

great american kitchens

VOLUME IV

The Fine Art of Kitchen Design

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PRIZE-WINNING
KITCHENS

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Ideas to Make
Your Own

How to Pick
the Right
Design Pro



KITCHEN DESIGNER: Scott Grandis, CKD, Bella Cucina, Inc. • Sylvan Lake, Michigan
INTERIOR DECORATOR: Lucy Keena Earl, Jones-Keena & Co. • Birmingham, Michigan





PHOTOGRAPHY: BETH SINGER

french curve

A barrel-vault ceiling adds drama to a kitchen replete with French-country style.

a

“must have” in the kitchen of this new chateau-style house in suburban Detroit was a brick barrel-vault ceiling. Together, kitchen designer Scott Grandis and decorator Lucy Keena Earl created a look reminiscent of century-old European halls. Yet the space is both cozy and compatible with the grand scale of its French-inspired architecture.

Although the room measures 15 by 31 feet and has a 16-foot-high ceiling, explains Grandis, “the brick, laid in a running-bond pattern divided with herringbone bands, gives the kitchen a more intimate scale.” Earl elaborates, “Enhancing the Old World feeling are Venetian-plaster walls and antique barn beams that look like roof trusses.” >

LEFT Salvaged barn beams on either side of the barrel-vaulted ceiling conceal color-corrected fluorescent lights. “They give the kitchen the look of natural daylight on our many overcast winter days,” explains decorator Lucy Kenna Earl. The latticework cabinet to the left holds countertop appliances; to its right, looking for all the world like an armoire, is an integrated Sub-Zero refrigerator/freezer. Turning the corner, another cabinet with latticework doors conceals a baking center. **ABOVE** The Wolf gas range offers both a grill and an infrared broiler. Built into the counter to its right is a vegetable/pasta cooker. The beaded-board canopy range hood and decorative tile backsplash add to the French-country ambience.

brick barrel-vault ceiling • venetian-plaster walls • granite farmhouse sink • lattice-front cabinets • hand-scraped walnut floors • wet bar

Two walls of windows admit lots of natural light, but they also challenged Grandis in his endeavor to provide sufficient working and storage space. A striking solution is the pair of 21-inch-deep custom cabinets with latticework upper sections. “Their doors retract to reveal small appliances and supplies,” he says. “They can be used right on the granite countertop and then tucked easily out of sight.”

Both the latticework and raised-panel cabinets are finished in a pale gray-green, providing soothing contrast to the dark brick

ceiling and hand-scraped, acid-etched walnut floors. To ease the transition from cabinets to ceiling, Grandis designed a beaded-board canopy range hood with French antecedents. Earl, who was responsible for the wall treatments, floors, and other decorative components, selected the ceramic tile. Its medley of greens forms a stunning backsplash behind the 48-inch-wide Wolf range.

Equally dramatic, the island is adorned with French harp-style cabinet doors, carved corners, and hand-forged hardware. It is topped with Gascogne Blue honed granite, which is also used with a polished finish on the perimeter counters; both feature an ogee edge treatment. In addition to housing the main sink (made of the same granite), a dishwasher, recycling cabinet, and double concealed warming drawers, the island also provides space for casual dining.

To the left of the range, an integrated 27-inch-wide Sub-Zero refrigerator/freezer blends seamlessly into the finely crafted paneling. Two other units—a refrigerator with freezer drawers and a wine-storage unit with refrigerator drawers—mark the entrance to an alcove that contains the wet bar. A pass-through just beyond the refrigeration units links the kitchen to the great room.

As the convivial hosts lift a glass to toast family and friends in this centerpiece of their French-style home, it’s easy to imagine a hearty chorus of “a votre santé!”—*Diana King*



LEFT The wet bar’s granite farmhouse sink is carved with a basket-weave design that echoes the latticework cabinet doors in the main part of the kitchen. A pass-through on the left of the sink accesses the great room. **RIGHT** An integrated Sub-Zero wine-storage unit above refrigerator drawers and a refrigerator with freezer drawers make it easy to entertain a crowd. Elegant panels frame the arched opening that leads to the hall accessing the butler’s pantry, which can be glimpsed beyond, and the great room. The curvaceous doors and hand-carved corners of the island’s cherry cabinetry evoke French Provincial furniture.



