

# KITCHENS

A rustic kitchen scene featuring a wooden table with a wire basket, a sink, and a wooden cabinet with plates. The table is made of light-colored wood with a dark green painted base. A wire basket sits on the table. In the background, there is a sink with a faucet, a wooden cabinet with plates, and a window with a view of greenery.

Information and inspiration for making kitchens the heart of the home

**CHRIS CASSON MADDEN**

Photographs by Michael Mundy and John Vaughan





.....

## A Natural Setting

.....

The owner had a very specific vision of what she wanted for the kitchen in her western Massachusetts home. With a hands-on enthusiasm for kitchen design, she researched the subject thoroughly and eagerly, emerging finally with a plan to create a room that highlighted wooden cabinets and a natural stone fireplace, rather than the clean white fixtures she had in mind when she first began her search for her “perfect” kitchen.

Working with architects Allan Shope and Bernard Wharton and designer Richard FitzGerald, the owners integrated certain specific features they required (such as the six-burner Wolf range and a “major” island) with some stunning effects. For instance, to hide the massive ducts and venting system and to keep a straight visual line over the Wolf range, artist James Alan Smith painted twelve trompe l’oeil panels that depict various kitchen scenes behind the “dummy” cabinet fronts. He also created the hand-painted checkerboard floor of coffee, butterscotch, and cream hues that unites prep and dining areas.

In the rehab process, the owner concluded that—as do most of us—she drew heavily on the past and on kitchens she had seen over the years. “There is nothing new under the sun. It’s all a matter of compilation—how you put it all together. This room is interpreted through and for my personality and my needs. It’s a big barn of a kitchen, and yet I still have that feeling I wanted, of warmth and intimacy.”

Strong classic elements in a generously sized space are the keynotes of this striking kitchen. Grooved granite works effectively as a countertop drain; the pump-style fixture is imported from France.





ABOVE The black of the Windsor chairs around the kitchen table echoes the color of the Wolf stove beyond the granite-topped island.

ARCHITECTS: ALLAN SHOPE AND BERNARD WHARTON OF SHOPE RENO WHARTON  
 INTERIOR DESIGNER: RICHARD FITZGERALD AND ASSOCIATE GARY McBOURNE  
 TROMPE L'OEIL ARTIST: JAMES ALAN SMITH  
 CABINETS: FIR WOOD, CATO WOODWORK  
 COOKTOP: WOLF, SIX-BURNER  
 COUNTERTOPS: GRANITE  
 DISHWASHER: MIELE

FIXTURE: BILLIE BRENNER LTD., BOSTON  
 GRILL: THERMADOR GAS GRILL  
 LIGHTING: LIGHTOLIER  
 OVENS: GAGGENAU; THERMADOR  
 PULLS: PERIOD FURNITURE HARDWARE, BOSTON  
 REFRIGERATOR-FREEZER: SUB-ZERO  
 SINK: BUTLER, ENGLAND



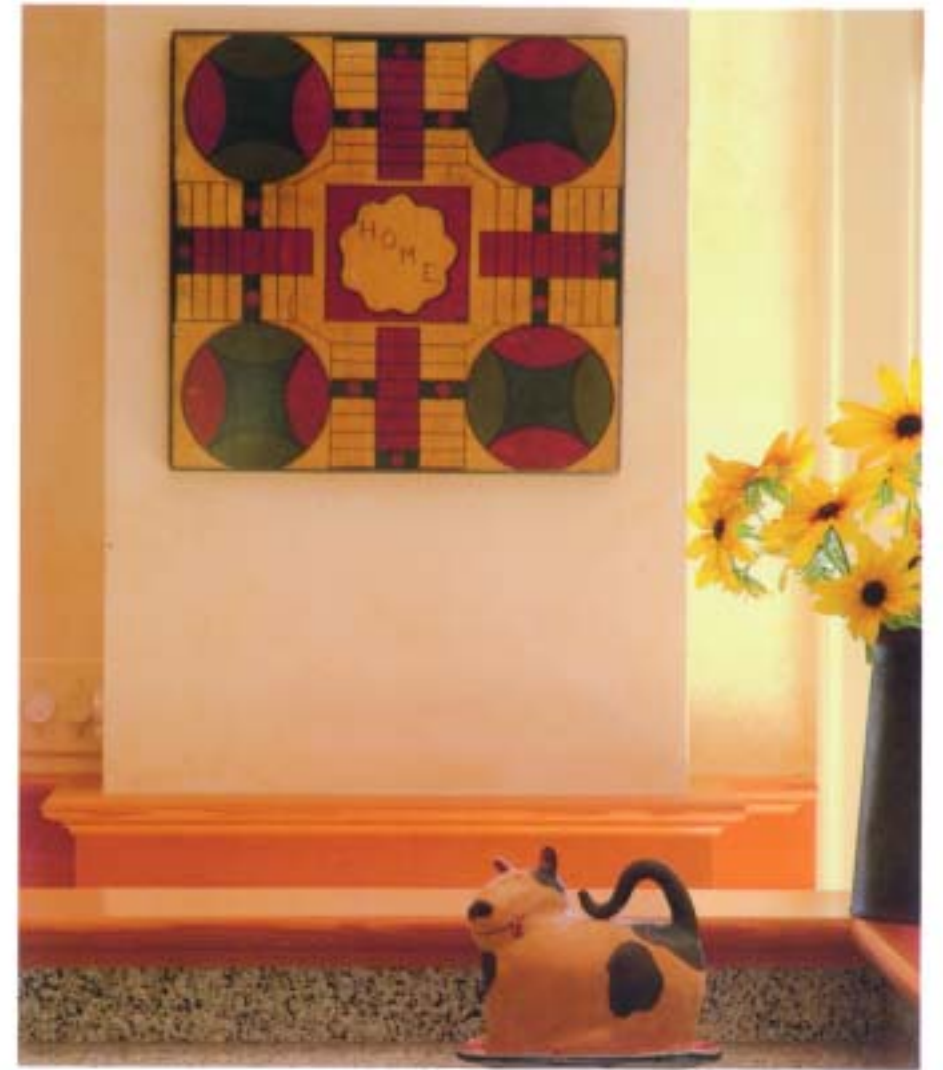
RIGHT A series of trompe l'oeil-on-glass "cabinets" painted by James Alan Smith disguises the venting system for the stove.





**ABOVE** Firewood is dried and stored in the side opening of the massive stone fireplace.

**OPPOSITE** Large pantry pull-outs add accessible storage space.



**ABOVE** An antique game board hangs on a wall over the granite counter. Games are a theme in the decor throughout the house.

**LEFT** The Miele dishwasher, with its unique top shelf for knives, forks, and spoons, is conveniently located opposite the flatware drawer.