

CHATELAINÉ

HOME DECOR
SPECIAL

a how-to guide to make over your

KITCHEN & BATH

QUICK **FIXES** | DESIGNER **PICKS**
FIND YOUR **STYLE** | DIY **PROJECTS**



100+
BRIGHT
IDEAS
& expert tips

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8 ways

TO UPDATE YOUR

KITCHEN

Sometimes all it takes is a little nip and tuck to give the busiest room in your house a complete facelift. From paint to pulls, pendants to penny tile, we've got you covered

PHOTO: SCOTT NORIS/WORTHY DESIGN, MDESIGN INC.



Don't be afraid to mix different upper and lower cabinets

1

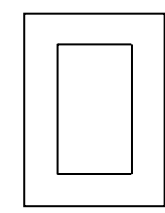
RETHINK YOUR CABINETS

Cabinetry makes up the bulk of your kitchen, so updating this one element can have dramatic effects. There are numerous ways to refresh. The easiest, most cost-efficient way is paint. If your dated wood cabinetry is looking a little tired, a fresh coat of paint can make a huge difference. Looking for something a little more dramatic? Try replacing your doors and drawers with new fronts. This works well if you like your current layout but don't love the way your kitchen looks. You can also remove some or all of your upper cabinets and replace them with open shelving. It can make your kitchen feel more airy, and it gives you a place to show off your collections of plates and glassware.

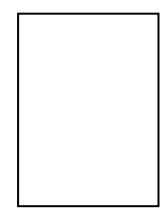


Wood cabinetry feeling dated? A fresh coat of paint can make a huge difference

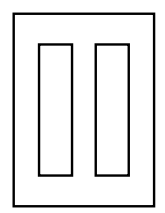
CABINET styles



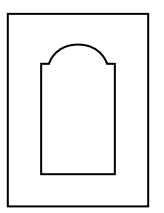
SHAKER
MODERN COUNTRY



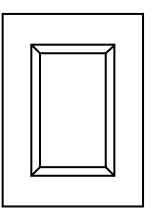
FLAT FRONT
CONTEMPORARY



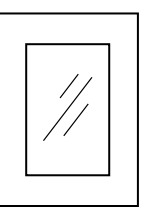
CRAFTSMAN
ARTS & CRAFTS



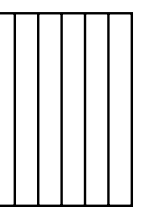
ARCHED CATHEDRAL
TRADITIONAL



RAISED PANEL
TRADITIONAL



GLASS INSERT
ALL-PURPOSE



BEADBOARD
COUNTRY

PHOTOS: ROBERTO CARUSO



INVEST IN NEW COUNTERTOPS

The workhorses of the kitchen, your counters can take a beating over time. They're also subject to fads and trends, which means that bull-nose countertop you put in during the '80s might be looking a little dated. If brand new counters are out of your budget (they can be a considerable investment), consider updating one section to begin with (like your island) and then doing the rest later. The old and the new don't have to match but should be complementary.

2

PHOTOS: ROBERTO CARUSO



Baby Seal Black
— Benjamin Moore

3

CHOOSE DRAMATIC COLOUR

Say goodbye to beige! Deep and moody or pale and romantic, gorgeous colour is making its way into kitchens and bathrooms this year. Check out some of our favourite colours.

TOP 10 colour trends

- | | |
|---|---|
|  |  |
| BLAZER
PARA | LINEN
RESTORATION
HARDWARE |
|  |  |
| ARTICHOKE
BENJAMIN MOORE | WARM GOLD
CIL |
|  |  |
| MOLE'S BREATH
FARROW AND BALL | AGAVE FROND
BEHR |
|  |  |
| PITCH COBALT
VALSPAR | GALE FORCE
PITTSBURGH PAINTS |
|  |  |
| LATTE
RONA | ROSE PETAL MACARON
BEAUTI-TONE |



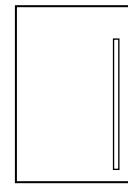
4

SWITCH OUT YOUR HARDWARE

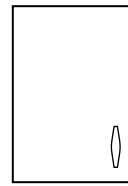
Handles, knobs and pulls can pack a lot of personality. Whether you want a clean, streamlined kitchen or something that evokes a rustic farmhouse, your choice of hardware plays a big part in the style of your kitchen projects. Make sure to measure existing holes before buying something new to be certain it will fit.

HARDWARE styles

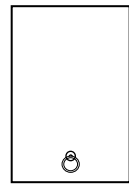
CABINETS



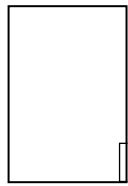
OVERSIZED PULL
CONTEMPORARY



HANDLE
ALL-PURPOSE

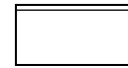


RING PULL
TRADITIONAL



EDGE PULL
CONTEMPORARY

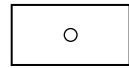
DRAWERS



RECESSED PULL
CONTEMPORARY



PENDANT PULL
TRADITIONAL



KNOB
ALL-PURPOSE



CUP PULL
TRADITIONAL

5

REPLACE YOUR FAUCET

Often considered the crown jewel of the kitchen, a new faucet can give the space renewed life. Swap out chrome for something in polished brass, or try one of the new matte-black faucets for a bold look.



PHOTOS: SIAN RICHARDS.

PHOTO: ROBERTO CARLUCCI.

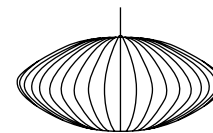


6

CHANGE YOUR LIGHTING

One of the best ways to imbue your kitchen with character is to replace or add to your current lighting. While most kitchens need some pot lights for task lighting, consider accent pendants, wall sconces or even chandeliers to add a hit of personality.

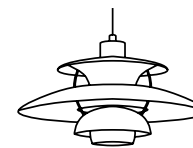
LIGHTING styles



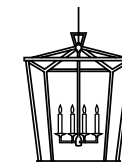
MID-CENTURY MODERN
RETRO



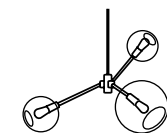
FARMHOUSE COUNTRY



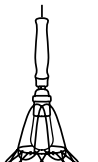
SCANDI MODERN



LANTERN TRADITIONAL



BRANCH PENDANT CONTEMPORARY



WIRE CAGE & BARE BULB INDUSTRIAL

7

SWAP YOUR ACCESSORIES

Love the warm and rustic look of earthy wood? Perhaps you prefer pops of pretty pastels. Change the look of your kitchen by updating your countertop accessories: canisters, tea towels, caddies and utensils. Think about conquering kitchen clutter at the same time, so accessories can shine.



*Be creative!
Use vintage tins to
store your utensils*



PHOTOS, ERIK PUTZ, DESIGN, MIRELLE GOREN.

PHOTO, DONNAGRIFFITH.

8

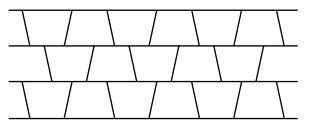
INSTALL A NEW BACKSPLASH

Whether you're a savvy DIYer or prefer to leave these challenges to the pros, just adding a new backsplash can make it seem like you have a whole new kitchen. With so many options out there, the hardest part will be choosing which style to go with.

