

# KITCHEN

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## Embrace COLOR

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All of the couple's favorite colors play a role in the kitchen of their summer home, a space designed for entertaining. The doorway leads to a periwinkle dish room.



# BIG CROWDS, BIG COLORS

A couple's summer-home kitchen caters to their love of large-scale gatherings and high-intensity hues.

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**The husband loves blue.** The wife simply adores pink, green, and yellow. So the only sensible thing to do was to put all the hues to good use by creating a kitchen that is as colorful as the couple. "The whole family is Lilly Pulitzer all day long," says architect and designer Heather Wells, invoking a fashion name synonymous with bright, breezy colors.

Wells designed the couple's lake house in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire. "This is their summer home, and they wanted a happy kitchen, where they could entertain their friends, their five grown children, and 12 grandchildren," she says. "We used the same color scheme throughout the house to tie all the rooms together."

Sunflower yellow paints the cabinets on the range wall and in the bar area, while the island, granite countertops, and cabinets surrounding the refrigerator and TV wear fresh shades of green. Pendant lights over the island, border tiles on the range backsplash, a wicker dining set in the cozy eating area, and even the knobs on the range are colored a pretty, eye-popping periwinkle. Cushions on the chairs and barstools are a most delicious shade of raspberry. "I worked very hard to get the color palette to flow and blend in the right values," Wells says. "I never had done such a colorful kitchen before. It's not too pastel, it's not too strong."





## Using **SOFTENED SHADES** of the bold colors and **SPACING THEM OUT** was key to the look.

But this kitchen is more than just pretty colors—it's a hardworking space. The retired couple entertain several times a week and host big family-style meals, so the nearly 400-square-foot room was divided into zones for maximum efficiency.

The island, large enough for multiple cooks, is meal-prep central. A bar area, located near a doorway to the family room, is equipped with a small sink, refrigerator drawers, and a built-in icemaker. The range, microwave, and appliance garage form the cooking area, and the eating nook provides a window-side table for two when the couple sit down to a casual meal or coffee.

The semiopen floor plan lets the kitchen maintain its identity while offering easy access to and from living, dining, and outdoor areas. "Because there are so many people using the space, circulation was very important," Wells says.

To maintain the flavor of an informal summer home, Wells used traditional period-style details. The cabinetry is designed to evoke the feeling of freestanding furniture, the beaded board on the walls and ends of the island re-creates the look of a 19th-century cottage, and the flooring is antique white oak.

Such style and function color the room capable. "I've watched the kitchen in action, and it does work," Wells says. "It really is the centerpiece of the house." **KBI**

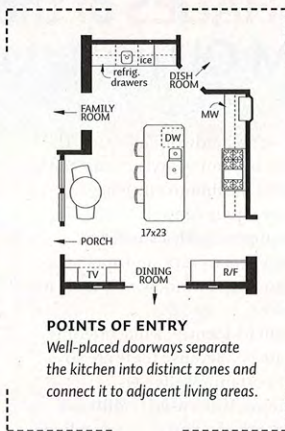
RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 130.

**OPPOSITE:** The bar area resembles a butler's pantry, with refrigerator drawers and an icemaker flanking the small sink. Glass-front cabinets provide stylish stemware storage.

**ABOVE:** The granite-topped island eases entertaining, as does the wide doorway to the dining room, where the colorful look continues.



ABOVE: Beaded board and subway tile add vintage flavor above the modern range. Blue backsplash tiles echo the color of the knobs. TOP RIGHT: The sink's island position, two-basin design, and built-in drainboard make prep and cleanup easier. MIDDLE RIGHT: Island cabinetry disguises two dishwashers and a pullout trash bin. BOTTOM RIGHT: The periwinkle pendants boast ceramic shades.



**Color Keys** To incorporate four competing colors without creating a Christmas tree or Easter egg look, the designer softened the hues and established a pecking order: yellow

for most of the walls and cabinets, green for the island and some cabinets, and red and blue as accents. Extending the colors into adjacent spaces established pleasing continuity.

THIS PHOTO: The kitchen is big enough to handle a crowd, yet cozy enough to coddle a couple, particularly in this charming table-for-two eating nook.

