

“We wanted a great meeting place for our family. Not just for now, while the kids are young, but for many years”

STATEMENT STOVE

The kitchen range, in a striking and unconventional pale sea glass colour, was chosen before anything else. The range hood was designed with a traditional profile and moulding, and sleek, stainless steel detailing, and perfectly encapsulates the kitchen's aesthetic. **Range**, Viking; **Blue Willow china**, vintage **cakestands**, Cynthia Findlay Antiques.



The owners wanted a glam kitchen that would also suit life with two sons.



Designer Jennifer Worts had already designed a country home for these homeowners, and she knew the brief for their newly built city home would be different. This time, they wanted a more contemporary look — a new take on the classic bistro kitchen — that would still serve the needs of a busy family. In the kitchen, she began with dark floors and light walls. A row of classic white cabinetry with glass doors was punctuated with dark frames, giving the room a tailored effect. “We loved the appeal of a white kitchen but wanted to give it a graphic spin,” says Worts, “and those dark upper cabinet doors really transform the space.” A restaurant-style range in an unexpected pale sea glass hue and a large gooseneck faucet were high on the homeowner’s wish list, and give an industrial vibe to the room, while jewel-like handblown glass pendants and classic marble countertops add notes of luxury. In the dining area, a custom bench and table with strong, curved lines are paired with graphic art. The result is a kitchen that strikes a perfect balance of contrasts: light and dark, contemporary and traditional, glamorous and family-friendly.

BUTLER'S PANTRY

A separate pantry with an extra sink connects the kitchen to the dining room and provides more storage for china and crystal. **Ginger jar**, 1212 Decor; **seltzer bottles**, Cynthia Findlay Antiques; **tote**, Pottery Barn.





Cameron MacNeil answers your decorating questions.

Q Can you please help? I thought terracotta floor tiles would work, but I hate them. Unfortunately, I can't afford to take them out. I'd also like your ideas for lighting over my island and harvest table (not shown). And, if you're feeling adventurous... any recommendations for a backsplash and curtains?

— D.F., via email



It's in the Details

A toned-down palette and soft finishes give a kitchen new life.

A I have to tell you, I actually think your terracotta floor tiles work with the traditional panelled cabinetry and butcherblock countertops. So don't despair — what you have is a combination of classic finishes that you can easily build on!

I'm feeling adventurous, indeed, and have been thinking about a backsplash that'll work for you. A ceramic tile will really suit the classic feel of your kitchen. I like Walker Zanger's hand-painted ceramic tiles in Pagoda Cobalt (shown, left) or Dynasty Mocha Blue on Cream (shown). They both have a hint of terracotta and blue to tie in with your floor, and their pretty patterns will add an authentic artisanal quality. And the colours will also complement the red base of your island. Carry the tiles up to your range hood to create a nice focal point for the space.

Your windows are beautiful and look great unadorned. If you do want to soften them, go with a simple, single relaxed roman blind that

stretches across all three windows. As in our Inspiration shot, a red and gold floral, like GP & J Baker's Poppies (shown, left) will add a lovely punch of colour. Or, for texture, you could use Thom Filicia for Kravet Collections' embroidered Selina Sand (shown).

I love using floor runners in kitchens as a soft element; look for a banded neutral seagrass to place in front of your sink. Then add more warmth with a pair of pendants in a rubbed antique-brass finish hung over your island. Look for ones that have simple lines and a modern farmhouse feel, like the Chart House Sloane Street pendant (shown).

Sculptural white jugs and canisters are good for organizing utensils on the countertop and will suit the overall traditional-with-a-twist look of your kitchen.

CONTINUED

- 1. Chart House Sloane Street pendant, Visual Comfort.
- 2. Fabrics: GP & J Baker Poppies (left), Thom Filicia Selina Sand, Kravet.
- 3. Seagrass rug, Pottery Barn.
- 4. Sophie Conran pitcher, canister, Portmeirion.
- 5. Ceramic tiles, Walker Zanger.