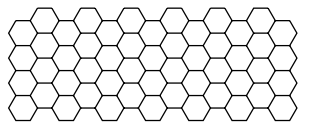
*We love
this mosaic
backsplash*



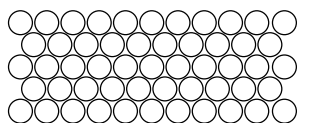
TILE styles



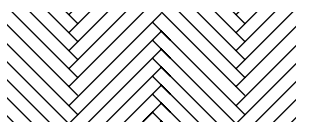
ANGULAR



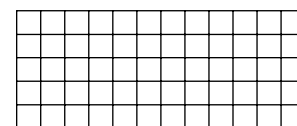
HEX



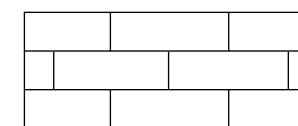
PENNY



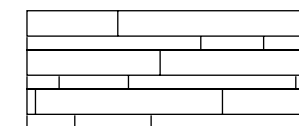
HERRINGBONE



MOSAIC



SUBWAY



LINEAR



SLAB

4 Kitchen SHAPES

Choose the configuration that works best for your home and lifestyle



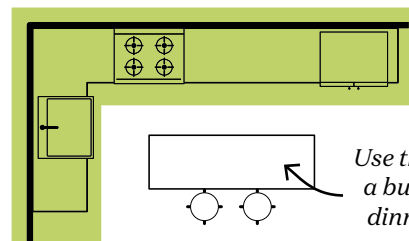
Aim for 42 inches between your cabinets and your kitchen island or table.

Consider using different cabinetry or a free-standing piece for your island.

Position your sink close to other appliances that require water, like dishwashers and washing machines.

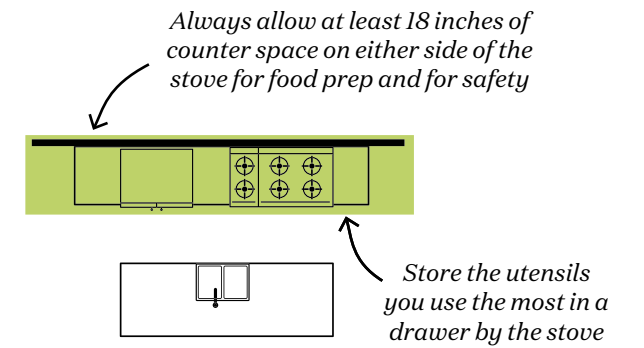
Your island should measure no less than 20 inches deep and should be at least 48 inches long to be useful.

Keep your fridge, range and sink within reach of each other for greatest efficiency



SINGLE LINE

Ideal in open concept spaces where you need to create some division, an island in this configuration acts as a wall separating the rooms. Moving either the sink or the cooktop to the island will maximize the workflow of the kitchen and create a dynamic work triangle.



Express your personality with whimsical accent lighting over an island.

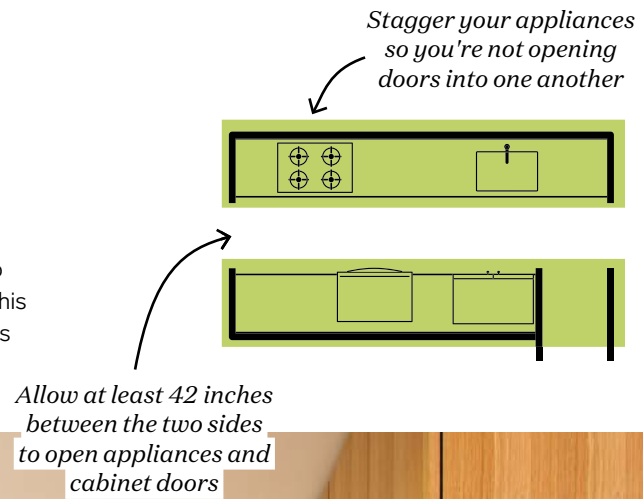
Hang often-used pots in plain sight, from hooks or a pot rack.

Run your countertop material down the sides of your island to create a stunning waterfall effect.

Add open shelving to the back of your island for cookbooks or tableware.

GALLEY

A favourite with chefs. This design is all about having everything within arm's reach. It's perfect for one or two cooks and works well in lofts or smaller urban homes. This type of layout is often used in airplane and boat kitchens because of its efficient use of space.



U-SHAPED

With cabinets on three sides, this layout often gives you the most storage space. Keep in mind the distance between your three key pieces (sink, stove and refrigerator). Sometimes going too wide with a U-shaped kitchen can reduce efficiency.

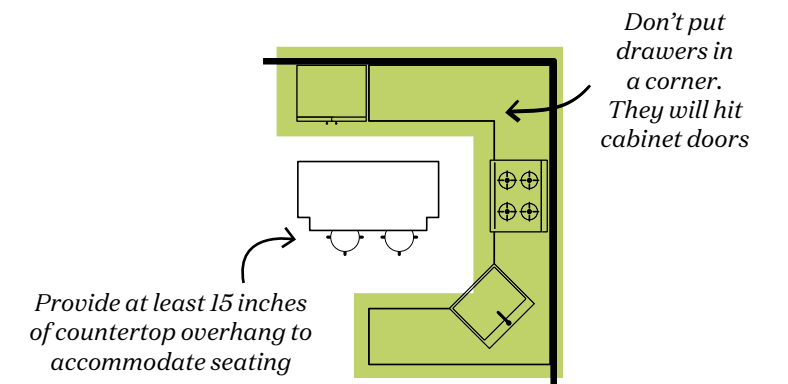


PHOTO: NELSON COSTA, AIA, KITCHENS AND BATHS.

PHOTO: ROBERTO CARLUCCI.

Pattern PLAY

One tile, eight ways to apply it. Our expert guide to decorating with subway tile

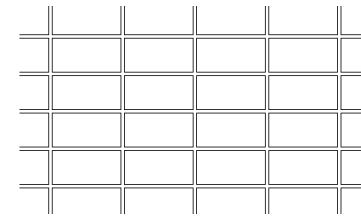
DESIGNER TIP

For a custom look, choose either a super-slim or an extra-thick countertop like this stainless steel one.

PHOTO: SIAN RICHARDS. DESIGN: JULIE CHARBONNEAU

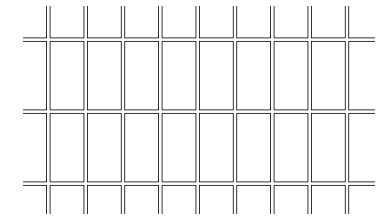
8 WAYS TO TILE WITH STYLE

This simple style works well in a small space



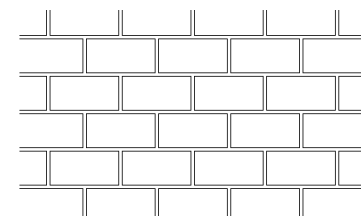
STACKED HORIZONTAL

The orderly symmetrical grid of this pattern makes it well suited to minimal, contemporary homes. Choose a matching grout so the pattern all but disappears.



STACKED VERTICAL

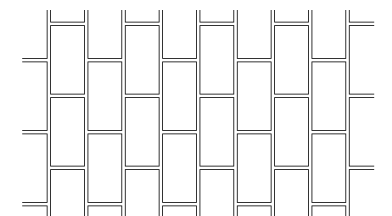
Often seen in European homes and commercial spaces, stacked vertical tiles create a decidedly urban look.



