



KITCHEN OF THE YEAR

Friends and family—even family pets—tend to congregate in the kitchen, so why not make it the most stylish space in your home? These five kitchens span the design spectrum from classic to country to contemporary. Choose your favorite style and get inspired.

Reclaimed Grandeur

By ELISABETH A. SULLIVAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY MINTON REDFIELD

DESIGN GOAL: In this mountain kitchen, the beauty is in the handcrafted details—one-of-a-kind touches that lend the room a pleasantly aged elegance.

The kitchen's historical heft comes courtesy of reclaimed wood and salvaged materials, says Rich Carr, a principal at Cottle Carr Yaw Architects in Basalt. Carr worked with designer Lisa Staprans of Portola Valley, Calif., and Vancouver-based craftsman Michael Trayler to design custom cabinets using elm, maple and walnut salvaged from old barns. The cabinets resemble furniture pieces in various heights and styles, complete with intricate peg-work and custom-designed hardware.

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"It's meant to be very comfortable—a very functional kitchen, but also a family gathering place," Carr says. So the design team created plenty of prep space as well as places to perch. They installed a soapstone island with a circular wooden chopping block; a bar island capped with white marble that doubles as a pastry station; and limestone floor tiles salvaged from a French chateau.

DEFINING DETAIL: The entire home "takes timber-frame to a whole new level of craftsmanship," Carr says. A careful attention to detail is evident in every element of the home's construction—from the massive support beams, to the interior doors, right down to the kitchen cabinetry.

WHY IT WORKS: This kitchen is a medley of materials, which, in the wrong hands, could have led to chaotic results. Instead, the room looks as if it were lovingly crafted over time, lending it substance and authenticity.

Because of the home's "eclectic country aesthetic," says Carr, the combination of different types of reclaimed wood works well together. "We thought the kitchen could handle the many wood tones," he says. Staprans adds that the materials' tonal values are all complementary: the dark walnut coordinates with the swirling knots and grains found in the lighter maple and elm; and the countertop's celadon granite ties into the soft blue-green backsplash. "The key," Staprans says, "is that there are some reference points in all of the materials that relate to each other."

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