

Team Effort

A COUPLE WHO KNEW WHAT THEY WANTED ENLISTED EXPERTS TO CRAFT THEIR VISION

With three children and a large extended family, the homeowners of this summer house longed for a spot where their friends and family could gather and enjoy the beautiful setting. To get exactly what they had envisioned, the couple hand-picked a group of experts to collaborate on a brand-new 15,000-square-foot Spring Lake, New Jersey, home. The finished product—a Shingle-style house that blends charm and comfort with all of today's modern conveniences—is a sure success. Turn the page to learn more.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY PETER LOPPACHER
STYLING BY MICHAEL DEJONG/MARK EDWARD, INC.





Two traditionally styled chandeliers highlight the oversized island. An extra-thick countertop and fine furniture-quality details give the island a luxurious feel.



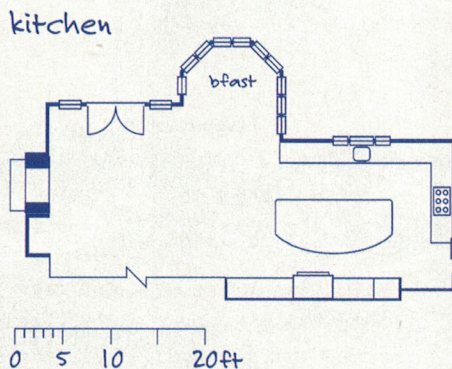
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PREP WORK IS A SNAP WITH TWO SINKS IN THE KITCHEN

On Second Thought

Although the island serves as a beautiful focal point, the homeowner wishes it had been made a bit smaller. It is certainly a work of art, but from a practical standpoint, there are certain things that don't work. It's hard to open the refrigerator when people are sitting on the stools, and it's too big to reach all the way across when cleaning it.



The design team for this waterfront home consisted of architect John Lederer, a partner in Lederer and Wright of Bay Head, New Jersey, interior designer Suzette Donleavy, of Well-Designed Interiors in Shrewsbury, and kitchen designer Edith Leonardis with technician Wesley Jewel, of Leonardis Kitchens in Morristown. "They all worked beautifully together," says the wife. How did these experts join forces? "All the meetings were team efforts," says Leonardis. "That's why the project was so successful."

The homeowners wanted a certain ambiance throughout the house—an English classic style. So, it was important that all the spaces relate to one another. White oak floors run from the living areas into the breakfast room and the kitchen. Colors are subtle throughout, and the fabrics

and furnishings all have a rich look.

For the kitchen, the team selected cabinetry with a timeless elegance. "The style of the door—an inset—and the furniture-quality details were very important," says interior designer Donleavy. But it's the color of the cabinets—a soothing buttery yellow—that the homeowner really loves. Also, the hearth above the range was carefully designed to be a focal point in the room. Custom-made, it certainly makes a statement, but does so in a subtle way, complementing the surrounding cabinetry without overshadowing it.

Other well-planned details, like the glass doors and display niches, were a collaboration between Donleavy, Leonardis, and the homeowner to create a gracious and timeless appeal.

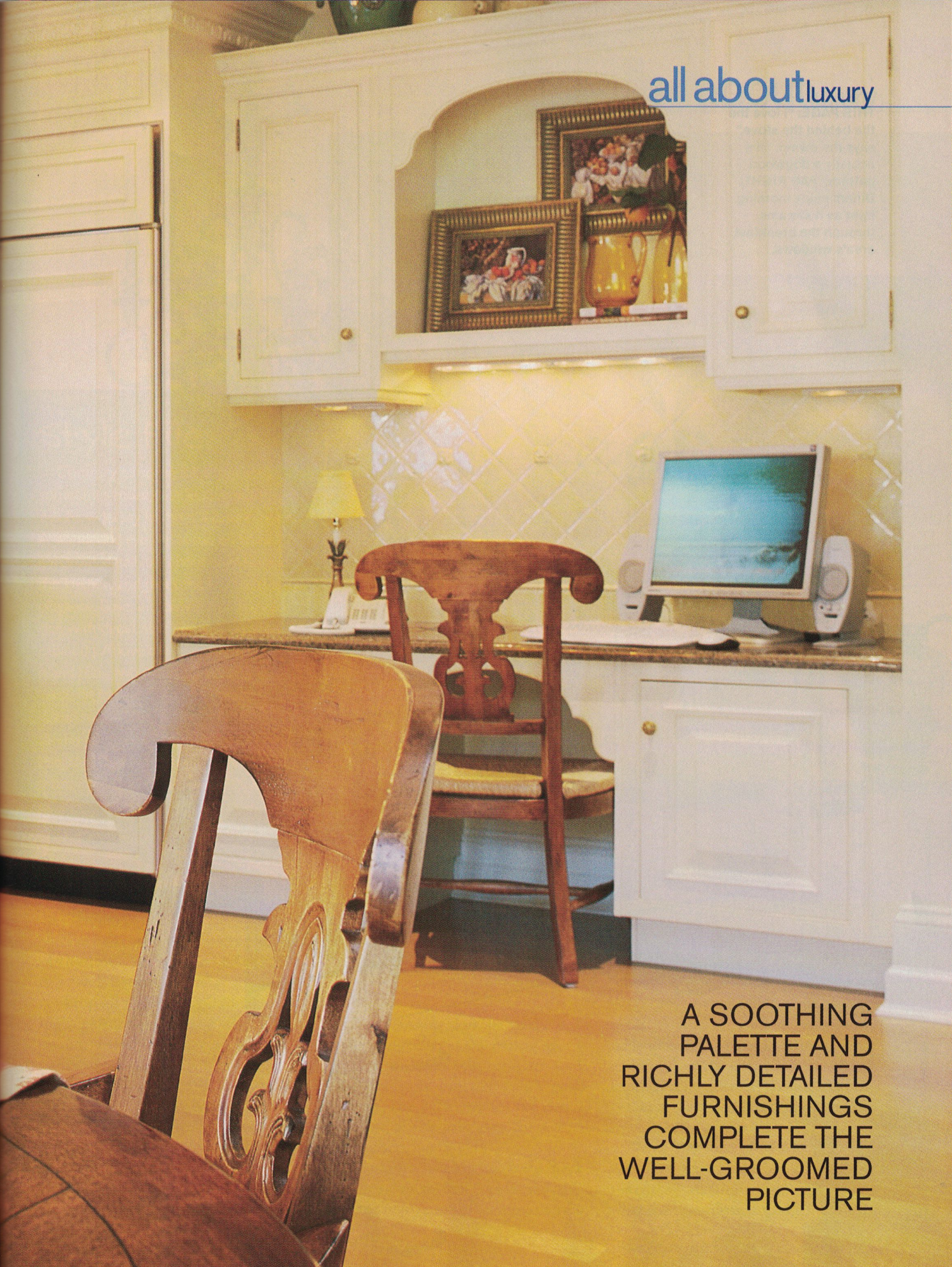
At the center of the kitchen is the room's showstopper—an oversized island topped with a counter of Autumn Wheat granite (take note of the extra-thick edge!). The island is perfect for breakfasts on the go and acts as a buffet when the homeowners entertain.

