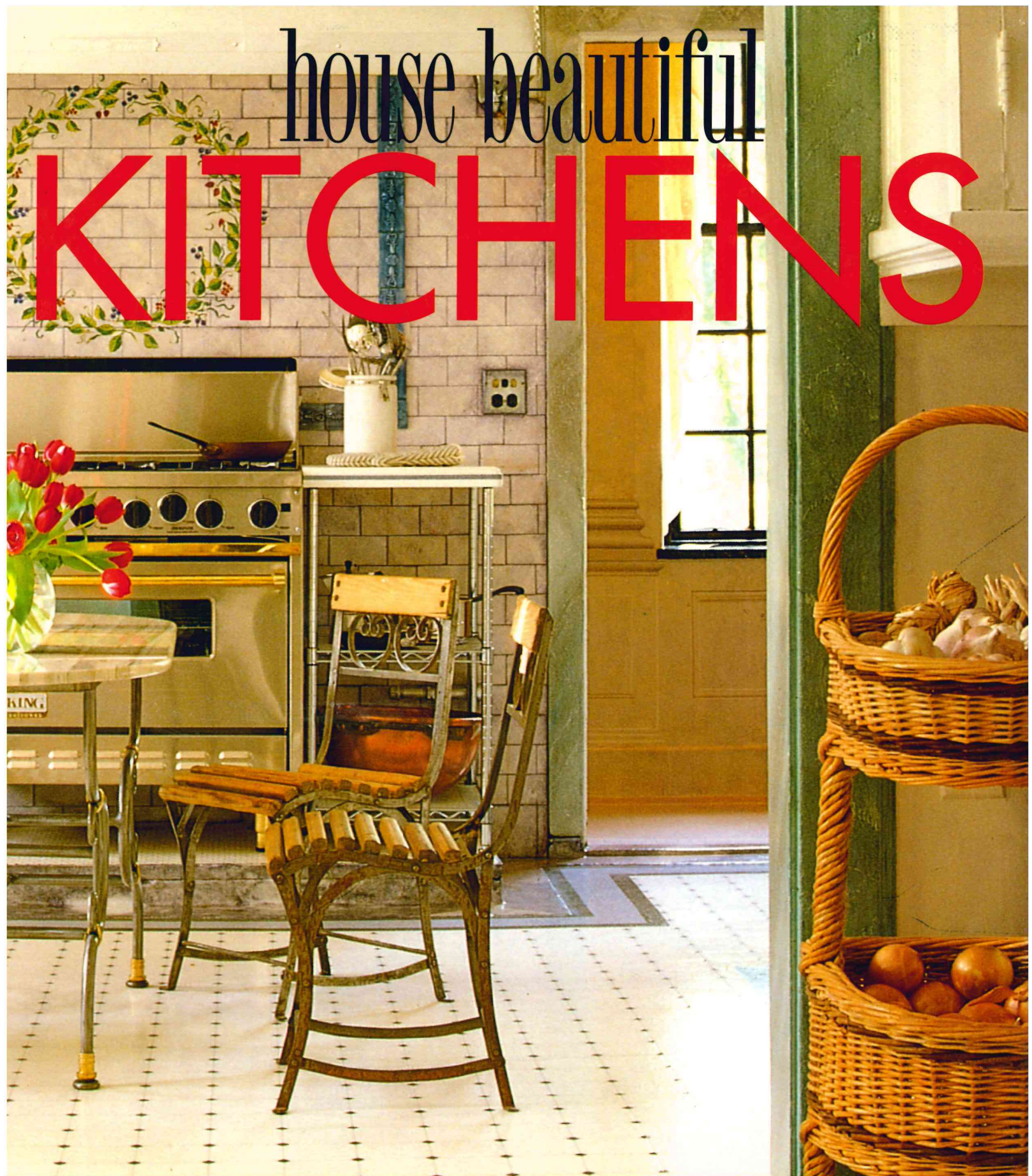


house beautiful

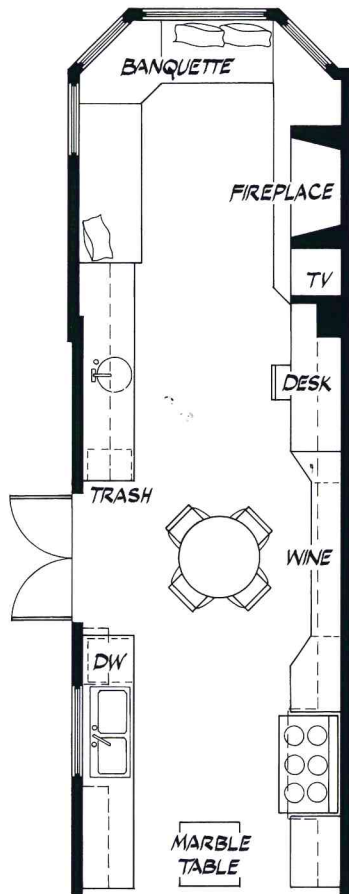
KITCHENS



great style series



From bleak house to chic house



A granite-topped pedestal table effectively divides the long kitchen into two areas, one for food preparation and one for dining and socializing (opposite). The custom-made wine rack provides a pleasing break on a 40-foot-long wall.

a variety of classic materials and finishes proved to be the key in helping designer Daen Scheiber solve the unique challenge of remodeling a long, narrow kitchen in a four-story San Francisco house dating from 1902. The room measures 40 feet long but only 11 feet wide, so the primary challenge was to avoid a bowling-alley look. At the same time, says the designer, “The clients wanted modern conveniences, but they didn’t want the kitchen to look more modern than the Edwardian-era house it was in.”

A previous owner had updated the kitchen in the 1970s, adding butcher-block counters and tile floors, but the present owners found the space dark and unwelcoming, woefully short on storage, and lacking any distinguishing architectural characteristics.

By breaking the space into clearly defined zones and by introducing handcrafted details and a range of color finishes, Scheiber created a utilitarian kitchen plan with all the work areas, living space, and storage the family needed, but one that made for an inviting and homey setting as well. Drawers and cabinets were tailored to fit every tool and utensil in the cook’s batterie de cuisine. A toaster and microwave oven were built into cabinets near the dining table. The designer also created a visually arresting wine rack as an adjunct to the basement wine cellar.

What makes the kitchen as attractive as it is functional is the selection of materials for

