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Engaged Media Inc.

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Fresh Feel

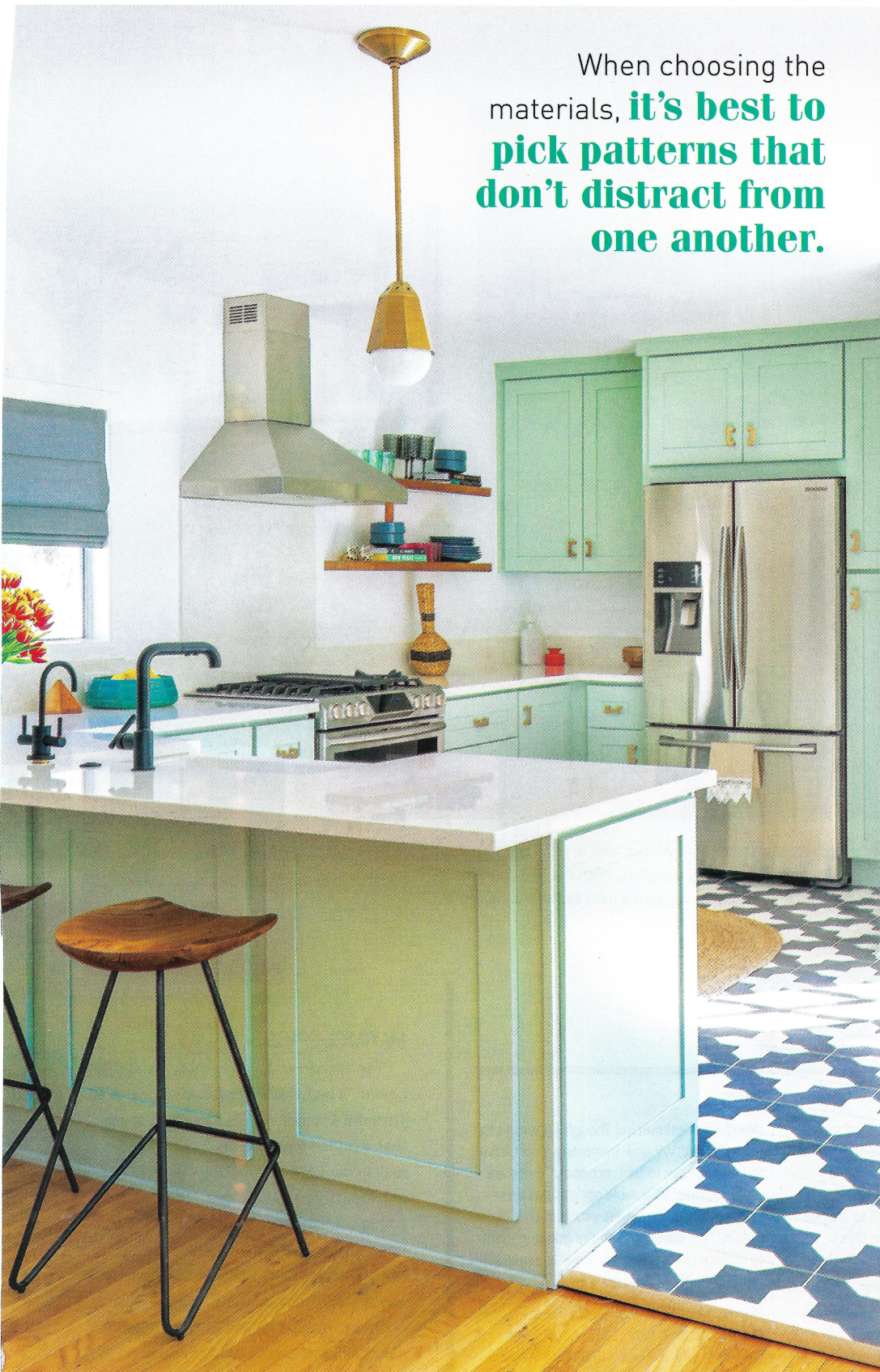
Discover how to use your space efficiently
and get the most out of your kitchen size.



This 1940s Spanish home in the San Fernando Valley of Los Angeles wasn't always this bright and cheerfully modern. When the young homeowner found an opportunity to redo a room in the house, her first choice was the kitchen. That's when Caitlin Murray of Black Lacquer Design stepped in.



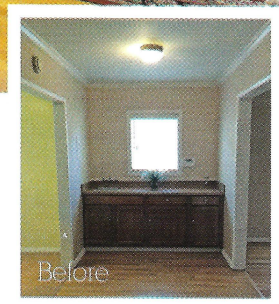
When choosing the materials, **it's best to pick patterns that don't distract from one another.**



The existing kitchen was dark and enclosed, with two small windows and a wall separating it from the dining room. Caitlin replaced one of the small windows with glass French doors that lead to the backyard, allowing natural light to enter and help brighten the kitchen. The black-and-white Mediterranean cement tile is bold and balances the solid-colored kitchen with pattern.



