

Home

DESIGN INSPIRATION IN THE MIDWEST



DESIGNS TO BANK ON

Eat-in
kitchen
ideas

The classic banquette conjures images of old-school kitchens and retro diners. But don't relegate this fusion of function and style to the past. Banquettes can be **customized to integrate seamlessly** into a layout, add hidden storage and do what they've always done best: provide an intimate spot to gather and connect.

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HAPPY FEET

If space is tight, opt for a pedestal table that leaves plenty of leg room. It's a smart choice for this luxe corner banquette. While chairs require more clearance, the bench, upholstered in durable faux leather, sits flush against the wall.

MWL
TIP

Clear a path

“To make any banquette work, you need to have the proper clearance,” says Chicago kitchen designer Scott Dresner. Plan for a 36-inch walkway between table edges and any work surfaces, like an island. If chairs are at the table, widen the space to 44 inches.

1 Double duty A built-in storage wall elevates this traditional-style banquette from breakfast nook to multi-purpose corner. Drawers built into bench seats store linens. Mixing dark and light finishes creates elegant contrast.

2 Out of the way A bumped-out alcove keeps a banquette away from a kitchen's workspace. The U-shape configuration works well when there isn't enough space around a table to slide chairs in and out.

3 Match maker For streamlined style, design a banquette that echoes the kitchen's cabinetry. A mod corner unit and upper storage mimic the slab cabinet door style. The banquette's end drawers wear the same hefty hardware. Leather cushions are sleek and easy to clean.

4 Great entertainer If you host lots of guests, consider one long window seat. Pairing a big farm table with a crisp white bench and Windsor chairs offers flexibility in an eclectic setting.

5 Family matters This L-shape design and expandable table fills the bill for family dinners. Bonus: The flip-top bench provides hidden storage. **MWL**



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FREE-STANDING STYLE
REVIVE AN EATING AREA WITH STANDOUT FURNITURE.



CHIC SEAT Trade a standard bench for a high-back. Wholesale Interiors Baxton Studio Owstynn banquette bench, \$699, from wayfair.com.



MATERIAL MIX Painted or metal chairs are go-tos for easy contrast. This French bistro-inspired Marais A side chair, \$145, comes in 22 colors/finishes from Industry West (industrywest.com).



REPRODUCTION OF A CLASSIC Look-alike marble-top Saarinen tables range from \$1,600 on amazon.com to \$2,199 at Room and Board (roomandboard.com).