OFFSET BRICK

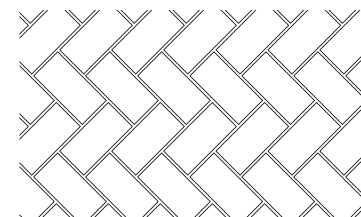
Offset brick, sometimes referred to as running bond, is the most common subway-tile pattern. A contrasting grout makes this style more edgy and industrial in feel.

Timeless and classic. A perennial favourite



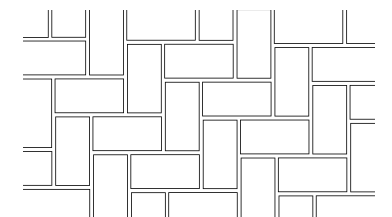
OFFSET BRICK VERTICAL

If you love the look of the traditional offset pattern but want something a little different, run the tiles vertically. It works especially well for tall expanses.



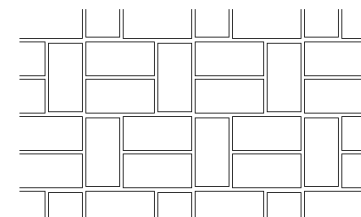
HERRINGBONE

This pattern is often used for flooring, but it looks equally good on a wall. If you want to emphasize the graphic look of this pattern, use a contrasting grout.



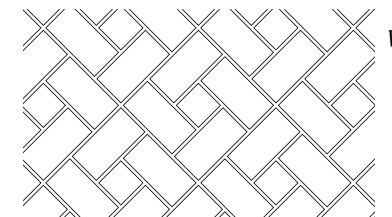
DIAGONAL HERRINGBONE

Shifting a standard herringbone diagonally gives this pattern a whole new look. Try it on a full wall where you have the space to let it shine.



PERPENDICULAR

Rectilinear to the core. If you love rectangles, this is the look for you. Alternating groups of three tiles make up this pattern.



WINDMILL

This dynamic whirlwind pattern will bring a wall to life. For this design you will need a tile cutter to cut the centre tile, which is half the width of a regular tile.

Works well in modern and traditional rooms

CHOOSING A Countertop

Here are the five questions you need to ask, plus the pros and cons you need to consider

Engineered Stone (Quartzite, Caesarstone, Silestone)

PROs Low maintenance. Doesn't need to be sealed. Stain, heat and scratch-proof.

CONS May have visible seams where the pieces meet. Can chip.

\$\$\$

\$\$\$

\$\$

Stainless Steel

PROs High-end, commercial-kitchen look. Durable, heat-resistant and helps reflect light in darker rooms.

CONS Can dent or scratch and shows every fingerprint. Can be a loud surface for placing cookware and dishes.

Granite

PROs Stain, heat and water-resistant when sealed. Requires minimal maintenance.

CONS Very heavy and must be supported by strong, sturdy cabinets. Can chip or crack.

\$\$\$

Soapstone

PROs Requires occasional oiling but no sealing, making it an environmentally friendly choice. Stain-proof and can stand high heat.

CONS Softer than other stones, it can be easily scratched or dented. Its colours tend to darken with time, so bear that in mind when comparing it with your other décor elements.

5

QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN

SHOPPING FOR A COUNTERTOP

What's my budget?

Decide how much you'd like to spend. After your cabinetry, your countertops (if you choose a pricier option like marble) can be the second-biggest investment you make.

How much will I need?

Start by measuring the length of countertop you need. Depending on your budget, you may want to consider using two different types of materials to mix and match.

How will I use these counters?

If you bake a lot, consider marble, a perfect surface for rolling out dough. If you're constantly chopping, cooking, boiling and grating, think hard-wearing stainless steel or granite.

How much maintenance can I commit to?

Some materials require a distinct upkeep ritual. If you know you're not one to regularly change the oil in your car, it might be unreasonable to assume you will oil your soapstone or butcher block countertops. Quartzite or granite may appeal more to those looking for a low-maintenance option.

What is my design esthetic?

Is it utilitarian? Modern? Traditional? Choose a material that will complement the style of your home and the other elements you already have in place.

\$

Butcher Block

PROs Long-lasting if maintained properly. Delicate on dishware. Can be less expensive than other options.

CONS Easily damaged by knives and hot cookware. Susceptible to water stains and warping.

\$\$

Marble

PROs Available in many different colours. Especially useful to bakers because its surface is great for rolling out dough.

CONS Extremely heavy and needs to be well supported. Requires sealing and can be etched by acid, including citrus juice, alcohol and coffee.

\$\$\$

Laminate

PROs Budget friendly. Doesn't require sealing.

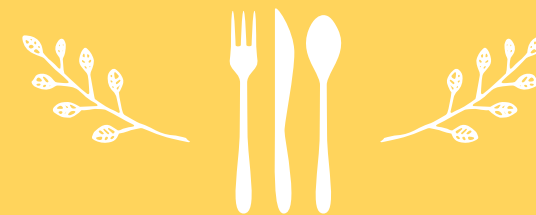
CONS Will show burn marks and scratches. Visible seams.

\$

Solid Surface (Corian, Wilsonart)

PROs No sealing required. Uniform colour. Seamless installation.

CONS Can be damaged by heat.



FIND YOUR STYLE

Make the heart of the home a place you love.
We pull together six classic styles and show
you how to get the look

By **CHRISTY WRIGHT**

CLASSIC
BISTRO

BLACK MAGIC

Designers Peter Brooks and Alona Gazimov cook up a chef's kitchen that puts bold style on the menu

Photography by SIAN RICHARDS



DOUBLE UP CABINETS

Stack cupboards for maximum storage space. "We didn't have to use this double placement for the cabinets, but by doing so we added twice the amount of storage," says Alona. "Yes, the top ones are high up, but they're full of seasonal items."



HARD-WORKING COUNTERTOPS

Peter and Alona chose engineered quartz for the countertops. "It has subtle veining, which mimics natural stone," says Peter, "but it's less porous than marble, so it's resistant to scratches, heat and stains for maximum durability."

BEAUTIFUL SINK

Make practical spots pretty. "You spend a lot of time in the kitchen at the sink, so why not make it fabulous?" says Alona. "We chose a white glazed double sink that avoids the look of a large stainless steel hole and creates the illusion of the countertop extending straight across without a break."

COLOURFUL ACCENTS

"The best way to add some personality is with accessories, which can be easily changed," says Alona. "The bright yellow and green jars on the windowsill have a cheerful effect. You could also incorporate deep navy blues for a more sophisticated feel."



Temper black and white with warm wooden elements



Penny tiles are a budget-friendly way to add texture and interest



Most of our clients specifically desire a white kitchen," says Alona Gazimov, lead designer at Bedford Brooks Design. "This particular client really didn't give us any guidelines, other than to make it beautiful." Inspired by the chance to infiltrate an all-pale palette in the rest of the house with dashes of dramatic dark contrasts, the design duo accepted the challenge with gusto. "We thought it would be a perfect opportunity to introduce rich black cabinetry in a way that wouldn't be overbearing," says Peter Brooks, principal designer.

A judicious use of accents, such as brass hardware and traditional penny tiles, ensures the 180-square-foot room feels warm and welcoming. Durable quartz countertops, copious storage and the restaurant-quality, six-burner gas range add another layer of personality with a nod to the homeowner's chef status.

The finished kitchen meets the beautiful-ness benchmark the client set, but did the designers have any second thoughts about shunning an all-white space? "That's not what kitchens are all about!" says Alona. "They're about experimenting with different elements, just like you would with ingredients for an amazing recipe."

