

# THE ESSENTIALS

Solutions for the Busiest Rooms in the House



PHOTOGRAPHER PERNILLE LOOF STYLIST JENNIFER JONES CONDON TOWEL SHOP FOG LINEN. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES

KITCHEN OF THE MONTH

## Meet in the Middle

Holidays bring out the best in a Garden State kitchen, updated so the past is present.

KITCHEN OF THE MONTH

For the young family who purchased a 1905 Georgian Colonial in Madison, New Jersey, modernizing the peach-hued French-country kitchen (a '90s addition) meant traveling to the past. "We wanted the kitchen to be truer to the home's original history, but in a current way," says designer Jim Dove. "It's all about practicality when you have four children under age seven." With the room's original windows as the jumping-off point, Dove created a luxe, streamlined cooking space with a charming, vintage-feeling canopy hood. Glossy ebony cabinets add drama, while farmhouse sinks and a 10½-foot long island—it seats six!—easily handle meal prep when there's a crowd to feed. A butler's pantry in gleaming red "was a push-the-envelope decision," Dove says. "But it paid off—especially this time of year! What could be more festive?" —*Kathleen Renda*

1. LIGHTING

Seeded-glass Katie pendants by Thomas O'Brien for Visual Comfort "bring in subtle texture," Dove says. The brass finish also offers a contrast to the stainless steel of the Sub-Zero refrigerator and Wolf range.

2. COUNTERS

Caesarstone Calacatta Nuvo counters mimic the look of marble but are tough-wearing and low-maintenance. At a chunky 2½" thick, "they hold their own with the size of the island," Dove says. Removing the stools makes party fare easily accessible in the center of the kitchen.

3. CABINETS AND ISLAND

Since windows flood the space with light, Ralph Lauren Paint's Bone Black "doesn't feel somber," Dove says. He adds that the lacquer finish "helps bounce light around."

4. BACKSPASH

A posh take on subway tiles, Pratt & Larson crackled ceramic tiles are glazed a pale blue to echo the Benjamin Moore Nelson Blue on the walls.

Lacquer deflects kid-inflicted wear and tear.



The overscale island is now a convenient spot for party buffets during the holidays. Custom cabinets, Dove Design Studio. Range hood, Amoré. Faucets, Rohl. **RIGHT, FROM TOP:** Gold-flecked porcelain by Bernardaud sets a festive scene; vases, Oscar de la Renta Home; checkerboard cake, William Greenberg Desserts. A pair of panel-front Bosch dishwashers and two Rohl Shaws farmhouse sinks expedite cleanup; rug, Stanton. A chic lazy Susan from Ballard Designs helps partygoers reach their favorite snacks; cheese knife, Crate & Barrel.

# THE ESSENTIALS

## KITCHEN OF THE MONTH



1

### SMALL AND STYLISH

While the butler's pantry appears to date to the 1900s, the cabinetry—in Ralph Lauren Paint's Duke Red—is new. Designer Michael Maher, who worked on the rest of the home's interiors, introduced visual oomph with a custom bronze paint on the ceiling and Elizabeth Dow's Chanel Indigo wallpaper. Coated with Teflon, the geometric-print linen wipes clean.

2

### PARTY-READY

Staining the richly grained walnut counters in a dark finish “warmed up the pantry,” says Dove. On New Year's Eve, the space morphs into a self-serve cocktail station. Kaymet tray from Barneys New York; julep cup and vase, Oscar de la Renta Home; Fortuny Farnese bowl, L'Objet; Moritz nut bowl, Aerin; peppermint sticks, Rose's Candy Company.

3

### EASY ORGANIZING

Optimized for entertaining, the pantry offers quick access to frequently used party essentials like platters and stemware and includes two refrigerator drawers for chilling extra beverages. The unlacquered-brass Hamilton Sinkler drawer pulls, polished before holiday get-togethers, “play off the metallic ceiling,” Dove says.