This alcove sits right next to the kitchen and stores the washer and dryer. The cabinet doors hide the machines and provide pullout drawers for laundry supplies. With the flat countertop, this space doubles as a buffet area during friends' and family visits, as it's next to the dining room.



Save vs. Splurge

Learn where to save and where to spend.

SPLURGE

Flooring: This is where you can afford to go big and get what you want. "Flooring takes up a lot of real estate, so it makes a big impact on the space," says Caitlin. "It needs to be able to handle abuse," so choose something durable, like the cement tiles in this kitchen.

Plumbing Fixtures: They may be smaller than your cabinets and stove, but fixtures play a big role in the style and function of your kitchen. "Quality is crucial to the functionality of your kitchen, and the faucet is a focal point," says Caitlin.

SAVE

Window Treatments: Though important to the aesthetic, window treatments don't have to be expensive to be functional. "There are great-looking, affordable options out there that work well for a mess-prone space," says Caitlin. "It's something you're going to want to replace every few years anyway, especially if you go with a fabric material."

Hardware: "Cabinet pulls are like the jewelry of your kitchen," says Caitlin, "and it's an easy, cost-effective place to make a dramatic difference." Use fresh brass and copper finishes for a cheaper, yet stylish option.

MAXIMIZE SPACE

"The kitchen was in a pretty bad state," says Caitlin. "It hadn't been updated since the '80s." They did a complete remodel of the space that spanned four months and included major changes like knocking out walls and moving doors and windows. "The client is a young woman, and she wanted something open, airy and eclectic—nothing specific to one style," says Caitlin. "The original kitchen was tiny and cramped with a strange layout." A wall separated the kitchen from the dining room, and there was a washer and dryer in the corner. "It was a big waste of space, because there wasn't any storage," says Caitlin.

cottage kitchens



Reasonable Renovation

Use Caitlin's tips to achieve your dream kitchen.

- 1. COHESIVE CONTRIBUTIONS.** Before you make any renovation decisions, look at what you already have. "Consider the style of your home. It's important to make things cohesive before you start," says Caitlin.
- 2. HOUSE BONES.** "Kitchens have architectural details, so start there," says Caitlin. You'll want to make sure the style you're planning complements the existing details.
- 3. BLACK AND WHITE.** Don't forget to add some dark tones, even if you want a bright kitchen. "Fresh doesn't need to be all light," says Caitlin. "What's fresh is the contrast of elements, so black will make the whites feel fresher."
- 4. WHITE WALLS.** "You can never go wrong with white paint," she says. Not only will white walls make your kitchen feel clean and bright, it will allow you more creativity with your décor colors.
- 5. FUNCTION, NOT FUTURE.** Don't stress about choosing a design that will still look new in 30 years. "Everything changes, and everything is always going to look dated eventually," says Caitlin. "Cater to your present life and what makes you happy now. Make it a reflection of who you are and how you want to spend your time."

This kitchen has an unusual backsplash that doesn't span the entire wall. "I eliminated uppers along the wall where the range was," says Caitlin. "I didn't want it to be heavy and closed in. The compromise is modern and clean and doesn't distract from the floor tile." They went "chunkier" with the strip to make it look purposeful and protect the wall from oil splashes. A farmhouse sink balances modern and traditional, softening the space.

“Due to the limited space in the house, **every area has to serve multiple functions.**”



SMALL TO SPACIOUS

To improve the use of space, she moved the washer and dryer to the wet-bar area right outside the kitchen and replaced them with a desk area. "Due to the limited space in the house, every area has to serve multiple functions," says Caitlin. The desk is great for work, but can also be used for prepping food. The new washer/dryer area is a miniature laundry room and can double as a buffet area when friends visit. To open up the kitchen, they replaced a small window with French doors that allow light to shine through the glass. They also knocked down one of the walls, but were cautious not to create a layout that was too modern. "We needed a balance between opening up the floor plan and keeping the integrity of the small vintage house," says Caitlin.