OVERSIZED LIGHTING

Make a big statement. "I love extra-large pendant lights in a kitchen," says Alona. "Here the spherical shape complements the backsplash tiles, and the leaded shell glass adds old-world charm without being too traditional. They also draw the eye up to the 10-foot-high ceilings."

★ *Lots of counter surface is a cook's dream*

STATEMENT FAUCET

"The antique matte finish of the brass tap ties in nicely with the rest of the shiny brass hardware throughout the kitchen," says Alona. A wide window ledge allows for pretty objects or even pots of kitchen herbs.

BUDGET SAVVY

Black Ikea cabinets are given a makeover with new brass door pulls. "The cupboards were a huge cost savings, yet they still create the look of a custom kitchen," says Alona.



Capiz shell pendant, restorationhardware.com.



Marin gold cereal bowl, crateandbarrel.com

Trinsic bar prep faucet, deltafaucet.ca.



CLASSIC BISTRO

Rich accessories with glamorous appeal make a polished kitchen warm and inviting



Artisanal dipping bowl, chapters.indigo.ca.



Valby ruta rug, ikea.ca.

ESSENTIALS

KEY INGREDIENTS

Dark cabinets with hits of brass, penny tile and classic marble are the basic design elements needed to create the bold look of a bistro kitchen.



Ramsjo door, ikea.ca.

black cabinets



White Penny tile, saltillo-tiles.com.

brass hardware



Polished brass cup pull, cliffsideind.com.

penny-tile backsplash



Statuarietto marble, clot.com.

marble countertops

"With so many straight lines in the kitchen, we felt it was important to add curvature through the cabinetry hardware, faucet and pendant lights."

— Alona Gazimov, lead designer

URBAN
SLEEK



smooth OPERATOR

Decorator Julia Black's galley kitchen gets a crisp black and white makeover that combines practicality with style



Photography by SIAN RICHARDS

DESIGN: BLACK GENERAL CONTRACTING & OLYMPIC KITCHENS



BLACK CABINETRY

If something unexpected appeals, follow your instinct. "I immediately fell in love with the charcoal finish of this recycled-veneer cabinetry, and so I used that as the starting point for the kitchen," says Julia.

PLAN AHEAD

Make the most of a galley kitchen. “There isn’t a lot of space here,” says Julia, “so we thought carefully about how we’d manoeuvre in it. I advise actually practising a walk-through of cooking, eating a meal and cleaning up. You want everything within easy reach, and there’s no such thing as over-planning.”

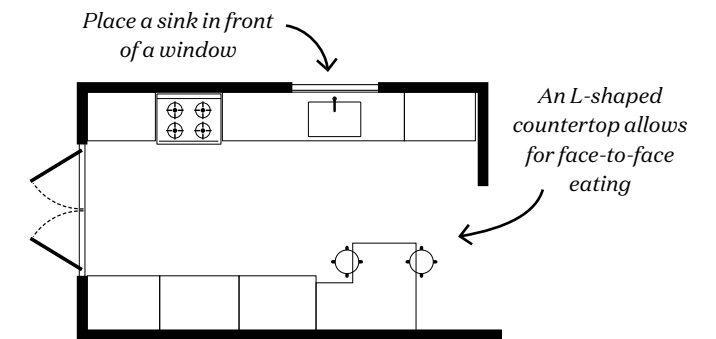
Introduce a layer of softness and texture with an area rug

GET PERSONAL

“I decorated the kitchen like any room in the house,” says Julia. “I love texture, so I added framed artwork, sculptural accents, ceramics and flowers throughout the space. I’m just such a sucker for fresh flowers in the kitchen!”

BUILT-IN BEAUTY

“The wine storage and shelf above it were an opportunity to break up all of the closed cabinetry. We’re not big wine people, but it’s nice to have stock for unexpected guests, and I love the way the bottles look when so neatly stored,” says Julia.



FLOOR PLAN

A streamlined galley kitchen maximizes cabinet space in this urban house and even allows for a pint-sized eating nook.

Couples with young children usually like practical rooms with light, easy-to-clean neutral colours. “I gravitate toward black and white,” says homeowner, decorator and stylist Julia Black. She and her husband, Andrew—who have a two-year-old daughter, Quinn, a boxer named Parker and a baby on the way—are clearly an exception. “Dark floors and cabinets can show more dust and dirt,” admits Julia, “so if you are the type of person who gets stressed out by this, avoid black as best you can.” Inclined more to positivity than to stressing, Julia sees black as a great motivator. “We wanted to be aware of dog hair and

dust, so we could stay on top of cleaning and keep the place spic and span.”

Their new 150-square-foot kitchen certainly is that, and a far cry from its previous state: a space with no dishwasher, no storage and 1920s-era cabinetry. It demanded a complete demo and rebuild, a big project for any family. “It is always a challenge,” says Julia, “but one I quite love. You have to dance around with different millwork, furniture, finishes and accessories to get the best balanced result. And with another kid on the way, I’d say the dance continues, just to a different tune.”

CLASSIC CONTRAST

Julia chose white engineered-stone countertops and continued the same material up the wall as a backsplash, as a counterpoint to the black cabinetry. "It has a clean, modern feel, yet it's still bold and creates tension against the black."

MULTI-PURPOSE NOOK

Small but effective, this peninsula provides a spot for casual meals, a buffet surface and an entertainment area. "It's great when we entertain and use it as a bar or food station. Also, I'm a bit of a TV junkie and can't live without one in the kitchen. This small, white-framed style blends in nicely and is on a retractable arm, so it can be angled for easy viewing."



Giraffe Between Trees, Laurent Baheux, yellowkorn.com.



Nespresso Vertuoline, thebay.com.



Hudson iron bar stool, structube.com.

urban sleek

With clean lines and a basic black and white palette, any decorative touches add big impact



20Th-century factory filament smoke glass pendant, restorationhardware.com.



Dinera bowl light pink, ikea.ca.



Pinstripe (sophie) runner, oliveryaphe.com.

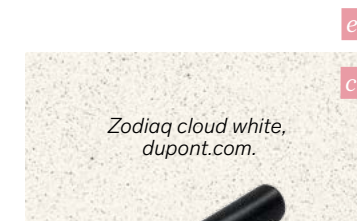
ESSENTIALS

BUILDING BLOCKS

Choose flat door fronts with streamlined handles to achieve this minimalist look. Engineered quartz works for both backsplash and counters.

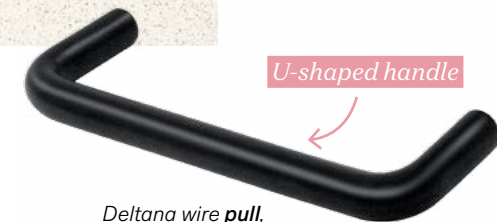


Laxarby door, ikea.ca.



Zodiaq cloud white, dupont.com.

engineered-quartz countertops



U-shaped handle

Deltana wire pull, swordfishagency.com.

black appliances



Double wall oven, lg.com

"A galley kitchen was the only option for our home—it allows for an open walkway through the first floor and keeps the view to the backyard open as well."

— Julia Black, designer/homeowner

TRADITIONAL
TWIST



modern *History*

Designer John Barnwell punctuates classic design elements with a sprinkling of contemporary accents to create a light and bright family kitchen

Photography by **ROBERTO CARUSO**



CABINETRY CLASS

"Flat-panelled cabinetry would have been too contemporary here," says John. "I chose a moulded style that was a nod to the home's traditional exterior and bones, but opted for a slimmer moulding that it isn't too traditional. I like to call it 'soft contemporary.'"

