



Special Section: Kitchen Storage

On the following pages, check out three kitchens jam-packed with great storage solutions, and learn how to use built-in storage to make your kitchen the marvel of organization you've always wanted it to be.

Say Ahh ...

This soothing kitchen opens wide to maximize light, storage, and family comfort.



Counters and a backsplash of honed carrara marble wrap Maria and Nicolas Bransier's U-shape kitchen. Open shelving lines one wall in lieu of upper cabinets.





Casement windows and French doors admit afternoon sunlight and a verdant view, making the Bransier kitchen a pleasurable work space.

R

Remodeling is a great way to give a house a healthy outlook—to revive its mood and its mission. The Seattle home of Maria and Nicolas Bransier is a case in point. The now bright and sunny space is thanks to a new free-flowing floor plan, which spotlights a streamlined kitchen designed for entertaining and family activities.

The home's recovery process started with a plan to eliminate a main-level bedroom to increase the size of the cramped cooking area. A cozy sitting area took the place of the old kitchen and now provides an ideal place for family jam sessions or small gatherings with friends. New windows and French doors that lead to a backyard deck bring in plenty of sunlight.

The kitchen's work areas are more inviting as well, with a clean white palette, calming lines, and smart storage designed by and for Maria, a busy young mother who collaborated on the design with residential designer Frank Dill. "She came to me with a scrapbook

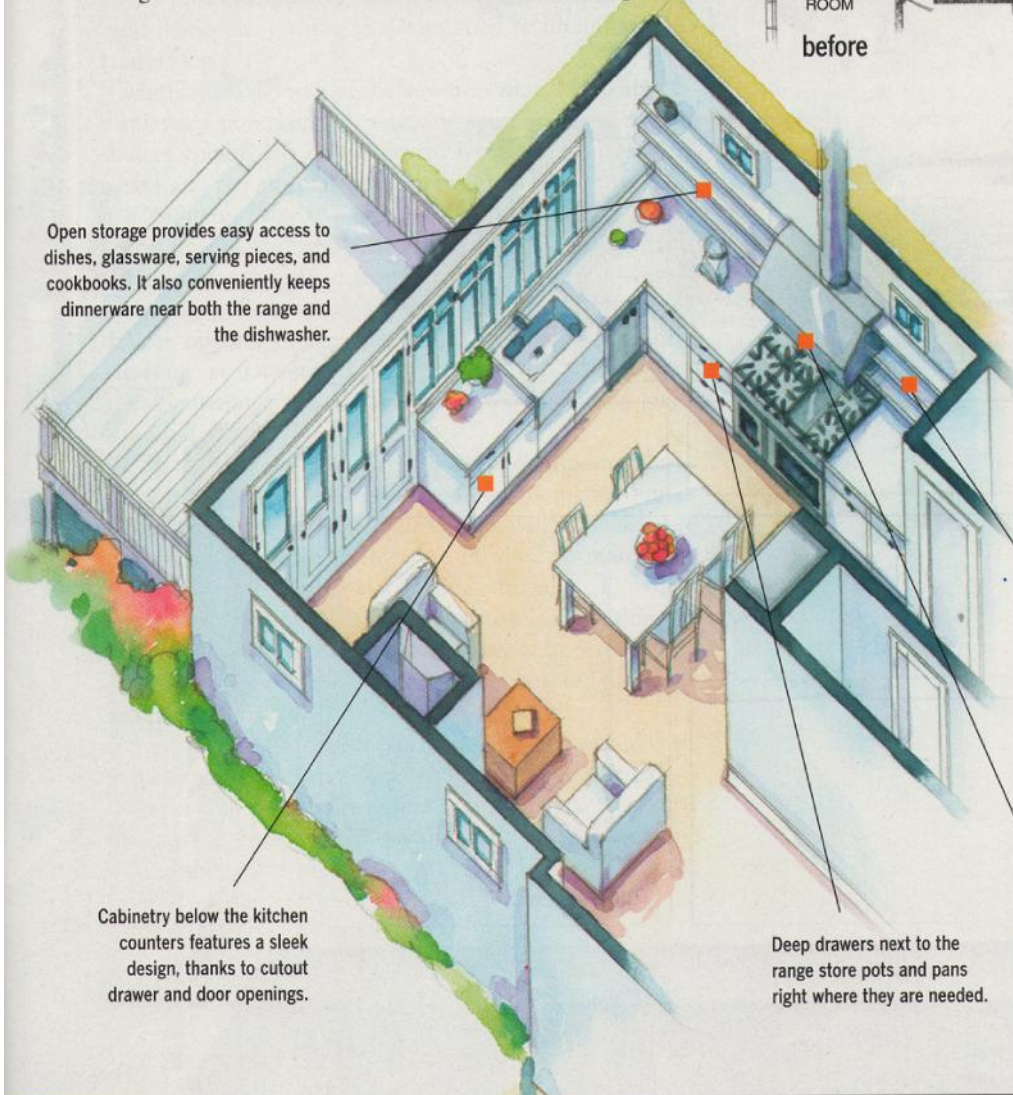


The Change

During a whole-house remodeling project, an isolated, dark kitchen got bigger and brighter—becoming a family hub.

