

OCTOBER 2011

HOUSE & HOME

THE MAGAZINE OF HOME & STYLE

Prebaked ham
that tastes homemade

Dramatic Decorating

FALL'S BEST LOOKS: LAYERED + CONFIDENT

FOUR GREAT
KITCHENS
TO COVET

EXCLUSIVE!
LYNDA REEVES'
LATEST
SHOWHOUSE

*Suzanne Dimma's
Off-the-Grid Getaway*

Shingled Charm in Chester, N.S.

KITCHEN CASE STUDIES

THREE KITCHENS WITH UNIQUE APPROACHES.
ONE COMMON RESULT: STUNNING SPACES WITH
PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS AND ENVIABLE STYLE.

Produced by CAMERON MACNEIL and STACY BEGG | Text by ERIKA DE VASCONCELOS

The latest trend in kitchen design is bigger than our appetite for stone countertops or built-in fridges. Today's kitchen isn't just about style statements; it's about people looking at how they live, cook and celebrate — or how they'd like to — and creating a space that answers those needs. Apart from some common elements, such as plenty of storage and natural light, these spectacular spaces are as individual as the people who crafted them.



UPSCALE COUNTRY

Photography by COLIN WAY

THE MATERIALS

- Blue CaesarStone
- Cream limestone tiles
- Dark grey wood cabinetry
- Dark grey-stained wood floors
- Venetian plaster walls

The open crisscross frame prevents the island's scale from overwhelming the space. Centring the stove under a grand arch gives it the old-world look — inspired by homeowners Cheryl and John Aldred's many trips to Europe — of a manor house hearth. The high coffered ceiling ensures a sense of grandeur. Generous counter space flanking the stove makes this kitchen a treat to work in. A nuanced choice of materials in subtle colours keeps the look restful and sophisticated. **Design,** Nom Dang-Mitchell Design; **pendant lights,** Hudson Valley; **limestone,** Stone Tie West. **OPPOSITE:** Built-in cabinets hold Cheryl's everyday dishes. Light bounces off the ribbed glass in the uppers, while an antique-style wood ladder adds character.



Nam Dang-Mitchell
of Nam Dang-
Mitchell Design.



THE BACKSTORY Cheryl and John Aldred spent years travelling throughout Europe on short trips. Just before John's retirement, the couple were ready to create a dream kitchen – inspired by their travels – in their newly built home just outside of Calgary. With only a blank space where the kitchen was supposed to be, they turned to Nam Dang-Mitchell of Nam Dang-Mitchell Design with a simple brief: create a kitchen that would give them plenty of room in which to cook and entertain, in a style that evoked the beauty of the kitchens they had seen in the villas and chateaux of the Italian and French countryside. The space blends the soulfulness of those kitchens with a sparseness of line that's in keeping with the rest of the house. The look is traditional and refined, but also inviting and soothing.

THE WISH LIST In addition to a kitchen with a European country flavour, the couple wanted china storage, a pantry and a small office area for answering letters and looking up recipes. Most of all, they wanted a design that felt spacious and open, with ample surfaces on which to spread out.

THE SOLUTION Dang-Mitchell imagined the space around two standout features: an island large enough to accommodate cooking and eating that can double as a buffet service, plus a stove centred on a dramatic arched wall, with open shelves on either side of a chimneylike hood. Elsewhere in the kitchen, a fridge and pantry door are clad in the same cabinetry for a seamless look.



Upholstered in coordinating floral and solid fabrics and embellished with nailhead trim, the dining chairs strike a sophisticated counterpoint to the rustic wood table. Stately wing chairs take pride of place at each end. On the table's far side, a settee introduces an unfitted note and provides a cosy spot for the couple's grandchildren.
Dining set, Eisenbergs' Fine Furniture; banquette fabrication, Calgary Interiors.



A collection of copper pots on open shelves draws attention to the dramatic stove

Copper cookware is accessible on open shelves. "They're not only beautiful but I actually use them, and they're the best pots I've ever owned," says Cheryl. **Cabinet hardware, Restoration Hardware; stove, Viking.**



Removed from the centre of culinary activity but still nearby, a home office was created in the corridor leading to the kitchen. Open shelves and a comfortable chair keep the space elegant and intimate.



A richly panelled hallway marks the entry to the open-plan kitchen with its large island and generous dining area. Vaulted ceilings make the space soar and windows look onto a stunning view of open fields. The bronze fixtures over the island are among several traditional details in the room. **Cabinet construction, BF Woodwork.**