

Best Kitchen Ideas

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Pot-filler faucets such as this one increase both the functional and visual aspects of a kitchen. On the pages ahead we present plenty of other ideas, products and design options for this hardworking heart of the home.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUCA TROVATO



NEW ATTITUDE

A FAMILY HOME UNDERGOES A TRANSFORMATION THAT TAKES IT FROM LIVABLE TO LIVING LARGE

TEXT BY SUSAN REGAN ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUCA TROVATO

IT ALL STARTED WITH THE FLOORING. Several years after purchasing her Paradise Valley, Arizona, home, Jamie Hormel decided to replace the flagstone floors. "Once we started, it just seemed that there were more and more things to be changed or updated," she recalls. The simple project turned into a yearlong renovation that transformed the residence into a home that suits the needs and personalities of Hormel and her family perfectly.

A team of professionals, including architect Jon Poetzl, interior designer Wendy Black Rodgers, builder Jeff Wincek and landscape architect Chad Robert, was enlisted to bring the project to fruition. In addition to replacing existing flooring with hand-scraped walnut and antiqued French limestone, rooms were enlarged, areas were repurposed, and the landscape was revamped. "In the end, almost everything in the house would be touched," says Rodgers.

One of the biggest changes involved the kitchen. Originally long and narrow, the room was expanded on two sides to create an open multifunctional space. It is zoned to accommodate family and friends, as well as professional chefs—a bonus for Hormel's partner, acclaimed chef and restaurateur Christopher Gross. "We love the fact that now the kitchen is big enough to be the real hub of the home," Hormel comments. Durable fabrics and materials were used here to withstand daily wear and tear. A

retractable skylight and a pocketing window that opens to a covered patio emphasize the outdoors. The residence also boasts an outdoor barbecue area, a guest house and in-laws' quarters with full kitchens, and a kitchenette in the master closet.

Rooms repurposed to make better use of space include the too-small dining room, which was turned into a colorful and whimsical Moroccan wine lounge with adjoining courtyard. In addition, the living room became a dining room spacious enough to host large family gatherings.

Rodgers incorporated repeating elements throughout to unify the remodel. For example, a quatrefoil motif is found on tile and woodwork in several rooms and inspired the shape of outdoor water features, while shades of blue appear on upholstered pieces, cabinetry and even walls.


The designer describes the finished project as "Spanish Colonial meets Moroccan," adding that the home reflects its owner's refinement and fun personality. "Jamie is classical and traditional but likes drama and an eclectic piece here and there."

Hormel says she and her family love the remodeled home. "In the morning, we often gather in the media room for coffee and the news. Now, as friends flow in and out, we have so many interesting places to gather. We are even entertaining much more at home."

"It's a happy house," observes Rodgers. "It's fun, comfortable and made to be used. And, every bit of it gets lived in." □



This page and opposite: This Moroccan-inspired wine lounge and adjoining courtyard were created during an extensive remodel. Walls of the lounge were painted blue—the homeowner's favorite color—and showcase a collection of frames that interior designer Wendy Black Rodgers fitted with mirrors. The recessed ceiling was painted to resemble mosaic tilework.



The expanded kitchen is zoned to accommodate casual cooking and meals prepared by professional chefs. Pairs of custom iron chandeliers hang over the island and trestle-style table, which is topped with a single slab of Labradorite granite and equipped with outlets for plugging in laptop computers. Wingback chairs are upholstered in durable outdoor velvet fabric. The retractable skylight allows fresh air to fill the room.



An automated window behind the farm-style sink pockets open to an alfresco dining bar on a covered patio. Countertops here are honed quartz. The sculptural faucet has an articulated spout with a 12" reach. A long arm attached to the sprayer allows for an expanded area of coverage.





THE BIG THREE

Cabinetry: Alder cabinets feature a custom finish and glaze. The furniture-style island and a pair of wall-hung cabinets flanking the limestone range hood are a custom shade of blue with a glazed finish. Wendy Black Rodgers explains that the blue cabinetry is a "nice contrast to the dark wood."

Countertops: The main countertops are honed Iceberg White quartz, while the island is topped in walnut.

Flooring: 12", 16" and 20"-square limestone tiles cover the floors. The stone was given an antiqued finish in France.

This page, clockwise from top left: Interior designer Wendy Black Rodgers incorporated a quatrefoil motif throughout the house as a unifying element. Here, the shape can be seen in stained-glass insets in the leaded-glass fronts of this blue wall-hung dish cabinet. ■ Fifteen hand-painted tiles from Italy are inset into a mosaic marble backsplash above the cooktop. ■ The intricately carved door leading to the walk-in pantry once opened to a wine room.





This page: A kitchenette in the master closet is outfitted with a coffee bar, refrigerator, dishwasher and ice-maker. Countertops are polished crystal-white marble. **Opposite top:**

Originally a sunken living room, the now-spacious dining room has a table that can seat 16. The table and carved armoire were crafted in Spain from 200-year-old walnut. The chandelier, which once hung in the foyer, was refinished and adorned with natural rock crystals. **Opposite bottom:** The butler's pantry boasts ample storage for dishes and serveware. Cabinetry is deep blue. Wendy Black Rodgers designed the crystal chandelier.







This page: The tub in the master bath is carved from a single piece of Thassos marble. It sits upon a laser-cut marble tile “rug” with a quatrefoil design. A chandelier’s dainty glass bubbles appear to float. Bi-fold doors open to a private patio with fireplace. **Opposite top:** Walls the color of Cayenne pepper add to the Moroccan ambience of this bathroom. The tub is clad in mirrored-glass mosaic tiles. **Opposite bottom:** The master bedroom soothes with a neutral palette of taupe, tan and brown. The headboard is upholstered in velvet; the chandelier is made of Fortuny silk.

See Sources.