DESIGN, JR. BARNWELLDISIGN INC.



GLASS ACT

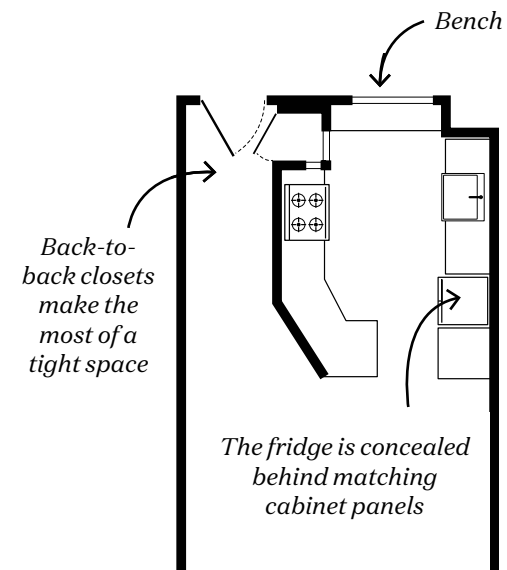
An original 1800s stained glass window illuminates a new-build china cabinet that John designed. "Typically, a china cabinet has glass solely on the front. I wanted this one to have glass on the sides as well, so you could view the dishes and stemware as you enter the kitchen."

EYE FOR DETAIL

Even the hood above the gas range is panelled. "My vision was to keep the cabinetry as seamless as possible," says John. "This allows the space to appear larger and less broken up." The pale-grey cabinetry is set off by accessories in bursts of yellow that provide a sunny touch.

FLOOR PLAN

The kitchen fills the front of this traditional Victorian row house. A picture window is fitted with a built-in bench, providing a casual spot for family and friends to hang out.



For Alison Harnick, her husband, Blair Trudell, and their two-year-old son, Ben, the best seat in the house is definitely in the kitchen. "The window bench transformed our kitchen, creating a nook where we can hang out as well as a functional space for entertaining," says Alison. "We can prep food while guests relax here. I don't have to run to the living room to refresh drinks, and, besides, everyone loves a good kitchen party!" Designer John Barnwell, the previous owner of the century-old home and the man behind its transformation, is thrilled to hear this, having seen the kitchen in its pre-makeover state. "It was a typical reno done in the '80s," he says,

"with tired cabinetry, dated appliances and well-worn finishes. I wanted to enhance its functionality and esthetics by creating a modern layout within a traditional framework."

Some of the biggest changes included removing a drop ceiling to increase the room's height by over a foot, adding a gas line for the cooktop and installing plenty of cabinets for practical storage. John, who sold the house in 2009, says, "It was a beautiful, functional space that was a pleasure to cook in." Alison agrees. "Whether it's whole grilled fish for a crowd or homemade blueberry pancakes on the weekend, we love cooking here."



APRON SINK

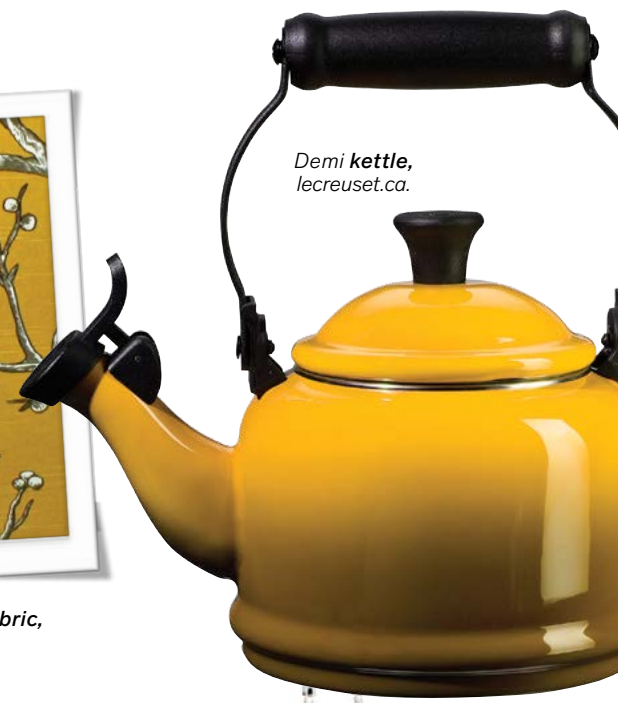
John used stainless steel to turn a traditional apron sink on its head. "These are normally made out of enamelled cast iron. I used the steel to add a contemporary balance to the room and to tie the sink in with the stainless steel cooktop."

Berghoff 20-piece forged **knifeblock**, thebay.com



Vintage blossom **fabric**, tonicliving.com.

Demi **kettle**, lecreuset.ca.



Traditional twist

Layers of vibrant colour and playful fabrics impart a sophisticated touch to this neutral kitchen



Jalo kitchen **faucet**, rona.ca.



Tea **towels**, eq3.com.

ESSENTIALS

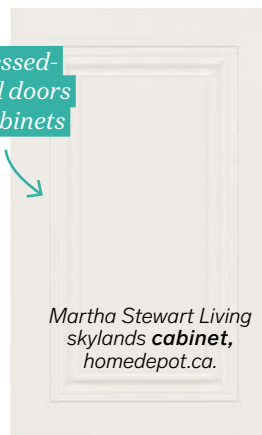
“When renovating a kitchen, always think long term. When done right, a kitchen can be a major selling feature.”

— John Barnwell, designer

BASIC RECIPE

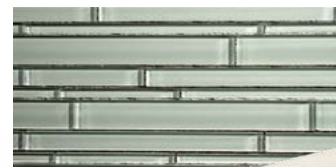
Painted cabinets plus marble counters and trad accents equal a statement kitchen with timeless appeal.

recessed-panel doors & cabinets



Martha Stewart Living skylands **cabinet**, homedepot.ca.

Shanghai **glass tile**, salttilo-tiles.com.



glass **tile**

marble **countertops**



Cipollino **marble**, 3/4-in. slab, ciot.com.

Westerly **pull**, homedepot.ca.



FARMHOUSE
INDUSTRIAL



CLASSIC HERITAGE

A few small but significant changes
(like ditching the kitchen table) give this
kitchen an update the whole family loves



Photography by **ROBIN STUBBERT**



STATEMENT LIGHTING

"There's ample pot lighting in the kitchen, but the pendant lamp and filament lights act like jewellery in the room," says design consultant Susan Burns. "They are great focal points, but you can still see through them to take in all of the kitchen's details."



Add warm elements like these rustic stools

MULTI-FUNCTIONAL ISLAND

Forgo a kitchen table. Debbie says, “Before, we had a table as well as a small island. Getting rid of it meant more floor space, and now we use the island for everything: informal buffet-style entertaining, surfing my iPad for recipes and a place for Lia to paint, make art projects and write stories.”

OPEN SHELVING

If you can spare the space for display shelves, Susan says go for it. “We all have stuff in the kitchen we hardly use. I always ask my clients to do some editing before the transformation — this usually frees up a space for open shelves.”



