

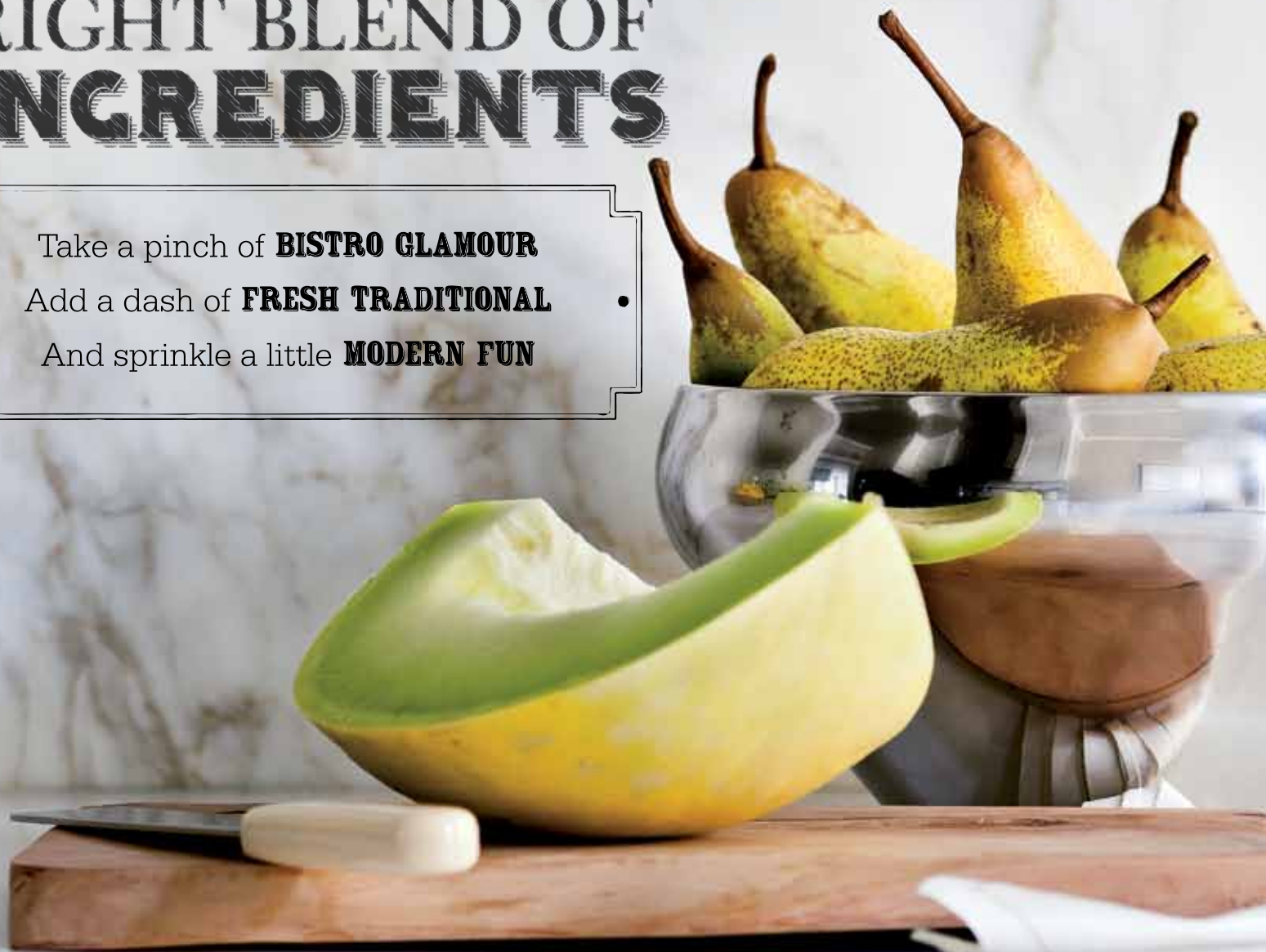
3 designer KITCHENS

with the
RIGHT BLEND OF
INGREDIENTS

Take a pinch of **BISTRO GLAMOUR**

• Add a dash of **FRESH TRADITIONAL** •

And sprinkle a little **MODERN FUN**



1



PRETTY FUNCTIONAL

Toronto designer Elle Jungkind cooks up a visual feast in her own kitchen that speaks to both traditional and modern sensibilities.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | PHOTOGRAPHY DONNA GRIFFITH | STYLING JESSICA WAKS



Elegant and light filled, the charming Toronto kitchen of Elle Jungkind looks like something that could be found in a New York apartment or a Parisian pied-à-terre, so it's hard to believe it developed out of something a little more mundane. "It all started with the introduction of Toronto's recycling services," says Elle, who owns the interior design firm Elle Maison Design. Her kitchen couldn't accommodate a recycling container, a green compost bucket and a garbage can, so she set out to fix the problem. "I had seen those clever trash compartments that are part of new kitchens and they could easily go underneath my sink."

