Charming Cottage Kitchens You'll Love

COTTAGES & BUNGALOWS

Embrace Color & Whimsy

9 kitchens bursting with flavor!

A home with a secret door?
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Tour 6 homes packed with personality

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The Hub of the HOME

A roundup of the freshest kitchen looks for 2024.

WRITTEN BY LAURA SHIMKO







WHIMSICAL ELEGANCE

COLOR AND SIMPLE TOUCHES GIVE THIS KITCHEN A FUN, SOPHISTICATED FEEL.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:
Part of an overall home renovation, this kitchen needed a refresh. The homeowners, a couple with two school-aged children, wanted to ditch the dark, modern and heavily sectioned layout of the original kitchen. "We decided to completely open up the kitchen, breakfast nook, family room and dining room into one big, open concept and move the laundry room back to the other side of the house so we could incorporate a mudroom," designer Amy Peltier says. The inspiration for the aesthetic design is displayed in the island's pop of color. "The client had seen a vibrant blue-painted island in a photo and wanted to incorporate a cheerful version of that color," Amy says. "She loved lighthearted design elements that felt fresh and young."

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:
The floor plan was the trickiest aspect of the renovation, as the original layout was sectioned off into little areas that prevented a cohesive flow. "The home had so many nooks and crannies that did not translate into a simple, organized kitchen, so we had to create stations or sections so that all of the space was efficiently utilized," Amy says. "In hindsight, it really added to the unique charm of the project."

EDITOR'S TAKEAWAY:
The island really steals the show in this project. The color is perfection and adds a dynamic brightness to the space in conjunction with the white and subtle backsplash. We also love the elegant yet simple pendant lantern lights above the island, which add a nice touch of warmth to the palette.

INTERESTED? Reach out to Amy at: home@peltierinteriors.com.

- **Design by:** Amy Peltier, Peltier Interiors
- **Photography by:** Marisa Vitale
- **Location:** San Marino, CA







WHITE and BOLD

THIS LARGE KITCHEN RECEIVED A MUCH-NEEDED REORGANIZATION OF SPACE TO PROVIDE THE PERFECT FLOW FOR HOSTING.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:
The homeowners, a semi-retired couple, were looking for a few upgrades to their kitchen that would create a better, more functional space for hosting family members who regularly visit. The kitchen was an open plan, with lots of square footage connecting multiple gathering spaces. "Being an open plan, we went for a more 'furnished' look," designer Elizabeth Drake says. "We took advantage of the spacious feel to create inviting traffic paths out to the patio and the coffee bar as well as plenty of room to hang at the island, rather than packing every inch of the kitchen with upper and lower cabinetry."

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:
The large footprint of the kitchen proved an obstacle to overcome during the design process. "I'd never experienced having a room that was too big, but the kitchen, where the number of steps to the fridge matters, was the size of a dance floor," Elizabeth says. Further complicating matters were the different walking paths leading to different spaces in and outside the home. Normally, a large kitchen would include a table, but here it would not work. To resolve this dilemma, Elizabeth crafted a coffee bar and "L"-shaped dining counter over the island countertop. "A nice feature of a coffee bar, one's guests feel free to help themselves to coffee and sit down to chat with the chef," Elizabeth says.

EDITOR'S TAKEAWAY:
Who doesn't love a classic black-and-white palette? The designer's use of contrast provides depth and prevents the space from feeling too expansive. The white basket pendants are a touch of texture and simple elegance. Plus, we love the glimpse of the colorful backyard through the sliders and large windows above the sink.

INTERESTED? Reach out to Elizabeth at: info@elizabethdrake.com or (847) 446-4699.