If a change is as good as a rest, then maybe a tweak is as good as a reno. It certainly was in this Paris, Ont., kitchen. “We didn’t need to change the kitchen’s footprint,” says Susan Burns, the design consultant who oversaw the transformation. “We just needed to reconfigure the cabinetry to make the most of the space.” Homeowners Debbie Ellen and Alan Monkhouse, parents of daughter Lia, 8, agreed. “The kitchen looked okay but didn’t function well,” says Debbie. “We wanted to improve its utility, make it more family-friendly and update it while still respecting its 1888 heritage.”

With that in mind, Shaker-style upper cabinets were extended upward, a small corner cabinet was replaced with a floor-to-ceiling version complete with pull-out pantry shelves, and the kitchen table was nixed. “The table was just another surface away from the food-prep area,” says Debbie. “We sacrificed it for a bigger central island with seating, and we don’t miss it at all.” Indeed, the island is now the heart of the kitchen, which also opens onto the family room. “I can make lunch here, while Alan watches golf on TV and Lia draws pictures—and we’re all together.”

SMART STORAGE

The first item on Debbie's kitchen wish list was assigned storage for waste and recycling. Susan built proper pull-outs for both on the side of the island that faces the stove. She says, "They're hidden from view but make food prep and cleanup so much easier."

FLEA MARKET FINDS

Avoid a uniform look by having interesting accessories. "The open shelves are made of reclaimed wood from a 180-year-old Mennonite house," says Susan. "The brackets are vintage. Both add a dynamic layer to the brand new subway tiles while referencing the home's 19th-century heritage."



Kohler Hawthorne sink, homedepot.ca.



Lambert pendant light, hudsonvalleylighting.com.



Bar cart by Cheungs, wayfair.ca



Woodwork bar stool, westelm.com.

FARM HOUSE INDUSTRIAL

Timeless basics like ticking-stripe tea towels and apron sinks bring old-world charm to a white kitchen



Tekla tea towel, \$1, ikea.ca.

ESSENTIALS

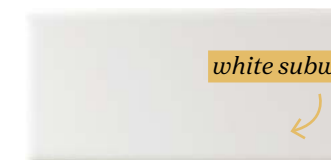
MAIN COMPONENTS

Add industrial metal and rough wood touches to simple white Shaker cabinetry to get classic farmhouse appeal. Finish with black stone countertops.



white Shaker cabinets

martha stewart living Dunemere door, homedepot.ca.



white subway tile

Starting line tile, lowes.ca.



rustic wood shelf

Reclaimed wood shelves and brackets, westelm.com.



Nero Assoluto granite, auroramable.ca.

granite countertops

"From the beginning, the kitchen had to be functional and, of course, look fabulous."

— Susan Burns, design consultant

WARM
MODERN



CENTRE OF ATTENTION

Architect Wanda Ely reimagines a floor plan to position the kitchen in the middle of the house



Photography by **ERIK PUTZ**



WALNUT SHELL

Frame an island in contrasting material for a sharp effect. "The walnut 'wrapper' provides a clean finish to the cabinets and island, but it also delineates the kitchen," says Wanda.

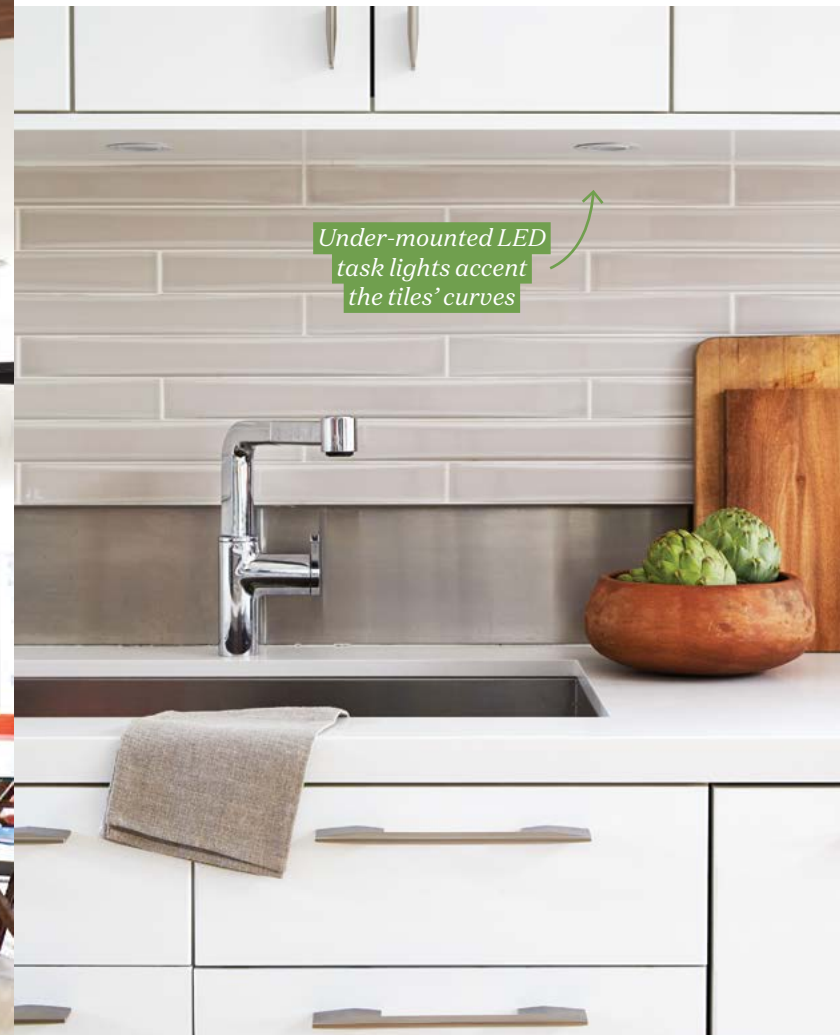
IN PLAIN SIGHT

Rather than try to disguise the bulkhead that conceals plumbing, Wanda worked it into her design. “We took advantage of this drop and faced it with walnut as well, to further define the kitchen zone in a stylish and graphic way,” she says.



STAINLESS STEEL DETAIL

“The ceramic tile we loved for the backsplash had a curve to it, which would have been awkward to put outlets up against, so we needed a flat surface,” says Wanda. “We opted for a band of stainless steel to form a custom trim between the tiles and counters.”



Under-mounted LED task lights accent the tiles' curves

MIX HIGH AND LOW

All of the custom-look cabinetry is from Ikea. Wanda replaced its standard-issue hardware with sleek pulls. “They are a really elegant detail and help the kitchen feel like a jewel,” she says.

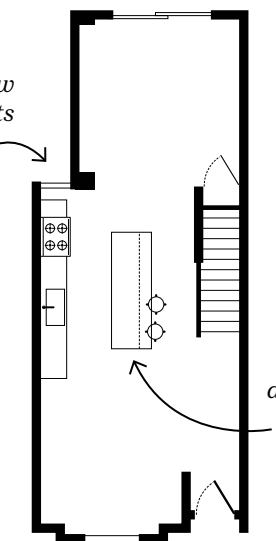


Stylish Bocci outlets make practical look refined

Side window provides lots of light

FLOOR PLAN

Wanda moved the kitchen from the rear of the house to the middle, making it more conducive to cooking and entertaining.



