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**24 GREAT KITCHENS**

**50 SMART IDEAS**

**NEW PRODUCTS GUIDE**







# WELCOME TO OUR BEST KITCHENS

**A** mind-boggling variety of decisions have to be made when you start planning your new kitchen. Do you want deep-green marble, cloud-blue laminate or one of the new, textured synthetic solids for your countertop? Whatever you choose will have to perfectly combine with the wide oak planks, ceramic pavers or speckled vinyl tiles you're thinking about for the floor. And then, of course, after you've worked out a floor plan, chosen a cabinet style and selected a color scheme, you still have to consider storage options, hardware details and appliances. Design decisions are like that; they tend to tumble one upon the other.

To help, the editors of HOME Magazine have kept their eyes open for the best kitchen design ideas in the country. We've been looking all over for the smartest storage ideas, the craftiest cabinets and the most artful arrangements that combine to produce attractive, hard-working kitchens.

In an attempt to make your decision-

making easier, we've gathered over two dozen exemplary kitchens. The issue begins with informative, in-depth articles about issues inherent in the process of planning a new kitchen.

Designer Don Silvers discusses planning the kitchen as a cook's workshop and offers suggestions on how to organize it to be a comfortable, efficient and utilitarian space.

"Should You Consider A Facelift?" doesn't look at noses and cheekbones but, rather, suggests smart alternatives to tearing out your entire kitchen. We explore the more-than-cosmetic tricks that can be used to bring your kitchen up to date—without subjecting your house and your family to the rigors of a total renovation.

Plastic laminates aren't what they used to be. Better made, and available now in a surprising diversity of styles, textures and colors, laminates are one of the most popular countertop choices. Our report presents the costs, design options, advantages and disadvantages of laminates. It also includes informational resources to help you find the laminate that is right for you.

Catalogue shopping for your kitchen can bring almost anything to you by mail, and we tell you how to get the most from at-home ordering. Additionally, we've squeezed in some interesting new kitchen products. Kitchen details fill our "50 Smart Ideas" compendium, and we've included a questionnaire for our readers.

Our 24 fantastic kitchens start with a turn of this page. From new-country to traditional, from Eurostyle to industrial, HOME Magazine's best kitchens are presented here in detail with appealing photographs, engaging texts and hardworking captions.

Our helpful "Buying Guide" references, starting on page 110, provide additional information about the designers, architects, materials, appliances and furnishings. The "New Products Guide" offers resources for just about every part of your kitchen.

After months of our researching, reporting and reviewing kitchens, we're proud of the way we've packed this issue full of ideas. We hope you can use some of them in your own projects.

*The Editors*



# A NEW GREAT ROOM

**T**o create this inviting family gathering place in Greenwich, Connecticut, architect Mark Demmerle connected the kitchen and living room to create an open and updated "great room."

Using elegant materials, including green marble for the countertops and backsplashes, Demmerle, of Shope Reno Wharton, created a variety of eating and working zones. The L-shaped island features a prep area, with a multi-functional Gaggenau cooktop, a vegetable sink and dishwasher, as well as a breakfast counter and more than ample pull-out drawers, storage bins, cookbook racks, and pot and pan trays. A built-in desk is nearby for writing bills or letters.

The custom cabinetry is painted wood with raised-panel doors on the bottom and divided-light, glass-fronted doors with lights built in above. Flooring is 5-inch-wide elm. The kitchen faces the northeast and receives no direct sun, thus multiple recessed ceiling lights were necessary.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY KARI HAWKINS

For further information, see Buying Guide on page 112.



This new classic Connecticut kitchen combines elegant materials with elements of traditional and modern styling. The green marble-topped island (above) includes a cooktop with downdraft ventilation, a stainless steel prep sink, ample work space, plenty of storage and a breakfast counter. Five-inch-wide elm flooring (right) adds warmth to this kitchen which opens to the dining and living rooms.





Divided-light cabinets (above) provide plenty of storage and display space while the paneled-wood cabinets below store kitchen equipment and supplies. The island includes additional storage space, like the pull-out drawers at the breakfast area (left); pull-outs are also part of the desk area (right).



(Above) Contemporary and comfortable, this kitchen is both hard-working and classy. The island offers plenty of room for cooking, cleaning up, serving and eating. Wide, under-counter drawers (left) are useful for table mats. Sliding windows (right) behind cleanup sink bring needed light into this large room.

For further information, see Buying Guide on page 110.

