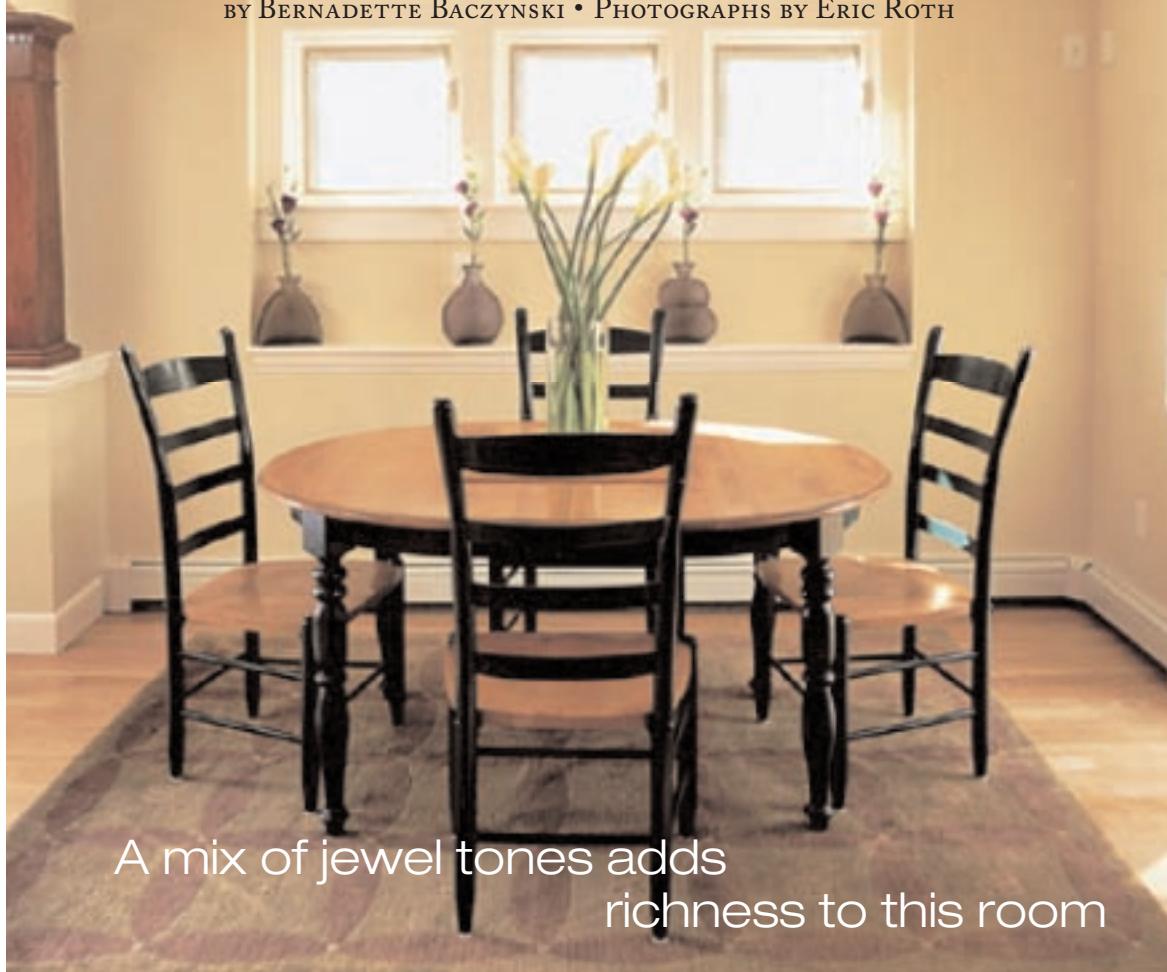


A GEM OF A KITCHEN

BY BERNADETTE BACZYNSKI • PHOTOGRAPHS BY ERIC ROTH



A mix of jewel tones adds richness to this room

When these Sudbury, Massachusetts, homeowners decided to add a new kitchen to their home, they called on designer and contractor Thomas Buckborough, of Thomas Buckborough & Associates in Concord, Massachusetts. Buckborough, who had worked with the couple on a major addition to a different home back in the 1970s, was intrigued by the project. He drew upon the octagonal

shape of the previous addition, seamlessly incorporating the new kitchen and adjacent spaces into the old.