But, Elle figured, why stop there? After all, the kitchen in her Georgian-style townhouse (published in *Style at Home's* May 2004 issue) had become dated, she felt, and there were things she could do to enhance both its functionality and aesthetic. For example, Elle, an avid cook and entertainer, could use more counter space. Also, she thought, why not replace the wall oven and microwave with a gorgeous high-end range? And with the wall oven gone, she could install a pantry with slide-out drawers. "That's what really got me going," says Elle.

Inspired by New York City bistros (she loves the industrial appliances, the expanses of marble, the chunky

white dishes and the organic hits that define this style), Elle included a mix of contemporary and traditional elements in a light, monochromatic palette to create a classic look.

"Because it's a small space, I didn't want to get distracted by a lot of stops and starts of anything," she says. So, along with her all-white custom cabinetry, she incorporated slabs of marble for the backsplash (as opposed to "choppy-looking" tile), an extra-thick white quartz countertop and a large single undermount sink. "One of the things I found was that when I entertained I would have these big platters and, with my double sink, I could never wash them properly," she says. "I wanted a place where I could just put something like that down and let it soak for a few hours."

Indeed, everything about this kitchen, including its under-sink garbage system, is practical. The cabinetry is organized with the slide-out drawers she wanted; the countertop, which Elle extended on one side, allows her more prep space and an area to set out food for guests; and the substantial gooseneck faucet also makes it easier to fill and clean up pots. "I've crowded so many important features into my kitchen that it doesn't act like a small space," says Elle. "Not only is it pretty, but it's also really functional."

1. The kitchen – a galley that flows into the more formal dining room – is chock full of practical features that make it easy for homeowner and designer Elle Jungkind to host parties and entertain guests.

DESIGN, Elle Maison Design, ellemaison.ca; **CABINETS, HARDWARE**, Kitchen Designers Plus; Viking **APPLIANCES**, Caplan's Appliances; **SINK, FAUCET**, Taps Bath Centre.

2. The dome light fixture lends a decidedly modern look to the kitchen and, with its round shape, balances the space's square lines.

Stony Ground 211 **WALL PAINT**, Farrow & Ball; **PENDANT LIGHT**, Royal Lighting; **TABLE, CHAIRS, STOOLS**, ISA International; Ming Fret **STOOL FABRIC** in Taupe, Robert Allen; Fornasetti **PLATES**, AT Design Group.

3. The kitchen's mix of white recess-panelled cabinetry, marble backsplash, chunky quartz countertops and show-stopping commercial-style stove offers a look that's classic, bright and warm. Calacatta Oro marble **BACKSPLASH**, quartz **COUNTERTOPS** in Blizzard, Marble and Granite Stonecraft.

4. Elle's British Blue cat, Bettina, enjoys the kitchen's eating area, which is defined by modern elements that enhance the room's contemporary look. The upholstered stools add a graphic punch and create an attractive sightline from the dining room.

5. All-wood custom pullout storage allows Elle easier access to her dishes and pantry items. "Because I have so many dishes and things, I wanted drawers so I could see it all at a glance," she says.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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FAMILY TIES

Calgary designer Aly Velji considers the needs and tastes of a family of four to satisfy their every kitchen craving.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | PHOTOGRAPHY STACEY VAN BERKEL-HAINES

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With its glass-tiled backsplash, all-white cabinetry and luxurious quartz and marble countertops, this decidedly chic kitchen (inspired by one the homeowner, funnily enough, saw in the pages of *Style at Home*) doesn't exactly shout "suitable for kids." But that's exactly what it is.

