

DREAM 1 Kitchens

The
Ultimate
in
Elegance
42 Luxurious
Looks

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MeredithSpecials.



A cooktop in the island makes it easy for the cook to interact with guests. The owner loves the sleek eating surface, despite the fact that it requires lots of glass cleaner.



Center Stage

Prior to renovating their 100-year-old Craftsman-style home, Marie and David Dolan knew the existing kitchen location was all wrong. Tacked on the back of the house, the huge space was completely cut off from everything else and not the family gathering place they envisioned.

Architect Fred Wilson persuaded the couple to sacrifice their formal living room—"We realized we were never in it," Marie says—and to rethink the entire main level. In a massive space shuffle, Wilson moved the kitchen to the center of the house, turned the existing kitchen into a family room, the former family room into a breakfast nook and sitting room, and the original living room into a front-of-house dining room.

At some point during the renovation, the homeowners had a revelation: A big kitchen doesn't have to be, well, big. "We were living in an apartment, and in the kitchen you never had to move your feet, everything was right there," David says.

"All of our friends have these extremely large kitchens, and I just realized how exhausting that is to cook in," says Marie, a gourmet cook. "You don't need a huge kitchen, you just need





a well-organized one. And that's what Fred gave us. There are very few steps between the sink, the stove, the refrigerator, and my pantry."

Limiting the size of the work core also opened more space for things like a desk along one wall for doing homework and crafts projects. It doubles as a serving area for parties. There's a beverage center separate from the prep area and adjacent to the desk, and an island with an elevated glass surface for doling out party appetizers.

Perhaps most important, the new floor plan makes the kitchen central to the day-to-day happenings of busy family life. A doorway to the right of the wall ovens leads to the family room, and

an opening near the beverage area leads to the dining room. The breakfast room now opens to the deck and shares a fireplace with the sitting room and the upholstered banquette. Tall south-facing windows flood the 10x9-foot area with natural light, making it the perfect gathering place for family meals.

With a cooktop in the island, high-end appliances, and handy freezer drawers the kitchen is efficient yet beautiful. Brazilian cherrywood cabinets, granite countertops, built-in display shelves, and a steel-clad, double-sided fireplace make the kitchen the true heart of the Dolan home. **DK**

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ABOVE: A desk is located by the work core to provide a nearby place for kids to do homework and work on projects.

OPPOSITE: Clean-lined, glass-front cabinets complement the Craftsman style architecture. Open shelving is set low enough to keep dishes within children's reach.