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KITCHENS





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Vive la différence

There's a subtle French influence in this remodeled kitchen,
which has transformed the family living space and
created a kitchen fit for a professional

This large remodeled kitchen by designer Janice Teague features a custom, hammered zinc range hood. A metal finishing strip that runs through the wall tiles is another reflective element. There is a pewter insert on the countertop next to the cooktop, to provide a resting place for hot items.



The kitchen is designed so that the main work area is separate from the entertaining area, but the owners can socialize easily while preparing meals. The large farmhouse sink has a center divider for easy washing up.



The furniture-style corners of the island are replicated in dark-stained hickory wood at either end of the white cabinets along one side wall.

Even in a home that's a little traditional, an overly ornate kitchen can seem out of place today – highly decorative crown mouldings and corbels don't always fit with modern family lifestyles.

The original kitchen in this house was a case in point, says designer Janice Teague CKD, CBD of Drury Design Kitchen & Bath Studio, who was commissioned to design a new kitchen for the owners.

"It had a very traditional styling and included a gazebo-like structure with columns in the middle of the room. This took up space and interrupted the flow of the kitchen. The cabinetry also looked tired and was starting to come apart."

Teague says the owners wanted a fairly simple, clean-lined kitchen that would be more open, yet not overly modern.

"The house has a relatively traditional, slightly French look, which influenced the design. The huge size of the kitchen was another factor – this led to the idea of two large, square islands, one to be a workstation for the owner, who is a trained chef, and the other for entertaining, casual dining and homework. A suspended cloud ceiling also helps to break up the space. Lighting within this ceiling avoids the need for extra pendants, which would have blocked the view down the kitchen."

The designer says the material palette evolved as the design



With ample storage, including two appliance garages, clutter is avoided. There is a separate home office area just beyond the kitchen.

progressed. The team started with white cabinetry, and added dark wood accents that help to anchor the space visually.

"We then brought in a third color for the islands – a soft taupe that provides a nice transition between the very light and very dark. This makes the room blend more harmoniously. The door style also helps – the stile and rail design with a bead applied moulding is a little softer than a traditional Shaker style."

To avoid a totally linear look, the end of the second island has curved sides, and a lowered dark-stained hickory wood top. The same wood appears on the front of the integrated refrigerator. Here it is inset with

decorative patterned mirrored glass. Similar translucent glass features in an overhead display cabinet.

"We framed the cabinets on this side of the kitchen with dark wood at either end," says Teague. "It helps to relieve the long expanse of white cabinetry, without being too overpowering."

On the opposite side of the kitchen, a hammered zinc range hood adds a shiny, glitzy element to balance the mirrored glass. This is contrasted by the natural tones of the wall tiles.

The countertops, a mix of quartz on the islands and granite on the perimeter, provide further visual definition.