- **Design by:** Elizabeth Drake Interiors
- **Additional credits:** Blue, White + Gold Contractors
- **Photography by:** Ethan Tweedie
- **Location:** Holualoa, HI

LIGHT and BRIGHT

ONCE DARK AND CAVE-LIKE, THIS KITCHEN RECEIVED A MAJOR REFRESH WITH A NEW PALETTE, THOUGHTFUL LAYOUT CHANGES AND AN ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL LIGHT.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:
Functionality is key to any kitchen design, especially for homeowners who frequently host family and friends. For homeowners of this kitchen, a couple with college-aged children and a dog, aesthetics played another very important role in their renovation goals. The dark cabinetry in the original kitchen felt heavy and crowded, not allowing in the natural light, while the floorplan wasn't ideal for hosting. "This client needed a kitchen that not only functioned better, but was also lighter and brighter," Tracy Morris, owner of Tracy Morris Design, says. "Our client wanted to open up the space and have more spaces for entertaining." The solution was to create a bright, welcoming and more thoughtfully planned-out space with fresh white cabinetry, a more functional island, and unencumbered views through windows all around allowing for natural light.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:
The island shape and location, as well as finding ways to make the space feel light and airy, were the biggest obstacles to overcome in this renovation. The original island was perpendicular to the windows over the sink, with an additional counter and seating space jutting out parallel to it. There was also a heavy, dark wood frame over the sink windows, blocking out some of the natural light. "J. Paul Lobkovich, from Lobkovich Kitchen Designs, figured out a way to shift the direction of the island, providing the desired open plan," Tracy says. The framing over the window was removed, allowing for more outside light into the space.

EDITOR'S TAKEAWAY:
The light and bright finish of the new cabinetry, as well as some of the strategic rearrangements of their location and shape, creates a whole new, inviting aesthetic.

INTERESTED? Reach out to Tracy Morris Design at: info@tracymorrisdesign.com or (202) 465-8114.

- **Builder:** Artisan Builders
- **Kitchen designer:** Lobkovich Kitchen Designs
- **Interior designer:** Tracy Morris Design
- **Styling:** Moki Media Moeller
- **Photography by:** Greg Powers
- **Location:** Virginia







TRANQUIL CHARM

WARM WOOD TONES, A DYNAMIC BACKSPLASH AND EXTRA SEATING COME TOGETHER TO CREATE A SERENE YET FUNCTIONAL SPACE FOR A BUSY FAMILY.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:
While the kitchen serves as the hub of the home for many, this is especially true for large, busy families who spend a lot of time in this room. Designer Kristen Ennis decided to draw inspiration from the location of the home, a quiet neighborhood bordering a golf course, in her design for this kitchen to provide a peaceful space for the busy family of five. "I curated a palette of calming tones and incorporated natural materials such as the marble backsplash and wood tones to create an airy ambience that mirrors the outdoors," Kristen says. "My goal was to create a serene retreat that gracefully merges the practical elements of a culinary and gathering space with the enchanting beauty that envelops the home."

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:
The homeowners wanted to incorporate an eat-in dining area as well as an island for functional meal preparation, but the square footage of the kitchen was limited. "To address this, we made the strategic decision to eliminate the traditional kitchen table, opting instead to extend the island," Kristen says. "This not only allowed for a multifunctional space, serving both as a dedicated food preparation area and an inviting dining space, but it also allowed for a window-seat addition to the bay window." A further benefit was creating an even stronger design connection to the peaceful scenery outside.

EDITOR'S TAKEAWAY:
Warmth and calm exude from this cozy kitchen. We absolutely love the marble diamond backsplash; it adds depth and interest without overpowering the serene design. The glass pendant lights add a touch of elegance and the floating shelves are a nice visual break that tie in with the range hood. Overall, simply lovely!

INTERESTED? **Reach out to Kristen at: kristen@kristenennisdesign.com.**

- **Design by:** Kristen Ennis, Kristen Ennis Design
- **Photography by:** Abigail Jackson Photography
- **Location:** Holly Springs, NC