The major design requirement was simple: “The wife wanted a dramatic kitchen,” says Buckborough. “Her favorite color is purple, so we found ways to incorporate various shades of it.” But she also had several practical requirements for the kitchen. A well-equipped space with ample storage was a big concern. Besides cooking for her husband and three children, she

ABOVE: This new dining space incorporates the old family room area. An exterior wall of the kitchen was bumped out into an octagonal shape. The room’s strong geometrics show up in the boxed bay window with its symmetrical window placement. Over the soffit, uplighting combines with natural sunlight to accent the ceiling’s unique architectural elements. Softening the look, the light fixture is an amorphous shape of a single sheet of glass.

BELOW: The exterior wall of the kitchen is lined with casement and awning windows, filling the room with natural light. Under the windows, a geometric motif of decorative tiles echoes a square pattern found throughout the room. An informal eating area was added at one end of the island for casual dining.

also hosts big dinners. In addition, she keeps a kosher kitchen, which requires two sets of dishes as well as separate dishwashers and prep areas.

Buckborough began by breaking through the existing kitchen to incorporate a family room area into the plan as a new dining and sitting space. The exterior wall of the kitchen was bumped out into an octagonal shape, mirroring the lines of the previous addition.

Mahogany-stained cherry cabinets with a subtle blue-red cast line the perimeter of the room and form the base of the octagonally shaped island. Like the counters, the island is surfaced with Violetta granite, which has a subtle violet grain. Pyramid-shaped pendant lights have purple-glass shades. The island contains both a second sink and dishwasher. "We built in a lot of cabinet storage, both in