According to Leonardis, such informal entertaining is becoming ever more popular these days, and rather than using the formal dining room table, she says, "people are using their islands as service areas." The island's crowning glory? A small sink fit neatly into the corner that can be filled with ice for chilling bottles of wine during parties. The rest of the time, the sink provides an alternative spot for rinsing vegetables. And because the sink is in

A valance dresses up the windows and frames the views. Complementing the large farmhouse sink, a small round sink for prepping vegetables takes up minimal space in the island.



Multiple seating areas allow plenty of room for the homeowners' friends and family to gather. A planning desk is outfitted with access to the Internet.

A photograph of a kitchen interior. In the foreground, the back of a wooden chair with a curved top and ornate carvings is visible. Behind it, a wooden chair with a similar design is positioned at a kitchen island. The island has a dark countertop and a white cabinet base. On the countertop, there is a computer monitor displaying a blue screen, two small white speakers, a white telephone, and a small lamp. The wall behind the island is covered in white diamond-shaped tiles. Above the island, there are white cabinets with a central arched niche containing two framed pictures and a yellow pitcher. The floor is made of light-colored wood.

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A SOOTHING
PALETTE AND
RICHLY DETAILED
FURNISHINGS
COMPLETE THE
WELL-GROOMED
PICTURE

THIS PAGE: "I love the tile behind the stove," says the owner. "It's actually a dogwood pattern." **FAR RIGHT:** Diners enjoy morning light as it streams through the breakfast area's windows.



Style File

Contrary to some folks' opinion, sometimes more (not less) is more, and this New Jersey home is a case in point. A wandering eye can settle on some gorgeous detail just about anywhere in the kitchen, and that's the key to its easy elegance. Base and crown moldings are rich with detail, as is the finely crafted cabinetry. Above the furniture-quality island hang two eye-catching chandeliers—fit for even the most elegant dining room. Like the look? Check out the Elysian Six-Light Chandelier from Progress Lighting pictured here. For more information, call (864) 599-6000 or visit www.progresslighting.com.—JT

the corner of the island, plenty of counter space remains for preparing and serving meals.

Naturally, the appliances are top-of-the-line. A built-in refrigerator, two wall ovens, and a six-burner cooktop all combine good looks with high performance. And the homeowner especially loves how the cooktop is showcased. Framed in good-looking millwork and decked out with a backsplash of handmade tiles featuring the homeowner's favorite flower—a dogwood—it's a true conversation piece.

Finally, the kitchen includes what Donleavy fondly calls “command cen-

tral.” A planning desk set to the right of the refrigerator is the perfect spot to check e-mail, pay bills, or write to-do lists. Not only functional, it's good-looking: The cabinetry for the desk is the same as the cabinetry throughout the kitchen.

Adjacent to the kitchen is the breakfast area, where the couple and their children enjoy most of their meals infor-

mally. A wall of windows washes the table with light, while a pleated valance adds finish to the cozy nook. Overhead, exposed ceiling beams fan out from the center of the space, creating yet another eye-catching focal point.

With the mix of classic style and high-tech features, the home is perfectly suited for entertaining, and that's exactly what the homeowners wanted. ■



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