Fridge drawers are hidden in this island

When moving into a new home, it's not uncommon to have to put some design visions on hold temporarily. And that's exactly what Keri Ryan and her husband, Ben Collinge, planned on. “When we bought our place, there was a dark, dysfunctional kitchen at the back of the house,” says Keri. “We spruced it up with some paint and new appliances and thought it would do us for a couple of years. Well, two years turned into eight, and what ended up bothering us the most was that there was only one drawer, and most of our utensils were in a shoebox.” They drew up a wish list for a new kitchen,

and when she's asked what was on it, Keri jokes, “One more drawer!”

The couple hired architect Wanda Ely to interpret their vision (they now have seven drawers: some pull out, pantry style, and two are refrigerated) as well as share her design expertise. “Wanda had the ingenious idea of moving the kitchen to the centre of the main floor,” says Keri. “It makes the kitchen the focal point. She also recommended installing a much larger sliding door at the back, which totally transformed the feeling of light in the house. Her design means that cooking has once again become a central part of our lives.”

FRIDGE-FREE

"I fitted the island with drawer fridges and freezers so that we could use the space normally allocated to a large fridge for pantry storage. The couple shop for fresh food regularly, so the smaller drawers really work well for them," says Wanda.

LIGHT SHOW

Use individual elements like pendant lights to incorporate interesting shapes and a jolt of contrasting colour in a mostly white kitchen.



Flint shiny steel stool, cb2.com.



Sweeper and dustpan, menudesignshop.com.



A110 light by Alvar Aalto, artekfurniture.us.

WARM MODERN

Natural stone and tactile accessories add an organic touch to a contemporary kitchen



Bottle grinders, MEnudesignshop.com.



Cherry-wood serving bowl, williams-sonoma.com.



Marble fruit bowl, crateandbarrel.com.

ESSENTIALS

SURFACE ELEMENTS

Smooth wood cabinets paired with glossy white anchor this contemporary look. Finish with hits of stainless steel.

walnut-effect doors



Voxtorp door, walnut effect, ikea.ca.

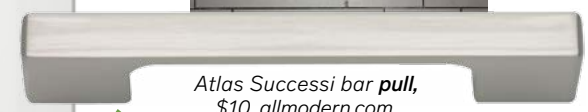


glossy white cabinets



Art strip tiles, salttilo-tiles.com.

linear backsplash



polished-nickel handle

Atlas Successi bar pull, \$10, allmodern.com.



engineered quartz

Caesarstone blizzard surface, caesarstone.ca.



"I like the kitchen at the centre of the house – the hub of the action."

— Wanda Ely, architect

RUSTIC
COTTAGE



ON THE Waterfront

With a whimsical bright-blue stove, an expansive wooden island and a welcoming open dining area, the kitchen of this lakeside cottage is a casual affair

Photography by ROBERTO CARUSO

COLOURFUL APPLIANCES

Add colour in an expected way. "I wanted a blue stove as the focal point," says homeowner Justine Melman, referencing her standout Lacanche range. "It adds a bright pop in the kitchen, and it became the anchor for the colour scheme throughout the rest of the cottage."





ROUGH-HEWN DETAILS

New wooden beams look original when paired with the light ceiling and cabinetry. “I wanted an element of natural wood for contrast and to bring some of the rustic outdoors inside,” explains Justine.

OVERSIZED ISLAND

Architect Joanne Campbell convinced Justine to go big with the island. “It was her idea to use most of the floor space for a huge island. I love it, and there’s so much room when I’m cooking and entertaining,” says Justine.

GLASS-FRONT CABINETS

Finishing the island’s end cabinets in glass helps visually minimize the size of the island. “You can also see the dishes, and they’re right where you need them — next to the dining table,” says Justine.



Homeowner and marketing executive Justine Melman readily admits she has the best of both worlds at the cottage. “My parents bought their cottage 13 years ago, and they’ve since bought the three neighbouring ones, first for my sister, then for my brother and lastly for me,” she says. “We lucked out getting them all in a row, and it allows us to be all together while each having our own space.”

Justine’s space, a 4,730-square-foot new-build cottage completed in 2011, is a haven for her two children, daughter Chloe, 11, and son Kelly, 9, as well as their three small dogs: Lucky, Slater and Bailey. “The

kids find it exciting to be here, and are never bored. We also love having friends up, but entertaining is always informal,” says Justine. It’s the kind of place where everyone pitches in to make meals, which often end with Justine’s crowd-pleasing peach crisp.

“To me, the cottage means having the family together away from the chaos of life in the city and being immersed in nature,” she says. “I love when all I can hear is the soft rustle of leaves and the birds chirping back and forth. It’s a peaceful kind of serenity you can’t replicate at home.” And it’s all the sweeter when savoured with extended family and friends.



“I love these mosaic tiles. They add some texture behind the stove while keeping the colours light.”

— Justine Melman, homeowner

COLOUR PALETTE

Keep basic items, such as countertops and cabinetry, neutral and light so accent colours can pop. “I chose a pale palette, so the cabinets seem like they softly wrap around the kitchen, ensuring the blue range is the focal point,” says Justine.



St. Croix Pendant light, ylighting.com.



J.K. Adams Maple Rooster cutting board, williams-sonoma.com.



Hand-embroidered hoop, riverbirchthreads.etsy.com

RUSTIC COTTAGE

Mix weathered-wood elements with a classic white kitchen for a look that is both relaxed and elegant



English vintage 8-in kitchen faucet with brass sprayer, lowes.ca.



Calphalon non-stick stock pot, williams-sonoma.com.



Oslo counter stool, bungalow5.com.

ESSENTIALS

CRITICAL DETAILS

Recessed-panel cabinets, rugged wood floors and unobtrusive knobs are the starting point for a country kitchen.

Shaker-style door



Recessed-panel doors, kraftmaid.com.

polished-nickel knob



Bistro knobs restorationhardware.com.

basket-weave backsplash



Polished fluid basketweave mosaic tile, homedepot.ca.

reclaimed-wood floor



Northern wide plank, \$16/sq. ft., northernwideplank.ca.



TRENDS WE LOVE

Whether it's a serene sanctuary you crave or an elegant dressing room complete with built-in wardrobe, we have the latest in bathroom decorating

By **CHRISTY WRIGHT**

CONTEMPORARY
SPA



FOCAL POINT

The homeowners' original claw-foot tub serves as a lively counterpoint to a wall clad in floor-to-ceiling marble mosaic tiles. "It's important to think about what your first view into a room is," says Wanda. "In this bathroom, I wanted the first thing you see to be a feature wall. I love its texture too — it reminds me of crocodile skin. It has elegance and also a modern edge."

SERENE SANCTUARY

Architect Wanda Ely uses a mix of tile to create shimmering wraparound texture in this spacious bathroom

Photography by **ERIK PUTZ**



HALF-WALL SHOWER

"I like this treatment in a shower," says Wanda. "The flooring material wraps partway up the wall and creates a sense of enclosure and privacy. It can also act as a ledge for shower accessories."



SPACE-SAVING DOORS

Install doors on a sliding track to free up valuable space in a small house. Hang hooks on the panels to add instant storage. "They're great for bathrobes, and some people prefer them to towel rails," says Wanda.

SAVE AND SPLURGE

A floating vanity from Ikea gets an upscale makeover with a custom-made countertop that extends to form the base of the mosaic-tiled niche winding around the tub.

BESPOKE DETAILS

Wanda dresses up cost-efficient storage cabinets from Ikea with an original touch that's anything but big-box: leather pulls. "The pulls make the storage look special and give the cabinetry a customized feel," she says.



AF/21 AL/23 showerhead, gingers.com.

