

KITCHENS BY DESIGN



Inspired by the country location, designer Paula Arsens chose durable granite countertops, maple cabinets that were painted, glazed and rubbed for a rustic look, and a wood floor made from reclaimed fir planks. In this well-designed kitchen, everything is useful. At the end of the counter, a special cabinet displays glassware and other items, and hides the family toaster oven, while exposed beams conceal task lighting and visually separate the kitchen from the dining area. The island features a wine rack, large work area, and purified-water tap for prepping vegetables. The range hood hides both the exhaust fan and vent, and a gooseneck faucet and farmhouse-style sink accommodate pots and pans easily.

"This renovated kitchen is a perfect marriage of form and function"



WHILE the original U-shape kitchen in this rural-Vancouver home was nice looking, "there was only room for one person," says designer Paula Arsens. Originally hired to rework the space, with input from her clients, she redesigned it to offer equal parts style and substance for the family of four.



Relaxed country

For Paula, kitchen design is all about organization. This is apparent in the remodelled L-shape layout, where there's now more than just a designated space for carrying out every task (food prep, cooking and washing up), there's a special place for everything in the kitchen. The island, which is designed as the prep area, is a perfect example. It

contains a sink, cutlery tray, pullout shelves that hold willow baskets for storing potatoes and onions, drawers for table linens, and at one end of the island, a secret cupboard that was created solely for holding the children's favourite cereals. Not surprisingly, there's even a place of honour for the family's well-loved and well-used toaster oven. ■