FAMILY FUNCTION

ONCE CRAMPED, THIS KITCHEN'S FLOOR PLAN RECEIVED AN ADDITION TO CREATE A MORE FAMILY-FRIENDLY DESIGN.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:
When the homeowners approached InSite Builders & Remodeling, their goals were to expand their small kitchen to better serve their family. "They wanted to improve the kitchen functionality with additional cooking space, in-kitchen island seating and increased storage and counter space," Mary Gordon, vice president at InSite, says. "Additionally, it was important for the homeowners to open up and extend the kitchen into the family room/kids' play area and to add a new breakfast nook with a banquette with built-ins," she says. The new design increased the room space from 182 square feet to 250 square feet, allowing the island's size to triple and providing extra seating for work space and entertaining.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:
The addition itself proved no easy feat due to opening the two 8-inch exterior structural walls while also having to maintain support for the second floor and roof. "The structural support took a high level of expertise," Mary says. Timeline and supply chain were another struggle, as the clients had to go without a kitchen while the renovation occurred. "The cabinets had a 27-week lead time and the appliances were 3-9 months out," Mary says.

EDITOR'S TAKEAWAY:
The first thing we noticed was the coordinating pendant lights and island in a lovely deep blue. It visually ties the upper and lower halves of the kitchen together without being too fussy. We also love the cozy breakfast nook with basket light.

INTERESTED? Reach out to InSite Builders & Remodeling at: mary@insiteremodeling.com.

- **Design by:** InSite Builders & Remodeling
- **Architect:** Tom Reineberg, InSite Builders & Remodeling
- **Photography by:** Stacy Zarin Goldberg
- **Location:** Bethesda, MD

TRUE BLUE

THIS 1830s GALLEY-KITCHEN RENOVATION IS A FRESH UPDATE WHILE HONORING ITS HISTORIC ROOTS.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:
This Federal-style home is a true American gem built in the 1830s and brimming with historic charm. Due to its rich heritage, the homeowners approached designer Nadia Subaran with a request to preserve as much of the original look and feel as possible. "They wanted to stay true to the aesthetic of the Federal period while updating for modern conveniences," Nadia says. "A galley kitchen seemed to make the most sense with a small seating area near the radiator and shallow shelves to display china. They wanted a traditional and formal kitchen to match the home's architecture, possibly with crown molding, plenty of lighting and incorporating rich colors—no gray or beige."

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:
The galley-style shape of the kitchen, typical of homes of the period, made it difficult to add an "eat-in" component to the design. "We chose to flank the existing window with shallow tall cabinets to maximize storage and allow for a wider space to work in a small pedestal table," Nadia says. "Those shallow glass and open cabinets add visual appeal and create a strong focal point with the best natural light in the kitchen."

EDITOR'S TAKEAWAY:
While galley kitchens can feel cramped and dark, Nadia's design perfectly brings together style and function with the beautiful blue cabinetry on either side of this kitchen. The blue really pops while also feeling classic and appropriate to the home's historical roots. We also love the backsplash. It's simple, charming and a perfect balance to wider palette.

INTERESTED? Reach out to Nadia at: aidandesign.com/get-started/ and fill out the customer survey.

- **Design by:** Nadia Subaran, principal, Aidan Design
- **Photography by:** Robert Radifera
- **Location:** Washington, DC











COASTAL COTTAGE

WHEN THE OWNERS MOVED TO THE BEACH FULL TIME, THEY BUILT A NEW HOME WITH A KITCHEN LARGE ENOUGH FOR HOSTING GATHERINGS.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:
When the homeowners of this Northeastern cottage retired and moved there full time, they realized that they needed a new home to go along with the new chapter of life they started. "They have hosted large family reunions for 30 years so it was important to them that the home would be functional as well," Marnie Oursler, owner of Marnie Custom Homes, says. They decided to tear down the original home and build a new one tailored to their needs. The lot where the home sits has been in the family for generations, and so the new design includes elements of the former home like the old wood into the extended kitchen island countertop. "This warmed up the kitchen and acts as a dining table for a more casual eating space," she says. "We used that wood for the bar countertop and dining table as well to tie it all together." They designed the new kitchen with a layout and flow to better accomodate hosting.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:
Creating a space that felt cozy when it was just the two of them but also big enough to support large family gatherings was part of the plan. "To accomplish this, we designed the bar just off the kitchen and into the dining area, so when entertaining, guests can spread out to that area and use more of the home, so they are not all huddled in the kitchen," Marnie says.