the room's surfaces, and the choice of a variety of both complementary and contrasting finishes. Raised paneling on the oak cabinets conveys the immediate impression of hand-crafted furniture, and the addition of crown molding to the upper casework heightens the effect. A teal tint added to the whitewash gives the wood an antique look and breaks the monotony that might otherwise exist in a room with so much wood surface.

Pink granite lends a turn-of-the-century character to the countertops. The polished surface, apart from being practical for kitchen chores, provides an elegant contrast to the stainless steel of the appliances and pewter of the vintage armchairs around the dining area table. And all the reflective surfaces contribute to the room's sunny atmosphere.

Limestone-tile backsplashes were chosen to finish off the counters. With its diamond-shaped granite insets, this surface offsets the room's solid surfaces with pattern and texture.

The front end of the room, with sink, dishwasher, and an antique baker's table, is the food preparation area. The back end of the room, with the granite-topped table, a counter that becomes a coffee bar for parties, and a window banquette, is the dining and entertaining sphere. Under the banquette is storage for the board games frequently played in the adjoining family room.

If proof was needed as to the redesign's effectiveness, two parties given immediately following the renovation provided it. The kitchen was the pivotal room for each gathering and handled nearly 150 guests on each occasion without a hitch.



A built-in granite-topped desk with file storage creates precious space for family paperwork.



A commercial range, its sidewalls insulated for residential use, fits safely between kitchen cabinets.



Hardwood planks replaced Mexican tile on the kitchen floor, adding warmth and reducing the noise level. A pass-through

at the sink, a pair of glass doors opening onto the side yard, and a large arched window help make a very narrow room seem

more spacious. An antique baker's table and a set of 1920s pewter armchairs invest the room with vintage character.