



Elizabeth Rosensteel



Chelsea Parrish



Erin Liston

Janet Brooks



Robert Moric



Katherine Lockett Pullan



Filled with state-of-the-art technology, indestructible surfaces and storage solutions it seems odd that the kitchen evolved to be the heart of the home. But consider the comforting aromas and mouthwatering foods that are created there and the elevated status comes as no surprise. And if the space is designed to be as welcoming as it is functional, there's no better place to be.

These six talented Valley experts - Janet Brooks, Robert Moric, Chelsea Parrish, Katherine Pullan, Erin Liston and Elizabeth Rosensteel - have invited us to enjoy one of their designs. Each expresses the style and characters of the respective home as well as the wishes of their owners. The end result: kitchens that take center stage. >>

by Teresa Esquivel

# KITCHENS TAKE

# CENTER STAGE



Photo by Nikka VanHorn.



**Scope:** I initially met the clients to help refresh some of their furnishings. After working with them over a few months, they approached me with their desire to update their kitchen.

**Wish list:** They wanted a brighter and more updated look. One detail they both disliked was the tile backsplash above the range with a painted Tuscan scene. Also, they wanted to change the perimeter cabinets, which were a dark brown, and the painted finish of the island, which was getting beaten up by people inevitably kicking it while sitting at the barstools.

**Style:** The kitchen is transitional with rustic touches, such as the stone walls and range hood. I simplified the look with finishes and materials that are classic and timeless.

**Challenge:** There are a lot of stone walls in the great room. Finding the perfect taupe for the island took some time. Also, in changing the original rustic feel of the cabinets, I didn't want it to look like I stuck a traditional white kitchen in the middle of a rustic house.

**Solution:** The existing cabinetry is solid wood and very high-quality so I suggested we refinish them. I had my finisher do a subtle raw-umber glaze on the cabinets to reveal the details of the raised-panel cabinetry. The undertones of the paint and the hardware were very important details to maintain a cohesive feel to the home. On the island, we replaced the painted wood panels with harlequin mosaic tiles—the same as we used on the new backsplash over the range—for a much more durable alternative.

**Materials:** Harlequin is one of my favorite patterns and I was excited to use it in this space in travertine for the backsplash and on the island. We refinished all of the cabinetry using Pantone's Antique White and, for the island, Restoration Hardware's Flax. For the cabinet hardware, I chose simple matte 3-inch black cup pulls and sleek 5-inch handles.

**Cool factor:** I love how it's not a giant kitchen—it's human scale. I love the layout of this kitchen/great room.

**Designer's touch:** I always lean toward classic design with unexpected pieces. There is something very sexy to me about classic design.

**No kitchen is complete without...** distinctive finishing touches, such as hardware and lighting. It's like accessories for an outfit; it's what defines your individual style. You can really show your personality with these pieces. >>

CHELSEA PARRISH

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