STYLE MIX

To complement the vintage feel of the rest of the home, Caitlin worked with a soft color palette. "I didn't want anything to be too shiny or new, so we stayed away from gold and went with brushed copper accents," she says. "The basic Shaker style is always the answer to in-between styles." When trying to achieve a fresh and eclectic style, it can be difficult to know where to begin. "Every element depends on every other element, so I have to design it all at the same time," Caitlin says. When choosing the materials, it's best to pick patterns that don't distract from one another. "You have to pick what you want to be the star and the supporting cast," she says. "The tile was the statement piece, and we went from there." Caitlin also made sure to create a balance with the color palette. The walls, counters and cabinets are bright, so she added matte black plumbing fixtures, a chair, stools and black-and-white tile to balance the look and make the bright colors stand out. **CB**

| ABOVE LEFT | For added color, you can never go wrong with some greenery, flowers or a painting. Use these changeable items to give your kitchen balance. If the space feels loud or bold, soften it with some solid-colored décor. If it's missing a pattern or color, find some wall art that complements the existing color scheme.

| ABOVE | Caitlin added a work desk to the other side of the kitchen. "I love to create zones, even in a small space," she says. Instead of a floor-to-ceiling pantry, this extra counter space is perfect for computer work, meal prep and even folding laundry. The cabinets are used for storing food and other household items.

SOURCES

EXTRA, Page 10

Pure & Simple:

Boardwalk tile: *Mediterranea*. Visit mediterranea-usa.com.

Driftwood Seahorse: *Bella Coastal Décor*. (877) 436-9098 or bellacoastaldecor.com.

Glass countertops: *Dakota Surfaces*. (612) 968-1412 or dakotasurfaces.com.

Grasscloth wallpaper: *Thibaut*. (973) 643-1118 or thibautdesign.com.

Porcelain tile: *Datile*. Visit datile.com.

Rope mirror: *Wayfair*. (844) 683-6389 or wayfair.com.

Shell tile: *Artistic Tile*. (212) 727-9331 or artistictile.com.

FRESH FEEL, Page 34

Cabinet hardware: *Atlas Homewares U-Turn Pull in Champagne*. (800) 799-6755 or atlashomewares.com.

Desk chair: *Kartell*. Visit kartell.com.

Faucet and sink: *Kohler*. Visit kohler.com.

Floating shelves, bar stools, kitchen rug: *Anthropologie*. (800) 309-2500 or anthropologie.com.

Floor tile: *Granada Tile*. (213) 788-4238 or granadatile.com.

Pendant lights: *Arteriors*. (800) 338-2150 or arteriorshome.com.

Paint: Cabinets: *Gray Wisp*; *Wall, ceiling and trim:* *White, Benjamin Moore*. (855) 724-6802 or benjaminmoore.com.

Roman shade in solid pewter: *Select Blinds*. (888) 257-1840 or selectblinds.com.

ON THE WATER, Page 40

Dalton barstools: *Lexington*, visit lexington.com.

Paint: *Softer Tan, Sherwin Williams*, visit sherwinwilliams.com.

Lucia pendant lights in kitchen: *Gabby*, visit gabbyhome.com.

Driftwood gray flooring: *DuChateau*, (888) 382-4283 or duchateau.com.

Bathroom vanity: *Restoration Hardware*, (800) 762-1005 or restorationhardware.com.

Bathroom lighting: *Ro Sham Beaux*, (843) 789-3478 or ro-sham-beaux.com.

Petrified-wood bathroom mirror: *Palecek*, visit palecek.com.

Blue bathroom vanity: *Bramble*, visit brambleco.com.

OCEAN FLOW, page 52

For more on *Brittany Stiles*, visit brittanystiles.com.

Kitchen cabinets paint: *Hudson Bay, Benjamin Moore*. (855) 724-6802 or benjaminmoore.com.

Reclaimed wood floors: *Vintage Wood Floor Company*. Visit vintagewoodfloors.com.

Dining room lights: *Cisco Home*. (323) 778-8612 or ciscohome.net.

Island stools: *Four Hands*. Visit fourhands.com.

Living room chairs, ottoman, master bath sink: *Custom*.

BALANCING ACT, Page 62

Iron Chinese chairs: *Wisteria*, (800) 320-9757 or wisteria.com.

Rattan lounge chair: *Bielecky Brothers*, (212) 753-2355 or bieleckybrothers.com.

Wicker chairs: *Lillian August*, (855) 576-4144 or lillianaugust.com.

Provence Collection outdoor sofas, Lawson shelter nontufted fabric platform bed, Martens closed 30-inch nightstands: *Restoration Hardware*, (800) 762-1005 or restorationhardware.com.

Outdoor silver hammered drum accent table: *Viva Terra*, (800) 247-6799 or vivaterra.com.

LOLL Designs Adirondack chairs: *Design Within Reach*, (800) 944-2233 or dwr.com.

Shroom coffee table: *CB2*, (800) 606-6252 or cb2.com.

Wooden primitive bench: *HomeGoods*, visit homegoods.com.

Red Circles Monotype: *Andrea Bonfils*, visit andreaartstudio.com.