Creating a bright, family-friendly space had been a top priority since Sarah and Aaron Smith, both engineers, moved into this Calgary home about three years ago. (They now share the house with their two sons, Bennett, 3, and Connor, 1.) Originally, the room, with its overbearing cabinetry, felt very dark and confined. Flow between the kitchen and dining area was awkward, and features like an ineffectual pass-through on one side and low-hanging cabinetry on another didn't help. "If people were standing on the other side of the counter, they had to duck down below the cabinets to see you," says Sarah.

When it came time to gut the dated kitchen, the couple called on designer Aly Velji, whom they met when they needed help picking paint colours for their former home. Five years and several room renos later, they knew they could trust Aly to help realize their vision. "We wanted to make the

kitchen kid-friendly but also make it look current and really fresh," says Aly, "so that's the approach we took."

First things first: the walls enclosing the kitchen came down and the dining area's vaulted ceiling was evened out, streamlining the resulting 16-by-21-foot space. With functionality an enormous consideration, the new traditional cabinetry – the homeowners didn't want to go too modern in their 1960s house – was packed with handy custom storage.

The mix of modern and traditional elements creates a timeless aesthetic, and some eclectic decorative touches, such as a row of glass globe pendant lights and Roman shades with a modern trellis pattern, work to elevate the kitchen's inviting charm. "I'm always looking to do something a little bit different and unexpected," says Aly.

But it seems the most unexpected thing about this undeniably sophisticated space is just how kid-friendly it really is: The glass backsplash is easy to clean, the stools are covered in stain-resistant microsuede and the ample marble-topped island offers the perfect spot for casual meals. "In the end, we were able to create a kitchen that doesn't look 'kiddish' but in fact can be used by a family," says Sarah.

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1. Homeowners Sarah and Aaron Smith's former kitchen felt dark, confined and dated. To create a bright, fresh space with better flow, walls were taken down and the space was decorated in a light palette.

DESIGN, Alykhan Velji Designs, alyveljidesigns.com; HARDWARE, Banbury Lane Design Centre; Caesarstone quartz COUNTERTOPS in Concrete, Carrara marble ISLAND COUNTERTOP, glass BACKSPLASH TILES, Icon Stone & Tile; Blanco SINK, Hansgrohe FAUCET & SOAP DISPENSER, The Royal Flush; filtered water FAUCET, Culligan; Cyan Design Janus PENDANT LIGHTS, Carrington Lighting; STOOLS, 4living; FLOWERS (throughout), Lil' Pink Daisy Florals.

2. The brown-stained oak floors and dark grey quartz countertop add warmth and depth. "Plus, quartz is a nice feature because it's very durable," says Sarah. Designed with function in mind, the cabinetry houses elements like a pullout wine rack, spice rack and garbage drawer.

Red oak HARDWOOD FLOORING with coffee stain, Homestyle Hardwood Floors; Threads Zenith Reverse ROMAN SHADE FABRIC in Dove, Kravet/Lee Jofa Showroom.

3. A wall of cabinetry surrounding the fridge and double ovens includes a pantry with handy pullout shelves.

Miele APPLIANCES, Sharp MICROWAVE, Jerome's Appliance Gallery.

4. The dark grey quartz countertop helps to ground the all-white cabinetry and allows for accessories to really stand out.

5. The stacked pale-blue glass subway tiles and stainless steel appliances, which were chosen for their function and sleek look, says Sarah, juxtaposes the kitchen's traditional cabinetry.