What It Took

- Rebuilding mold-plagued walls and framing.
- Relocating a bedroom to a new upper level to double the size of an open-plan kitchen.
- Designing cabinets and shelves that create storage without creating a closed-in feeling.
- Specifying tall casement windows and French doors for light, views, deck access, and European mood.
- Installing a fireplace to anchor a sitting area at one end of the kitchen.
- Using off-white paint, pale marble, and gray floor stain to brighten surfaces.



Open storage provides easy access to dishes, glassware, serving pieces, and cookbooks. It also conveniently keeps dinnerware near both the range and the dishwasher.

Cabinetry below the kitchen counters features a sleek design, thanks to cutout drawer and door openings.

Deep drawers next to the range store pots and pans right where they are needed.

Between the range and refrigerator, open shelves organize a breakfast workstation.

A small shelf above the range provides a convenient yet out of the way place to store utensils, spices, and oils.



Instead of drawer and door pulls, Maria chose cutout openings in the face frames. Eliminating doors on the upper shelves makes storage easy.

of magazine clippings,” he says. “She seems to evaluate every object for its beauty as well as its function, and she didn’t want to hide things away.”

Open shelves cured one common kitchen ailment—banks of visually confining upper cabinets. “We used steel angle supports attached to the framing—done before the drywall so the shelves look like they’re floating,” Dill explains. “The shelves were envisioned as 2½-inch-thick solid wood. We simplified this detail to a typical ¾-inch-thick shelf with a 2½-inch-tall nosing on the exposed edge. This change also allowed us to hide a small strip light below the bottom shelf designed to illuminate the countertop.”

Maria finds the wall of shelves saves time. “I am able to display my porcelain, chrome, and stainless items on the shelves to the left of the stove. Dishes are so easy to access and put away, as the dishwasher is just below.”

Elsewhere, Maria wanted large drawers for easier access to cookware and pantry items. Display fixtures she admired at a boutique inspired other cabinet features, including pullout work surfaces and cutout door and drawer openings instead of pulls. Working with Chris Dowling at Dovetail Construction, Dill adapted the cutout openings for the face frames, maintaining solid door and drawer faces.

The undercounter pullouts boost work space. Maria enlists the surfaces for everything from plating up dinner to keeping utensils and supplies handy while cooking.

Pullouts and open shelves are finished to match the cabinets’ solid-maple doors and drawers. Dowling explains the finish: “Conversion varnish is more durable than enamel or lacquer. It’s shop-sprayed in three coats, almost an auto-body finish, and it can be tinted to match any paint color.”

Instead of an island, Maria chose a table equipped with two extensions, which offers versatility. “When we have a lot of people over and we dine informally it’s great. We also have a 4-month-old daughter and a 16-month-old son, so they can reach more easily with chairs,” she says. “We all spend most of our time in the kitchen.” **RI**

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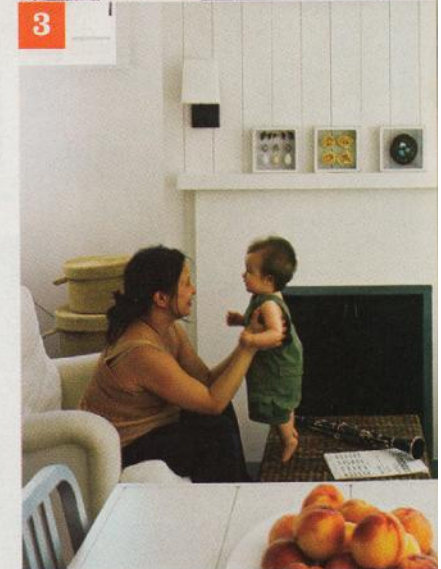
Focus on Function

1. Drawers below the kitchen counter provide plenty of storage space for hardworking items.

Above every set of drawers, pullouts greatly increase the kitchen’s work surfaces.

2. A stainless-steel range shelf aligns horizontally with wood wall storage.

3. Just beyond the kitchen table, a tall and shallow Rumford fireplace warms the sitting area. In addition to relaxing with son Julian, Maria also uses the space for musical jam sessions with her husband, Nicolas.



Floor lamp, wall sconce—Jones Lighting Specialists, Inc., Towson, Maryland; 410/828-1010.

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Cabinetry—Wood-Mode, Inc.; 877/635-7500; www.wood-mode.com. **Cabinetry knobs**—Expo Design Center; www.expo.com. **Countertop** Tea Leaf—Silestone by Cosentino USA; 800/291-1311; www.silestoneusa.com. **Undercounter oven, cooktop, and refrigerator** Profile—GE Appliances; 800/626-2000;

www.geappliances.com. **Microwave oven** Toast and Bake—Samsung; 800/726-7864;

www.samsungusa.com. **Antique French pine shelving**—Coco & Co., St. Michaels, Maryland; 410/745-3400.

