

Beautiful **KITCHENS** *&* **BATHS**

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Every Style**
From Classic
To Casual

**STUNNING
BACKSPLASH
DESIGNS**

p. 32

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**Choose Color Wisely
(and Love the Results!)** p. 9

**Designer Tips for a
Luxurious Bath** p. 109

French Accent

Well-blended textures and subtle colors give a new Minnesota kitchen timeless appeal.

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PHOTOS WERNER STRAUBE





It's the quiet details—the barely there blue of the backsplash tile, the whispered grain of the light oak floors—that breathe fresh life into this “old French” kitchen.

This photo: Light oak floors and cream-color cabinetry contrast nicely with the kitchen's darker elements—ceiling beams, a walnut countertop on the island, and iron pendants.

Opposite left: A crystal chandelier adds a feminine touch over the breakfast table. **Opposite right:** A classic apron-front sink and bridge-style faucet tuck under south-facing windows with views of the home's loggia and pool.



This photo: Glass-front cabinetry plays a starring roll throughout the kitchen, including the well-positioned breakfast bar that can double as a buffet for informal entertaining.

Opposite left: A fully stocked pantry connects the kitchen with the mudroom. **Opposite right:** The appliance wall stays in keeping with the room's formal feel thanks to delicate hardware.

Opposite bottom: Shapely legs lend a feminine detail that softens the large-scale island.





DESIGNER INSIGHTS

Topping Off with Wood

Designers Marita Simmons and Krysta Gibbons discuss important considerations when contemplating wood countertops.

- Select the right species.** In the Lewises' kitchen, the designers went with walnut for the island countertop. "Their countertop isn't stained; it's just oiled. You just wouldn't get that richness using maple," Gibbons says.
- Embrace imperfection.** Wood countertops aren't supposed to be pristine. With everyday use, a wood countertop will collect nicks, dents, and patina over time, and that only adds to its beauty.
- Prioritize maintenance.** As with virtually any countertop surface, proper care and maintenance will ensure your wood countertop looks its best. Applying mineral oil or walnut oil once a month prevents the wood from drying out. It also helps control bacteria, which keeps the surface safe for food preparation.

