

SUMMER 2026

House Beautiful

130
YEARS

THE KITCHEN ISSUE

More Personality. More Purpose.

Designer
Bridgid Williams
rewrites the
rules of luxury
kitchen design.
p. 32

Plus:

Statement Backsplashes p. 17

Innovative Islands p. 27

Designer-Level Details p. 40

Material World

Backsplashes are no longer simple utilitarian additions to the kitchen. Instead of opting for safe white subway tile, designers are approaching this as an opportunity for artistry, where everything from scale and color to texture and pattern can elevate your cook space to new heights. From shapely silhouettes and unexpected materiality—think brass, wood, or vibrantly colored marble—to hidden functionality, these designer-approved ideas are evidence that, sometimes, the backdrop is fit to be the star of the show. —*Alyssa Longobucco*

CURVES AHEAD

To bring romance back into the kitchen of a 1900s Victorian, designer Kristen Peña had her fabricator carve the marble backsplash to mimic the intricate shape of the custom metal hood.



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MAGIC ACT

Clean sight lines were the ultimate goal in this sleek cook space. To achieve that, Hilary Matt retrofitted a section of the Arabescato marble backsplash to create a sliding panel that opens to reveal spice storage.

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DOWN TO THE STUDS

To bring a bit of edge and a touch of European charm to this petite space, the team at C&M Interiors opted for a solid piece of unlacquered brass, edged with studs, that will patina over time.



QUILTED COMFORT

Inspired by a combination of Mediterranean warmth and Balinese soul, Dvira Ovadia played with pattern and color to customize a tile design that doubles as a conversation piece.



HANDMADE TOUCH

Channeling the spirit of Nantucket, Kaitlin McQuaide teamed cream-and-blue zellige tiles with custom Delft designs by Douglas Watson Studio, paying homage to the island and the homeowners.

HILARY MATT INTERIORS: RIKKI SNYDER. C&M INTERIORS: COREY HOGREE PHOTOGRAPHY. MCQUAIDE CO. INTERIOR DESIGN: MATT KISDAY. DVIRA INTERIORS: LAUREN MILLER.

↑
The Bianco Raffaello
marble island is
a generous space
for both prepping
and cooking.

←
Dishes sit pretty
in corner oak
cabinets with brass
lattice inlays.

DVIRA INTERIORS
Toronto

Blushing Beauty

Walls of pink tile, a scalloped backsplash, and glass shelves lighten up this old-world-inspired kitchen.

BUTLER'S PANTRY

Rosy cabinets and a coordinating striped wall-paper carry over the color scheme from the kitchen.



A range hood with gold detailing makes a bold statement; glass-and-brass shelves on either side add an industrial yet "sensual touch," Ovadia says.



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Dvira Ovadia thought she knew what she was walking into when a repeat client called on her firm to help imagine a new Toronto home. Ovadia already loved the client's style: elegant, timeless, refined. But there was a setback in the kitchen, where the ceiling had to be dropped due to immovable mechanical components. "We had to resize all the millwork while still preserving the proportions and architectural intent of the space," Ovadia recalls. The vision for the room was grand—layers of classic European charm, ample in-room seating, and a butler's pantry, all for which Ovadia had spent months sourcing materials. Not a single detail was compromised: The luxurious finished space features blush tile, a distinctive arched window and brass details that sparkle like jewelry. **"We treat every wall as an opportunity for design," Ovadia says. ■**

BREAKFAST NOOK
Twin tables and a built-in bench comfortably seat a crowd, while providing easy access through the middle.

Sconces cast a warm, low glow for late-night chats.