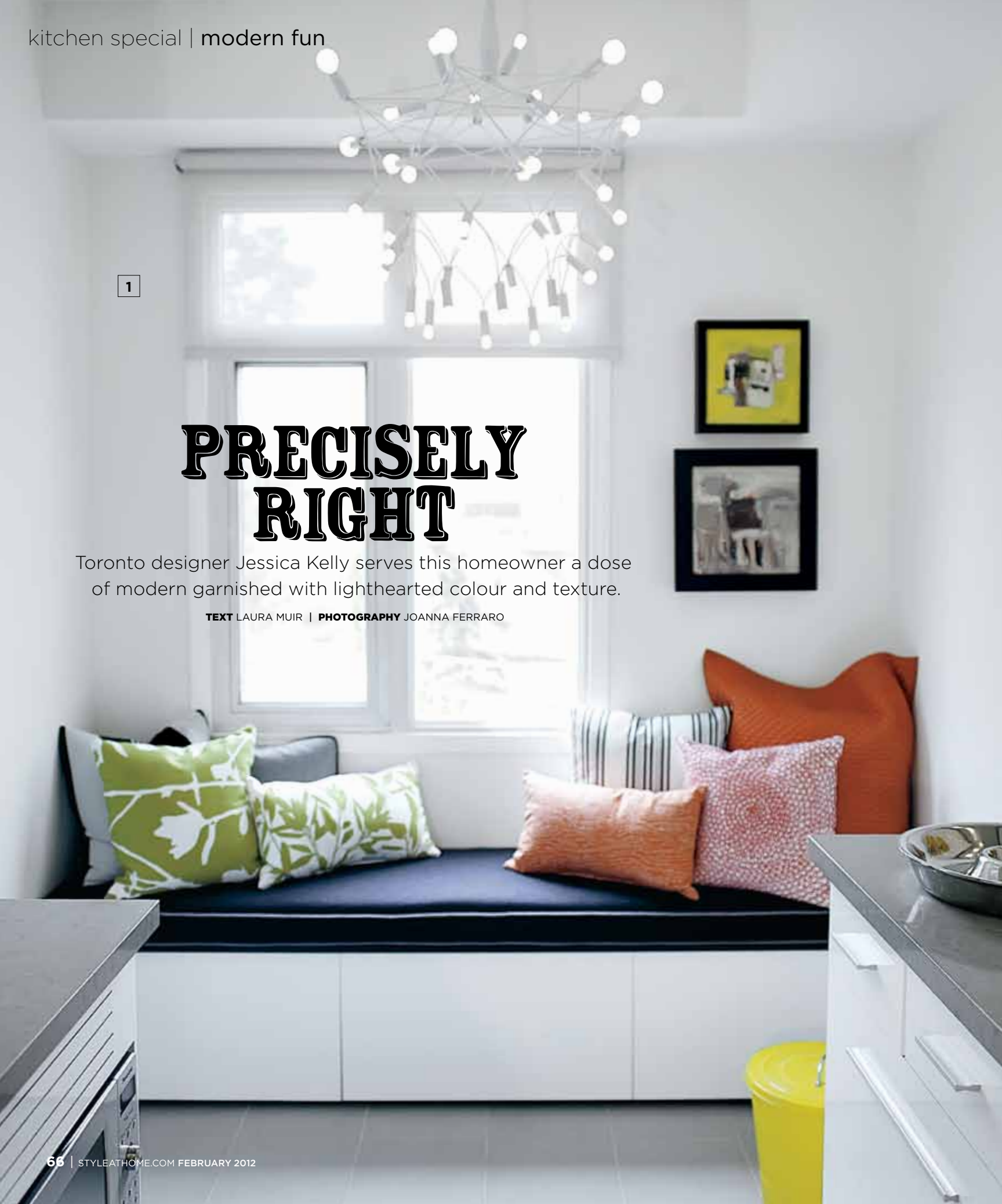
FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

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PRECISELY RIGHT

Toronto designer Jessica Kelly serves this homeowner a dose of modern garnished with lighthearted colour and texture.

TEXT LAURA MUIR | PHOTOGRAPHY JOANNA FERRARO



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1. Defining the eating area, the banquette contains three drawers for extra storage. It also provided designer Jessica Kelly with an opportunity to include a variety of cushions, which adds extra colour and also softens the sleek, industrial look of the space.

DESIGN, Jessica Kelly Design, jessicakelly-design.com; **BANQUETTE CABINETRY**, IKEA; **BANQUETTE FABRICATION**, JD McNicoll Interiors; **SEAT CUSHION**, Quality Upholstery.

2. The airy chandelier by Patrick Townsend, which homeowner Christopher Craib dubbed “splash-tastic,” anchors the eating area and complements the contemporary kitchen.

3. Covering an entire wall in tumbled marble gives this kitchen its “wow” factor. Also, passing on upper cabinetry left room to install the substantial chef-style faucet.

CABINETRY, IKEA; **HARDWARE**, Métal Style Bouvet; tumbled marble **BACKSPLASH**, porcelain **FLOOR TILES**, Olympia Tile & Stone; **Caesarstone COUNTERTOPS** in Stone Grey, Allset Interiors; **SINK, FAUCET**, Blanco; **Panasonic MICROWAVE**, The Bay.

