In our chaotic lives, this room needs to be high-functioning yet serene—and not in need of a reno anytime soon. Sound impossible? The stunning, versatile spaces here prove it isn’t. Steal these design tricks to create an exciting, easy-on-the-eyes home hub you’ll love forever.
BISTRO CHIC
MIX YOUR MATERIALS
For a kitchen with neutral colors, look for ways to incorporate a range of natural materials. Layers of wood, stone, porcelain, and brass keep the room from looking boring.

TILE TO THE TOP
Don't stop when you hit the bottoms of cabinets or windows. A full wall of glossy porcelain makes the whole room shine.

BEAUTIFUL
BACKSPLASHES

BASIC 3X6 CERAMIC TILE, from $2.50 per square foot, tilebar.com

HEXAGON TILE, $37 per square foot, granadatile.com

GLAZED HERRINGBONE TILE, $12 per square foot, nemcutile.com

MODERN
FARMHOUSE
ADD AN ISLAND
Think beyond the built-in! When you're tight on space, wheel in a small cart or let your dining table do double duty as a prep space until you sit down for a family meal.

SHOW OFF THE GOODS
Vertical plate storage makes putting away the dishes a breeze, and hanging pots and pans above the stove gets dinner on the table fast.

TABLES TO GATHER 'ROUND

INK + IVY TRESTLE DINING TABLE, $449, bedbathandbeyond.com

WOOD PAIGE EXTENSION DINING TABLE, $550, worldmarket.com

FLORENCE TRESTLE TABLE, $337, houzz.com