Morris medium lantern in polished nickel with frosted glass: *Circa Lighting*, (877) 762-2323 or circalighting.com.

Lack side table: *Ikea*, visit ikea.com.

Kitchen cabinets: *Gedney Kitchens*, visit gedneykitchens.com.

Landscape design: *Robin Kramer Garden Design*. *Reading, MA*. Visit robinkramergardendesign.com.

Contractor: *Nelson Segovia Construction, LLC*, (917) 559-7615.

THE BEACHCOMBERS' GALLERY, Page 88

Artwork: *Steve Cook*, visit stevecookstudios.com.

Green plastic cake stand: *Cost Plus World Market*, visit worldmarket.com.

Red and white Tolix chairs: *TLC Housewares*, visit tlchousewares.net.

Anchor pillow, star pillow: *Caron's Beach House*, (800) 380-9817 or caronsbeachhouse.com.

Green-and-yellow vintage side table: *House 466 Antiques*, (805) 766-8340.

Seashell cabinet knobs: *Anthropologie*, (800) 474-8858 or anthropologie.com.

Vintage typewriter: *Whimsy Antiques* (805) 684-7211 or (805) 684-1222.

Low camel sofa and armchair: *Sofa U Love*, visit sofaulove.com.

Distressed door display: *Habitat for Humanity Restores*, visit habitat.org/restores.

"Live Simply" grain-sack-style pillow: *With Lavender and Grace*, visit shopwlg.com or etsy.com/shop/withlavenderandgrace.

ART IMITATES LIFE, Page 112

To view and purchase *Erin Houghton's* original art, visit mypaintedgarden.etsy.com.

Living-room mirror: *Ballard Designs*, visit ballarddesigns.com.

Shore birds: *World Market*, visit worldmarket.com.

Garden indoor/outdoor blue-and-white striped rug: *Hayneedle*, visit hayneedle.com.

Indoor/outdoor pillows (except blue striped): *Plow and Hearth*, visit plowhearth.com.

Blue-striped pillows: *Pottery Barn*, visit potterybarn.com.

White trellis on wall: *Hayneedle*, visit hayneedle.com.

Birdhouses: *Beyond the Picket Fence flea market, Costa Mesa, CA*, visit beyondthepicketfencemarketplace.blogspot.com.

Dining-room blue-and-white Spode cups, white-and-red cup: *T.J. Maxx*, visit tjmaxx.com.

Front-door paint: *Heritage Red, Benjamin Moore*, visit benjaminmoore.com.

White-beadboard kitchen cabinets: *Resurfaced by Mr. Cabinet Care, Anaheim Hills, CA*, call (714) 961-1900.

Bedroom bed linens: *Ralph Lauren*, visit ralphlauren.com; *Pottery Barn*, visit potterybarn.com; *Linen Source*, visit linensource.blair.com.

SUMMER LIVING, Page 124

For more information on *Joanne Kandrac of Kandrac Kole Interiors*, visit kandrac-kole.com.

Paint: Wall, ceiling paint: *Alabaster*. **Window trim, doors and ceiling accent paint:** *Domino*. Visit sherwin-williams.com.

Indoor/outdoor rug: *Loloi*, visit loloirugs.com.

Black-and-white striped curtains, chair-cushion fabric: *Sunbrella*, visit sunbrella.com.

Iron hardware: *Helser Brothers*, visit helsersbrothers.com.

Ceiling fans: *Lamps Plus*, visit lampsplus.com.

Rattan sofa: *Braxton Culler*, lacquered and recovered in *Sunbrella* fabrics, visit braxtonculler.com.

End table on right, coffee table: *Parker Kennedy warehouse sale*, visit parkerkennedyliving.com.

Two chairs: *Pottery Barn all-weather wicker collection*, visit potterybarn.com.

Green lumbar pillows on chairs: *Restoration Hardware*, (800) 762-1005 or restorationhardware.com.

Sling chair fabric: *Sailrite*, visit sailrite.com.

Buffet: *Antique sprayed with lacquer in Green Thumb, Benjamin Moore*, visit benjaminmoore.com.

Air plants hanging from ceiling near window: *West-side Market, Atlanta*, visit westsidemarketatl.com.

Antique mirror, side chair: *Flea-market finds*.

Green bench: *Grandin Road outlet, Roswell, Georgia*, visit grandinroad.com.

Tablecloth: *Kate Spade*, visit katespade.com.

Screen door: *Lakewood 400 Antiques Market*, visit lakewoodantiques.com.

Dining set: *Lowe's*, visit lowes.com.

RENOVATION RESCUE, page 130

Back Patio: Grill: *Saber SS670*, (888) 947-2237 or sabergrills.com.

Patio brick pavers, pergola and outdoor