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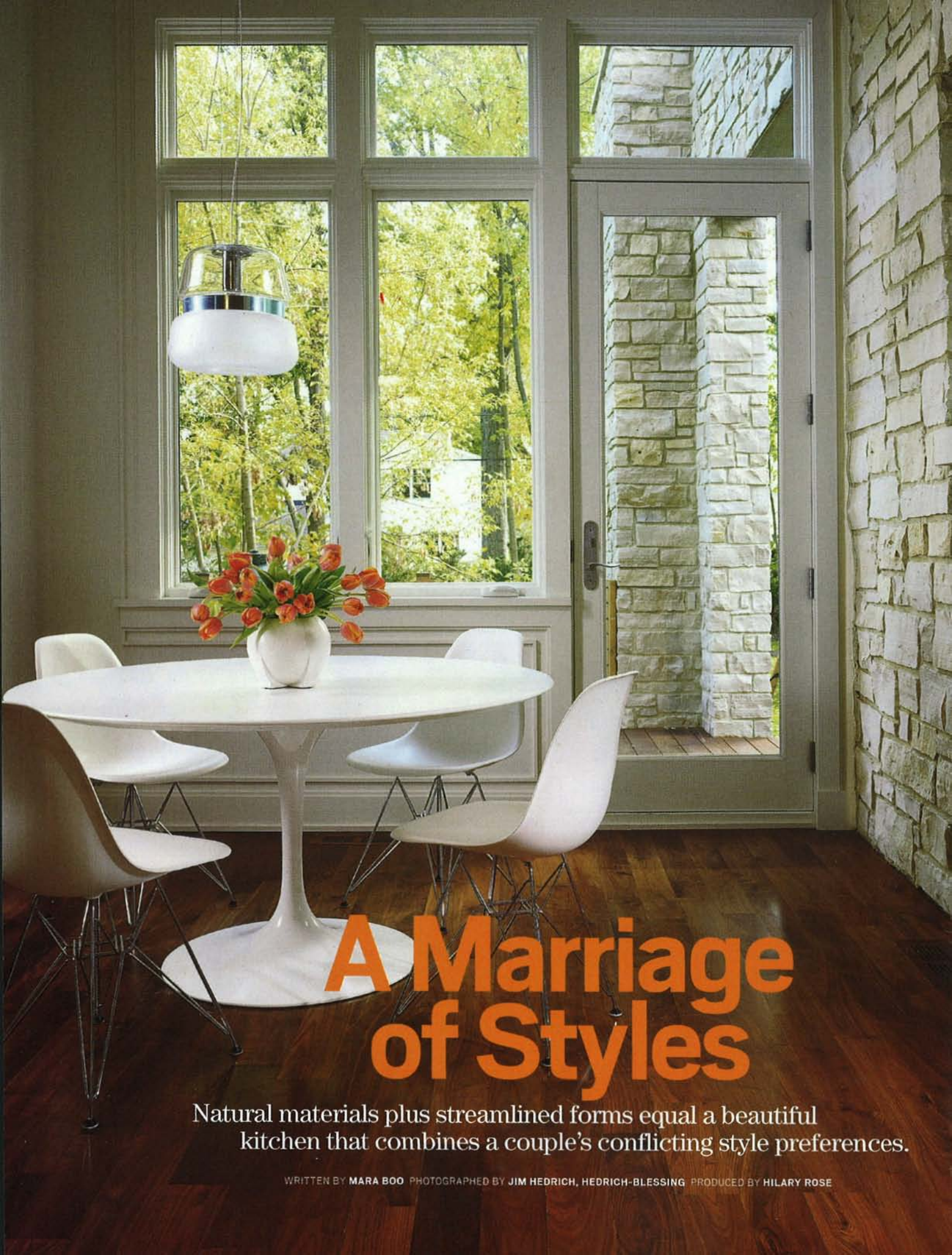
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A Marriage of Styles

Natural materials plus streamlined forms equal a beautiful kitchen that combines a couple's conflicting style preferences.

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Julie

The Saltzman family pulls Charles Eames chairs up to a reproduction Eero Saarinen Tulip table, both modern classics, in the light-filled eating area. A pair of windows and a glass door open to the outdoor dining area.

Brian

Perhaps the kitchen's most striking—and unusual—feature is its dramatic limestone wall. It appears to dead-end in the breakfast room, but the wall continues outside to create a courtyard ideal for dining and entertaining. “How often do you see a stone wall running through the middle of a house?” architect Fred Wilson says of his clients’ adventuresome choice.



Successful marriage requires compromise—whether the union is between people or styles. Julie and Brian Saltzman followed that adage when planning their new kitchen. **“My husband loves the woodsy, ski lodge look,” Julie says, “but I prefer contemporary.”**

To wed their divergent tastes, the couple turned to architect Fred Wilson. **“The idea was to embody the warm, natural elements Brian favors through the materials we used and appeal to Julie’s more modern aesthetic by keeping the finishes and the profiles of those materials clean and simple,”** Wilson says. The result is a rustic yet sleek design that satisfies both sensibilities in a hardworking family kitchen.

Julie

Julie requested abundant storage for a clutter-free look. So Wilson paired open shelving with a walk-in pantry. "The pantry is where all the chaos happens," he says. Julie agrees. "I have the luxury of making the open storage pretty because I can organize all the clutter out of sight," she says. "Besides, all these wonderful architectural elements mean the kitchen looks great even when it's a mess."

Brian & Julie

Alder wood shelves appear to float against gently textured glass-tile walls. While the shelves' material is strictly his, their application is hers: Placing the shelves against a sky blue glass-tile backsplash adds to the room's many linear design aspects.





Julie

Clean-lined stainless-steel appliances punctuate the spacious room's otherwise natural materials. The steel range hood is dynamic in its simplicity. Cabinetry above conceals ductwork and transitions to touch-latch storage.



Brian

Heavily veined French limestone countertops offer a natural touch around the perimeter. Durable butcher block tops the island.



Julie

Julie runs her busy household from this convenient workstation. File drawers below the desktop corral bills, school notices, and paperwork to ensure the desktop stays tidy.

Kitchen

Julie

The hardware—stainless-steel pieces with long, slender silhouettes—brings contemporary flair to the natural-finish wood cabinetry.

Brian

Alder wood cabinetry and dark walnut floors express the room's organic nature. Unadorned by stain, paint, or distracting details, the woods' inherent assets, such as graining, are celebrated rather than camouflaged. "This kitchen is all about forgoing fussy embellishments in order to let the natural beauty of the materials become the ornament," Wilson says.





Brian & Julie

Near the range, windows—not walls—back glass-front cabinets to provide views of the lush landscape beyond. “Typically when you look through a glass cabinet, your eye stops and you notice the dishes,” Wilson says. “Here, your eye goes right through to nature, which becomes yet another ornament to the room.” The glass-front, steel-rim doors offer a sleek contrast to the view beyond.

Hide in Plain Sight

Busy cooks appreciate a variety of storage options. The Saltzmanns’ kitchen boasts abundant hidden storage as well as generous open shelving. “People are often hesitant about visible storage because they think they’re not tidy enough,” architect Fred Wilson says. “But really what it comes down to is buying and displaying all the same dishes. Then you’ve got a sculptural display that doesn’t have to be perfectly neat all the time.”



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