4. With a monochromatic backdrop, you can easily change a kitchen’s look with colourful accents without having to spend a bundle, says Christopher.

5. The sleek appliances and all-white high-gloss cabinetry were offset with a tumbled marble backsplash, which provides interest and texture. “We also went for glass-front upper cabinets to mix it up a bit and add dimension,” says Jessica. “I like how their metal frames tie in with the stainless steel appliances.”

Bosch STOVE & RANGE HOOD, Fisher & Paykel **REFRIGERATOR**, The Bay.

FOR SOURCES, SEE OUR WORKBOOK

Preparing for a kitchen renovation is definitely a time to dream – to think of how that brand new stainless steel range, show-stopping backsplash or even extra counter space will make life just that much better. But for a Bay Street financier, it’s also a time for prudence. When Christopher Craib, the chief financial officer of a securities firm in Toronto, decided it was time to overhaul the builder-boring kitchen in his 10-year-old west-end condo, his plan involved more than just updating the look.

“I had to consider I was renovating in a condo and wanted to spend my money wisely,” says Christopher, who has been living in his 1,600-square-foot condo for eight years. “You have to be careful not to overspend for your building if you want to get your money back in the future, so I was mindful of those constraints.” For Christopher, cautious spending meant keeping the reno simple (“I didn’t want to have to move plumbing or make major structural changes”), mixing high and low elements and creating a modern look that lasts. So he enlisted Toronto designer Jessica Kelly to make sure he got it all right the first time.

To create a contemporary, slightly industrial aesthetic, Jessica incorporated all-white high-gloss cabinetry, grey quartz countertops and over-

sized porcelain floor tiles. Giving the kitchen its standout appeal, tumbled marble serves as the backsplash on one side of the kitchen and creates a captivating feature wall, which was kept free of any upper cabinetry, unlike the other. It was a big decision, but Christopher bucked the trend of open-concept condo living and chose not to take down the nine-foot-long wall separating the kitchen and dining room. Instead, Jessica pared back two half walls that slightly separated the kitchen from the eat-in nook and created a more open, streamlined 18-by-eight-foot galley space.

While the relationship between designer and homeowner was extremely simpatico during the process, there was one bit of controversy. “I was against doing a banquette in the eating area,” says Christopher. “I didn’t want to invest money in a built-in because, if I sell the place, I can’t take it with me.” He’s glad he changed his mind, because with the kitchen now being his favourite room in the condo, the banquette offers him a spot to sit and enjoy the space. “I have coffee there, I read there,” he says. “I’ve even managed to have a nap.”

So, as Christopher proves, it’s important to let self-indulgence sometimes win over prudence. “Ultimately, I built this kitchen for myself.”

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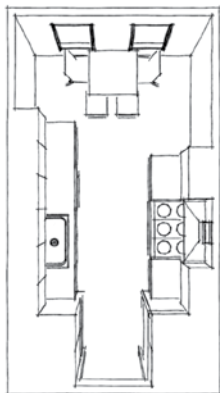


With a designer's touch, these three kitchens went from unappetizing to delectable thanks to refreshed floor plans and à la carte looks.

THE BEFORE



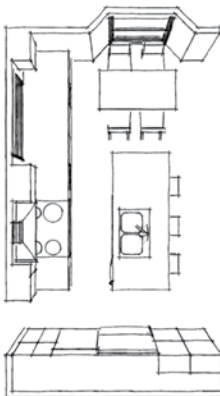
THE PLAN



The layout of this 136-square-foot kitchen remained the same, but replacing the wall oven and microwave with a high-end range allowed for a useful pantry.

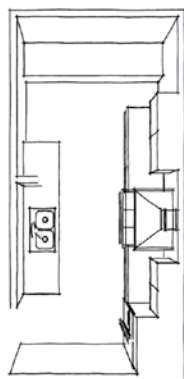
THE LOOK

BISTRO GLAMOUR



To create better flow in this 336-square-foot space, walls were taken down - one had an ineffectual pass-through and another was essentially a counter with awkward overhang cabinets.

FRESH TRADITIONAL



Forgoing an open-concept cooking/dining area, two half walls were removed to create a more open, galley-style kitchen, resulting in a 144-square-foot space.

MODERN FUN



PHOTOGRAPHY: VIRGINIA MACDONALD; ILLUSTRATIONS: ASHLEY BRAUN