EDITOR'S TAKEAWAY:
This kitchen exudes a beachy, relaxed vibe with its soft blues and light, warm wood tones evoking both water and sand just a stone's throw away. We particularly love the custom window design meant to accommodate the plant collection.

INTERESTED? Reach out to Marnie at: marnie-homes.com/contact or Instagram @marnieoursler.

- **Design by:** Marnie Oursler, Marnie Custom Homes
- **Other Credits:** Bernardon Design and Sokolow Architects, Architect; Styling by Moki Media Moeller
- **Photography by:** Keyanna Bowen
- **Location:** Bethany Beach, Delaware

BEAUTIFULLY BLENDED

CLASSIC ELEMENTS AND MODERN-DESIGN AESTHETICS WITH A TOUCH OF FRENCH FLAIR COME TOGETHER IN THIS KITCHEN RENOVATION.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:
After the tragedy of losing their spouses, these homeowners met through online dating and married in Paris before moving into a new home together to start a new chapter in their lives. They decided they wanted to completely gut and renovate the kitchen to better reflect their style as well as provide better functionality. "It was an awkward layout," Ayten Nadeau, founder and principal designer at i-TEN DESIGNS, says. "We demolished the wall that separated the living room from the kitchen on the left side and this opened up the space a lot more and allowed more socializing."

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:
Merging the vastly different style preferences was a challenge on this project. "The wife loved traditional design that incorporated black, white and reds and the husband loved contemporary design," Ayten says. They decided to use the wife's style in the cabinetry, island, counter stools, lighting and custom china cabinet, while elements like the backsplash, appliances and wall paint reflected the husband's style. "We created what our clients called 'our dream kitchen,'" Ayten says.

EDITOR'S TAKEAWAY:
Right away, our eyes were drawn to the concave/convex stainless-steel penny round backsplash. It stands out against the black-and-white palette without feeling too loud or dramatic, perfectly bringing in a modern touch to a very classic design.

INTERESTED? Reach out to Ayten at: hello@itendesigns.com.

- **Design by:** Ayten Nadeau, founder and principal designer at i-TEN DESIGNS
- **Photography by:** Aura Lake
- **Location:** Wake Forest, NC











ONE OF A KIND

THIS BRIGHT AND ECLECTIC KITCHEN SHINES WITH PERSONALIZED TOUCHES, MAKING IT FEEL CUSTOMIZED.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:
When the semi-retired homeowners of this 1920s Virginia house decided to renovate, they knew they wanted to brighten up their dark and drab kitchen in a unique and fun way that enhanced the classic and historic architecture and design. Increasing the functionality was another key goal. "Our clients wanted to have a kitchen that was reflective of their eclectic style and was functional," Kieran Fannan, project architect at TriVistaUSA Design + Build, says. The yellow oven and paint brighten the space. "The overall aesthetic matched the traditional style of their 100+ year old house and incorporated the bright colors that the client was drawn to," Kieran says.

BIGGEST CHALLENGE:
Meeting deadlines proved to be the most difficult aspect of this project. "The clients wanted to have their renovation completed in time for their daughter's wedding, while balancing issues with long lead times lingering from the pandemic (the yellow oven in particular)," Kieran says. "With a lot of hard work from our build team and subcontractors, we were able to get the project completed in time."

EDITOR'S TAKEAWAY:
The yellow oven is such an eye-catcher, perfectly contrasting against the muted blue cabinetry, and gives the space such a fun vibe. We also appreciated the unconventional and exciting teal and yellow palette in the adjoining breakfast nook – the yellow a perfect way to tie the two spaces together while also creating a distinctly new space with its own look and feel.

INTERESTED? Reach out to TriVistaUSA Design + Build at: (703) 243-3171 or trivistausa.com.

- **Other Credits:** Bethany Lewis, design coordinator; Denny Lewis, site supervisor; and Sara Meier, project coordinator at TriVistaUSA Design + Build
- **Photography by:** Nova Soul Imagery
- **Location:** Arlington, VA
- **Project architect:** Kieran Fannan