

DREAM 1 Kitchens & Baths

Best *of the* Best
30 Timeless Looks

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Open to a family room with views of Chesapeake Bay, the kitchen is bathed in natural light that illuminates its carved moldings and trim.

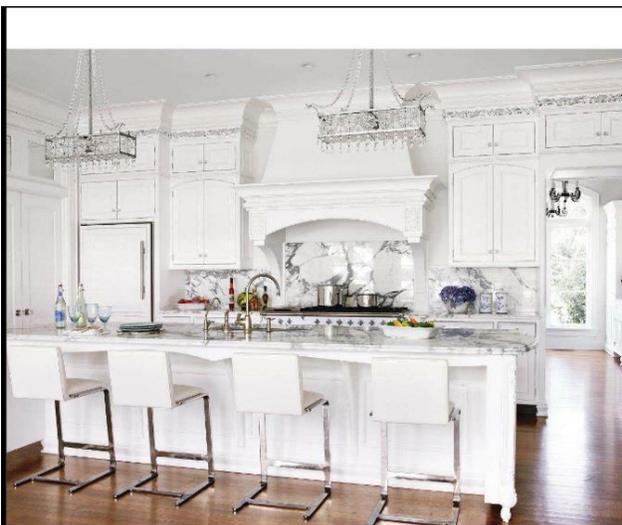
Twice as Nice

A lot of new homes feature fabulous kitchens, but this Maryland home includes two. Placed back to back, the two kitchens create efficient zones for everyday meals and glamorous entertaining. The main kitchen serves as an inviting spot for regular family dinners and offers great views of Chesapeake Bay; the smaller, secondary kitchen provides abundant prep space for formal entertaining, cleverly hiding the mess of cooking from guests' view. Both work zones showcase an elegant white-on-white French theme, ensuring that regardless of the occasion, sophisticated style will always be on the menu.

"We call this the White House," says architect Scarlett Breeding, who devised the back-to-back kitchen plan. "What's remarkable is that this white theme, with sophisticated French detailing, extends everywhere."

Kitchen designer Brad Creer brought the home's theme into the kitchen work zones with intricate detailing and classic forms and materials. The primary kitchen wall includes a French range with a custom hood, flanked by identical cabinets that introduce formal symmetry. The paneled refrigerator stands on

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ABOVE: Marble counters and backsplashes add neutral drama to the room's traditional cabinetry, while dual chandeliers add sparkle. The doorway on the right leads to the prep kitchen.

OPPOSITE: A French range and custom hood anchor the kitchen's primary wall and set the room's sophisticated tone.

one side of the range, while a walk-through at the other end leads into the adjoining prep kitchen.

The primary kitchen's adjacent wall features a wealth of floor-to-ceiling storage for dishes and kitchen essentials. At the center, an arch-top glass-front cabinet and a marble backsplash add furniture-style detailing that speaks of traditional elegance.

At the top of both walls, silver-leaf carved wood molding enhances the room's sophistication and unites the lichen cabinets and the home's formal crown molding. "Working cabinets into these elaborate moldings required spe-

cial transitional detailing," Creer says. "Silver-leaf" carved wood decoration makes it work."

At the center of the main kitchen, the island provides functional prep and seating space, even as it amplifies the room's luxurious drama. Enhanced by carved moldings and decorative feet, it's topped by a book-matched statuary Venato marble top. "Two slabs of marble were sliced like bread to form matching pieces, then opened like a book and placed side-by-side," Creer says.

To one side of the island, a circular banquette offers additional eating and lounging space, which the homeowners





ABOVE: A wall of cabinets extending to the ceiling offers abundant storage, even though the cabinets are only 12 inches deep. Curvy feet and arch-top glass doors give the center unit the look of freestanding furniture.

use as a breakfast area. Upholstered in white faux leather, it complements the cooking zone's sophisticated look but also holds up well to the rigors of everyday life that include three children, a dog, and a cat.

The prep kitchen, although mostly hidden from view, retains the same elegant character of the primary cooking and entertaining space. It features the same traditional white cabinetry with beaded inset doors, glass cabinet knobs, and complementary marble countertops and backsplash. Outfitted with its own sink, dishwasher, and refrigerator, the prep area serves as an efficient staging

and cleanup area that's ideal for any size of gathering.

Although one kitchen could have been enough for these engaging hosts, two kitchens create the ultimate entertaining space. An elegant outer kitchen provides plenty of hardworking function, but it keeps the practical features well-hidden behind sophisticated details. One could say this pairing is like the perfect host or hostess: thinking of every detail to set guests at ease, but making everything look effortless.

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1 A band of carved wood embellished with silver leaf helps ease the transition between the separate cabinetry and the room's substantial crown molding. 2 Crystal chandeliers above the island enhance the kitchen's glamour and complement glass knobs and pulls on the cabinetry. 3 Carved details bring a refined air to the custom hood, uniting it with a matching cabinet. 4 The family room fireplace extends the kitchen's white-on-white palette and its focus on sophisticated French detailing. 5 The prep kitchen features all the elegance of the main cooking zone, as well as many of the same components, including a sink, refrigerator, and dishwasher. 6 Intricate medallions and molding elevate the kitchen's classic white cabinetry into an artistic statement. 7 Statuary kerato motifs on the countertop and backsplash introduce a distinctive veining pattern that complements the room's traditional elegance. 8 Countertop feet and carved details give the island the look of fine furniture.