GET THIS LOOK
CONTEMPORARY SPA

Combining clean architectural lines and modern tiles in a neutral palette makes for a tranquil space

Townsend tub, homedepot.ca.

Owhite echelon tile, Olympiatile.com.



Solid teak wood stool, eq3.com.





CUSTOM WOODEN VANITY

When prefab cabinetry doesn't feel right, opt for something customized. Justine, who couldn't find a vanity that looked like it had always been part of the cottage, chose to design one herself. "It seems like a blend of vintage and contemporary," she says. Its wood finish is both a nod to its lakeside setting and an interesting contrast to the white colour scheme.

FREE-STANDING TUB

If you're lucky enough to have a series of windows in the bathroom, and if privacy permits, position the tub to take in the view. "I took advantage of the windows on three sides and placed the tub in the perfect spot to see the lake and the gorgeous surroundings," says Justine.



Store accessories in plain sight with a classic bath tray

Natural BEAUTY

A rustic setting establishes the design scheme for this cottage bathroom: stone-inspired tiles, lots of light and unimpeded views that bring the outdoors in

Photography by **ROBERTO CARUSO**

"I love the roughness of the mosaic marble wall tiles and how they mirror the natural stone outside."

— Justine Melman, homeowner

TAILORED
CLASSIC



DESIGNER TIP

Add a contemporary lamp to a traditional room to amp up the style.



“I wanted to get away from the all-white spa bathroom and create something really unique.”

— Trish Johnston, designer

BLACK+WHITE

With an eye for drama, designer Trish Johnston uses a graphic palette and free-standing fixtures to create a master bathroom with major style

Photography by **SIAN RICHARDS**

STAND-ALONE FURNITURE

Not everything has to be built in: An unfitted cabinet in a dark shade looks dramatic against white walls and provides extra storage space for practical items as well as a stage for displaying favourite toiletries.

HANDSOME
ELEGANCE



THE *Dressing Room*

Designer Emily Griffin turns two small rooms in a bachelor's pad into a dream bath, complete with soaker tub, steam shower, double vanity and super-sleek dressing room

Photography by **ROBERTO CARUSO**



LOUNGE-LIKE BATHROOMS

"I like designing bathrooms that look like living spaces as opposed to utilitarian spaces," says Emily. To get that look, she added an antique rug and wallet-friendly seating. "I bought the chrome bench at a big-box store and reupholstered it with a remnant piece of leather." To create the same effect, think about how you would decorate your living room — the types of colours and materials you would use — and take it from there.



VANITY AS ROOM DIVIDER

"This custom-made walnut cabinetry was a splurge, but you can achieve the same effect on a budget with walnut-look cabinets, which are now available at most big-box stores," says Emily. "The colour contrasts with the cool tones of the marble, and its warmth works nicely in any light-coloured bathroom."

PRACTICAL TUB FAUCET

"For free-standing tubs, I like to place the faucet behind the vessel, then build a box clad in stone to house it," says Emily. "It's a more practical treatment than wall or floor mounts, as it is out of sight and provides a shelf for bath accessories or, in this room, a spot for a fresh orchid."

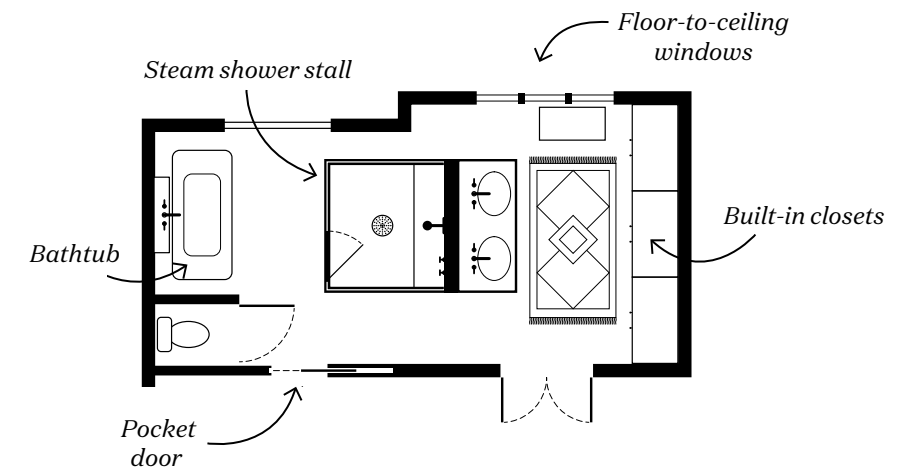
CLASSIC MARBLE

"All the tiles, countertops and slabs in the bathroom are Calacatta marble — my favourite if budget allows," says Emily. "However, you can get a similar luxurious look for much less with Carrara marble."



BATHROOM FLOOR PLAN

Emily positioned the vanity in an uncommon spot: the middle of the bathroom, back to back with the steam shower. "This placement maximizes floor space that would otherwise be empty and helps mark off the dressing area from the rest of the room," she says.





USE TILE SPARINGLY

Virginie advises restraint when tiling. “I always avoid over-tiling for a few reasons: Tiles are expensive, they can date quickly and they’re hard to change. I invested in one area — my shower — and finished the rest of the room with drywall. It’s a budget-friendly approach that ends up looking beautiful.”

CONTINUE YOUR LOOK

Think of the bathroom as an extension of your style. “I would describe this space as a quiet, understated room that also happens to be a bathroom,” says Virginie. “My approach for the house was to design it as a whole, not room by room. So the bathroom reflects that with accessories such as an antique porcelain vase and area rug.”



Corral perfume bottles on a tray



THE
Decorated Bath

Designer Virginie Martocq’s bathroom is a mix of everything she likes: beautiful finishes, dramatic art and quirky accessories

Photography by **ROBERTO CARUSO**

GET THIS LOOK

uptown bohemian

Unexpected design elements like a shell chandelier and abstract art create a unique personality uncommon for a bathroom



Paula chandelier, claytongrayhome.com.



smooth cotton on one side, terry cloth on the other

Touta bath towels, serenaandlily.com.



Hudson Metal single washstand, restorationhardware.com.

QUICK GUIDE

PRETTY *Powder rooms*

That wallpaper you've been dying to use, the tile floor that's slightly out of your reach—tiny powder rooms are the perfect place to play out all your design fantasies



ADD A GRAPHIC FLOOR

Black and white hexagon tiles are edgy and graphic but best served in small doses. A bar cart makes an unusual vanity.

Room Design, Hubert Zandberg.



CHOOSE A STUNNING FAUCET

While a copper faucet might be too bold a choice in a kitchen, it makes a statement in a powder room. Hand-painted walls and a dip-dyed fluorescent mirror continue the daring look.

Room design, Courtney Wotherspoon.

WOW THEM WITH WALLPAPER

The tiny footprint of most powder rooms is just the right amount of space for that outrageous wallpaper you've been dying to experiment with. Adding a chair rail and painting the lower half of the wall makes it that much more affordable.

Room design, Sarah Richardson Design.



PUT YOUR COLLECTIBLES ON DISPLAY

Clear Lucite boxes mounted directly onto the wall provide the perfect opportunity to display antique perfume bottles and other favourite objects.

Room design, Kimberley Seldon Design.



MAKE YOUR VANITY THE FOCUS

A sculptural vanity made out of luxurious marble adds a touch of class. Go for drama with a graphic tile pattern you might be afraid to use in a bigger space.