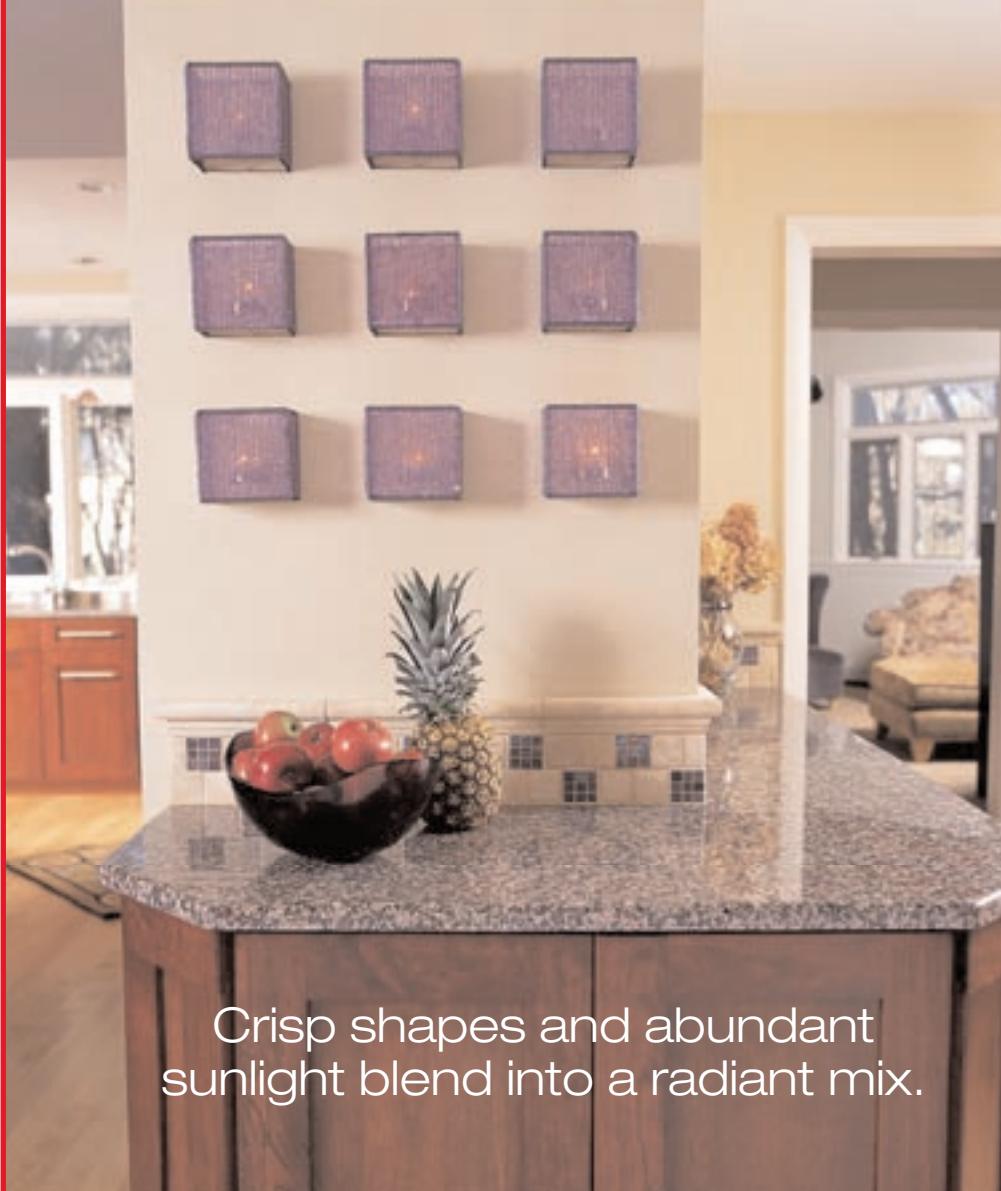
After

The kitchen's counters follow the angles of the wall. An expanse of windows overlook a tree-filled scenic wetlands area. A removable counter with custom-designed pedestals in a square motif sits on the island visually breaking up the counter's expanse. "The counter was designed to be easily removed should the wife need to use the entire work surface," says Buckborough. To balance out the layout of the room and provide visual consistency, the pass-through, at right, to the family room is finished with a wood shelf, set at the level of the tops of adjacent three-panel windows. The shelf is stained in the cabinet finish and has square-motif details.



Before

Generic and white, the lackluster old kitchen was cluttered and difficult to work in due to lack of storage and counter space. A dropped upper cabinet blocked light and obscured the sight line between food prep and eating areas. Below, cabinet spot lights were out of proportion and clumsy.



Crisp shapes and abundant sunlight blend into a radiant mix.

perimeter and island cabinets.” Buckborough notes.

Eating areas are also more than adequately represented in the new arrangement. One end of the island includes a generous counter for casual meals; the family can also sit down together at the table in the new eating area, and enjoy a view of treetops.

The exterior walls are lined with three-panel windows, topped off by transoms filling the kitchen with natural sunlight. Windows were left uncovered to take in the view of the wetlands, which rim the backyard. For nighttime illumination, one of the special features in the kitchen is its customized lighting system that allows all

What Was Done:

- Expanded the original kitchen space and adjacent eating and family areas by approximately 660 square feet, following the octagonal lines of a previous addition
- Incorporated the existing family room as new eating and sitting areas, opening spaces to each other
- Added banks of windows to take advantage of natural light and views of adjacent wetlands
- Designed storage and cooking areas compatible with the needs of a kosher kitchen, including two sinks and dishwashers
- Incorporated several different eating areas to accommodate various family meals
- Used various shades of purple in materials and accessories, subtly blending the wife’s favorite color into the decor
- For design consistency, remodeled nearby powder room in same style and materials

the lights—from overhead and under-cabinet to pendants—to be preset and turned on from one location.

Throughout the kitchen, Buckborough incorporated a geometric square motif. On the backsplash, 1/2-inch-square purple-glass tiles are set into a background of tan marble field tiles. Upper cabinets have square frosted-glass inserts; the crown molding and other architectural

details are embellished with various dentil-shaped patterns.

The final renovation is a careful blend of new and existing octagonal spaces, emphasizing long interior vistas. “You can stand in the first octagon addition and see all the way through to the wood stove in the sitting room,” Buckborough says. “Interior spaces are connected and nicely defined—it’s a great effect.” ■

LEFT: On the wall, the homeowners’ collection of purple candle holders mirrors the shape of the tiled pattern on the backsplash.

BELOW: This counter section acts as a transition between the kitchen and nearby family and sitting spaces. The right side of the column, which opens onto a hallway leading to the family room, is fitted with open shelves.