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Wall color Roasted Sesame Seed—Benjamin Moore; for the location nearest you, call 800/672-4686; www.benjaminmoore.com [P].

Drop-leaf table—Crate & Barrel; 800/996-9960; www.crateandbarrel.com (product line varies). **Windsor chair**—Restoration Hardware; 888/243-9720; www.restorationhardware.com.

Settee—Hickory Chair Co.; 800/349-4579; www.hickorychair.com.

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Wall covering Raffia—Hinson & Co., New York City; 212/475-4100 [T]. **Floor tile** Tangina—The Tile & Stone Center, Easton, Maryland; 410/822-1094.

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Wall color Bennington Gray—Benjamin Moore; for the location nearest you, call 800/672-4686; www.benjaminmoore.com [P].

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Wall color Horizon Gray—Benjamin Moore; for the location nearest you, call 800/672-4686; www.benjaminmoore.com [P]. **Striped duvet cover on bed** custom design—Stephen N. O'Brien, Stephen N. O'Brien Interior Decoration, Tilghman, Maryland; 410/886-2673. **Ceiling fan**—Hunter Fan Co.; 800/448-6837; www.hunterfan.com.

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Ceiling fan—Casablanca Fan Co.; 888/227-2178; www.casablancafanco.com.

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Vinyl shingle siding Rough-Sawn Cedar in Antique Gray—Nailite International, Miami; 305/620-6200; www.nailite.com. **Teak furniture in pool area**—Smith & Hawken; 800/981-9888; www.smithandhawken.com.

Say Ahh ...

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Residential designer: Frank Dill, 440 Conant Rd., Weston, MA 02493; 781/891-3713; e-mail: fydill3@aol.com.

Builder: Dovetail Construction, 3800 Woodland Park Ave., N, Seattle, WA 98103; 206/545-0722.

Cabinetry custom—Dovetail Construction, Seattle; 206/545-0722. **Windows**—Lindal Building Products; 800/628-5328; www.lindalsunrooms.com. **Range, refrigerator**—Viking Range Corp.; 888/845-4641;

www.vikingrange.com. **Sink**—Shaw Industries, Inc.; 800/441-7429; www.shawfloors.com. **Sink faucet**—Chicago Faucets, Des Plaines, Illinois; 847/803-5000; www.chicagofaucets.com.

Table—Pottery Barn; 800/922-5507; www.potterybarn.com (product line varies).

Chairs—Emeco Industries; 800/366-5951, ext. 224; www.emeco.net.

Growing Gracefully

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Architect: Carolyn Van Lang, Jarvis Architects, 5278 College Ave., Oakland, CA 94618; 510/654-6755; www.jarvisarchitects.com.

Builder: Pyramid Builders, San Francisco; 415/585-4022.

Casement windows—Marvin Windows and Doors; 888/537-8268; www.marvin.com.

Cabinetry—Yamaguchi Cabinet Shop, San Francisco; 415/282-2411. **Bronze knobs for island cabinets** distressed bronze with oil rub—Baldwin Hardware Corp.; 800/566-1986;

www.baldwinhardware.com. **Large silver pulls for cabinetry** #35112—Siro Designs, Inc.; 800/537-7476; www.sirodesigns.com.

Countertop Juperana Persia granite—Marble European Style, Richmond, California; 510/237-1390. **Main sink and island sink**—Franke Kitchen Systems Division; 800/626-5771;

www.frankeksd.com. **Faucets for main sink and island sink**—KWC Faucets, Inc.; 888/592-3287; www.kwcfaucets.com. **Decorative wall**

treatment—Terry Bryant, TBC Plaster Artisans, Napa, California; 415/362-3916. **Cooktop**—Viking Range Corp.; 888/845-4641;

www.vikingrange.com. **Vent hood** Kobe—available through VentingDirect; 800/482-3514; www.ventingdirect.com. **Wall oven, warming drawer**—Dacor; 800/793-0093;

www.dacor.com. **Microwave/convection oven**—Sharp Electronics Corp.; 800/237-4277;

www.sharpsusa.com. **Main refrigerator** Monogram—GE Appliances; 800/626-2000;

www.geappliances.com. **Small refrigerator in island**—U-Line Corp., Milwaukee; 414/354-0300; www.u-line.com. **Pendent lights over island**—Alfa Lighting, Inc., San Francisco;

415/931-2222; www.alfalighting.com. **Pendent light over breakfast table**—Home Depot USA, Inc.; www.homedepot.com (product line varies). **Breakfast table, chairs**—Scandinavian Designs Home and Office Interiors, Berkeley, California; 510/848-8250.

Perfect Fit

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Project designer: R. Lyle Boatman, ASID, San Diego; 619/583-7912.

Cabinetry Brookhaven Colony in Garden Mint with Brown and Cider glaze on maple by Wood-Mode—available through Kitchen Design Studio, Inc., Grand Rapids, Michigan; 616/451-9779.

Windows—Eagle Window & Door, Inc.; 800/324-5354; www.eaglewindow.com. **Wall color** Dune White—Benjamin Moore; for the location nearest you, call 800/672-4686;