACCESSORIES

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<input type="checkbox"/> 102	<input type="checkbox"/> 202	<input type="checkbox"/> 251	<input type="checkbox"/> 304	<input type="checkbox"/> 401	<input type="checkbox"/> 502	<input type="checkbox"/> 653	<input type="checkbox"/> 752
<input type="checkbox"/> 103	<input type="checkbox"/> 203	<input type="checkbox"/> 252	<input type="checkbox"/> 305	<input type="checkbox"/> 402			<input type="checkbox"/> 753
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	<input type="checkbox"/> 205	<input type="checkbox"/> 254	<input type="checkbox"/> 307	<input type="checkbox"/> 404			<input type="checkbox"/> 755
	<input type="checkbox"/> 206	<input type="checkbox"/> 255		<input type="checkbox"/> 405	<b>Ceilings &amp; Lighting Fixtures</b>	<b>Gardening/Landscaping/Outdoor Furniture</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 756
<b>Kitchen Appliances</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 207	<input type="checkbox"/> 256	<b>Water Filtration</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 406	<input type="checkbox"/> 552	<input type="checkbox"/> 702	<input type="checkbox"/> 757
<input type="checkbox"/> 151	<input type="checkbox"/> 208	<input type="checkbox"/> 257	<input type="checkbox"/> 350	<b>Heating &amp; Cooling</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 553	<input type="checkbox"/> 703	<input type="checkbox"/> 758
<input type="checkbox"/> 152	<input type="checkbox"/> 209			<input type="checkbox"/> 451	<b>Sewing/Vacuums</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> 704	<input type="checkbox"/> 759
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# Resources

## Buying Guide

### In Living Color

Pages 65–83:

**Interior design**, Ingrid Leess Interior Design.

### Keepsake Kitchen

Pages 86–91:

**Designer/custom cabinetry**, Jean Stoffer Design. **Contractor**, Ryan Construction. **Range hood liner**, Vent-A-Hood. **Microwave**, KitchenAid. **Refrigerator**, Sub-Zero. **Main faucet**, The Whitehaus Collection. **Pot-filler faucet**, Chicago Faucets. **Dishwasher**, Bosch. **Backsplash tile**, Walker Zanger. **Wall paint**, Benjamin Moore.

### Old World, New Look

Pages 92–97:

**Designer**, Rob Stepp, Creative Kitchens Inc. **Cabinetry, cabinet hardware** and **custom hood**, Wood-Mode. **Main sink**, Elkay. **Prep sink**, Blanco. **Faucets**, Blanco. **Range**, Wolf. **Microwave**, Sharp. **Refrigerator** and **wine refrigerator**, Sub-Zero. **Dishwasher**, Miele. **Countertops**, Monticello Granite. **Undercabinet lighting**, Sea Gull Lighting. **Pendant lights** and **breakfast table light**, Kichler. **Backsplash tile**, Crossville.

### The Personal Touch

Pages 98–103:

**Contractor**, John Hershey & Son. **Cabinetry**, Architectural Woodworking Associates. **Counter surfacing**, Marble Source. **Cooktop, oven, range** and **range hood**, Viking. **Dishwasher**, Bosch. **Dishwasher drawer**, Fisher & Paykel. **Refrigerator**, KitchenAid. **Faucets**, Chicago Faucets. **Pendant**

**lights**, Rejuvenation. **Recessed lighting**, W.A.C. Lighting. **Door hardware**, Architectural Antiques. **Paint**, Benjamin Moore.

### Continental Flair

Pages 104–108:

**Cabinetry design**, True North Cabinets. **Interior designer**, Laura Sigg, Country Design II. **Contractor**, Dave Cacace, Panel Works. **Cabinets**, Kountry Kraft. **Sinks** and **toilet**, Toto. **Faucets** and **shower fittings**, Rohl. **Decorative lighting**, Country Design II. **Blinds**, Hunter Douglas.

### A Place to Unwind

Pages 110–112:

**Designer**, Catherine Macfee & Associates Interior Design, Inc. **Contractor**, John Buestad, Buestad Construction. **Sinks**, Kallista. **Toilet**, Toto. **Faucets** and **shower fittings**, Rohl. **Paint**, Benjamin Moore. ➔



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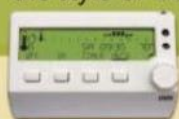
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