



# Vintage Ease

Like the expansive country kitchens of another era, this Maine space blends comfort, function, and style.

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**Left:** The kitchen's salvaged tabletop was fashioned from old pine boards that designer Nicola Mangano found in an attic. By planing, darkening, and distressing them, she imbued a sense of character and timelessness.



**Opposite:** With its eclectic mix of textures and colors, this farmhouse-style kitchen incorporates an abundance of classic touches: recycled beams, ladder-back chairs, soft hues, and vintage-style lights. Even the custom hood has an authentically vintage feel, thanks to quilted stainless steel and bronze strips.

**Below:** The custom sink is an extension of the carrara marble countertop.

**Right:** The open shelves at the ends of the island were an afterthought. "I didn't want the sides of the dishwashers to be the ends of the island," Manganello says.



**D**esigner Nicola Manganello is known for her old ideas about new kitchens. What if, she conjectures, they conveyed the same charm as traditional homes, paired with modern function? One of her new-construction homes in a prestigious Maine development proves it can be done, conveying all the warmth of a farmhouse kitchen without sacrificing upscale amenities.

"This is a family-friendly kitchen," Manganello says of the space she both designed and furnished. "It has clean, sterile elements in all the right places. But beyond the preparation space, it becomes comfortable and welcoming."

The kitchen's centerpiece marries function and comfort: The custom island houses a marble sink and two dishwashers as well as connects to banquette seating, which in turn leads to a freestanding table and ladder-back chairs.

"When we were at the drawing board," Manganello says, "we knew we needed a big island for function and we wanted a large farm table as well. The bench seating gave us room to do it"

If the island anchors the central space, the unique vent hood provides the focal point. Combining what Manganello calls "unlikely materials," it's made of quilted



The Palette

**THE NEUTRALS**

To set a vintage mood, designer Nicola Manganello painted one wall of cabinets yellow, while making the rest white. This choice also gives the kitchen dimension.

**THE ACCENTS**

The fabrics move into greens and blues as accent colors. "When you select a fabric with multiple colors," Manganello says, "it helps you choose other patterns and colors throughout the room."

**Ceiling:** Dupioni (8057), Sherwin-Williams  
**Cabinets:** Custom color, closest match Lemonade (2024-60), Benjamin Moore  
**Woodwork:** Dover White (6385), Sherwin-Williams  
**Fabric:** Window treatment fabric discontinued, closest match Wicklow in Indigo from Blue Traditions Collection; Chair fabric—Bodger in Indigo from Blue Traditions Collection; Bench cushion fabric—Brookline in Spring from Garden Fair Collection, Better Homes and Gardens fabrics

**Opposite:** Overstuffed chairs invite guests to curl up and talk with the cook during meal preparation and cleanup. A blanket chest adds function and a splash of color.

**Left:** Inset door and drawer fronts are typical of pantries. Instead of traditional bin-style pulls, Manganello selected hand-carved pulls like those used on old bureaus, then distressed and stained them for instant age.

stainless steel and bronze strips. "This is a standard size range," Manganello says, "but the hood gives it a sense of presence."

The hood's copper hues pick up the tones of the ceiling beams, a recycled element characteristic of Manganello's kitchens. These hand-hewn barn beams were installed end-to-end. "The room could have had a plain ceiling, and that would have been fine," Manganello says, "but the beams took it to the next level."

The kitchen incorporates other touches that, while not recycled, also have vintage appeal. The bubbled glass, flat fronts, and distressed pulls of the cabinetry all speak of another era. "It matters tonally how certain things look together," Manganello says.

In stark contrast to the warm details are the yellow cupboards and marble countertops. "It's a great surface for baking and making dough," Manganello says, "and it keeps the look classic."

Best of all is that area "beyond the preparation space," where Manganello placed two armchairs—a visual invitation to sit and relax. The reason is as time-honored as the room itself: Whether you're fixing a family meal or cooking for a crowd, Manganello says, "Everybody ends up in the kitchen."

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