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Dream Kitchens

Gorgeous Calgary
Kitchen Designs
from Nam Dang-Mitchell
and Connie Young

A Kicking Horse Cabin
Made for Cozy Nights

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Top Shelf

The cabinets in this Calgary kitchen hang just a little bit higher than usual, but that's no mistake. Designer Nam Dang-Mitchell wanted to create some room for open shelving beneath the handsome rift-cut oak doors. "This gives the whole room some movement," says Dang-Mitchell. And it also nods to the room's French-kitchen influence, where pots, pans and dishes are often kept out for display—and easy access when it's time to serve up dinner. Looking for more inspiring kitchens? Just turn the page.



A kitchen inspired by culinary traditions brings old-world charm to downtown Calgary.

FRENCH KISS

by STACEY McLACHLAN // photographs by COLIN WAY

Make dishware part of the design. Dang-Mitchell installed the rift-cut oak cabinets slightly higher than normal to allow space for shelving below. "It can get too monochromatic in a kitchen if everything is closed," says Dang-Mitchell. "Showcasing these white Bakelite dishes against the grey tile is an important part of the culinary visual language."

Mix and match bar stools. Bob and Michele Michaleski (seen here) were hoping for something comfortable they could sit in on a daily basis, but four chunky seats would have "looked like a sofa," says Dang-Mitchell. The compromise: two relaxed seats with slipcovers, with two industrial-style wood-and-steel stools to balance out the look.

Go big with the island. "It's like a magnet; everybody goes to the kitchen island," laughs Dang-Mitchell. Because of the room's open layout, there was lots of room for an extra-large design—this one seats four, thanks to an inset on either side, and still provides plenty of built-in storage and a wet sink.

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IT ALL STARTED with a hood fan.

When Bob and Michele Michaleski tapped designer Nam Dang-Mitchell to design their new home in Calgary's inner city, the kitchen was a critical part of their plans. Michele loves to cook, and, says Dang-Mitchell, "Like any home, the kitchen is where the action happens."

And so Dang-Mitchell found herself on the hunt for the perfect statement piece to reside at the centre of all that action. She landed on a custom stainless steel hood fan (an industrial piece with a heritage vibe, decorated with dozens of rivets) that ultimately would hang above an eight-burner red-knobbed



The marble-clad inset that houses the custom stainless steel vent hood and the range is the focal point of the space. “Everything revolves around here,” says Dang-Mitchell.

Go bold with two back-splashes. While mosaic tile covers most of the kitchen wall, a gorgeous marble—which also sticks to a grey-and-white palette—breaks up the pattern to create an inset accent wall over the stovetop area.



Wolf range. “That hood is what all the other ideas revolved around,” explains Dang-Mitchell. “I wanted it to bridge that gap between modern design and a more traditional culinary vocabulary.”

From there, the rest of the look fell into place, incorporating more chef-inspired materials like grey-veined white marble, warm oak and bronze detailing. A trio of angular Kohler faucets (one in the dish sink, one on the island and one a pot-filler built right above the stovetop) brings

in another hit of stainless steel. A robust butler’s pantry stores a library of cookbooks and key ingredients. But though it’s a space that takes some cues from pro kitchens, it’s not all business here. Hand-blown pendants from Niche Modern hang above an oversized island to add some organic warmth, and a pair of comfy slipcovered stools is tucked along the counter. Because, above all, Dang-Mitchell wanted to design a kitchen that was welcoming: “This is the heart of the home,” she says. *///*



Bring in industrial elements. Black and steel touches throughout the space—the bar stools built with exposed hardware, a criss-cross of cables in the base of the island, cast-bronze cabinet handles—infuse the European-inspired design with some edge.