

Robb Report
Home & Style

LUXURY RESIDENCES AND FINE DESIGN

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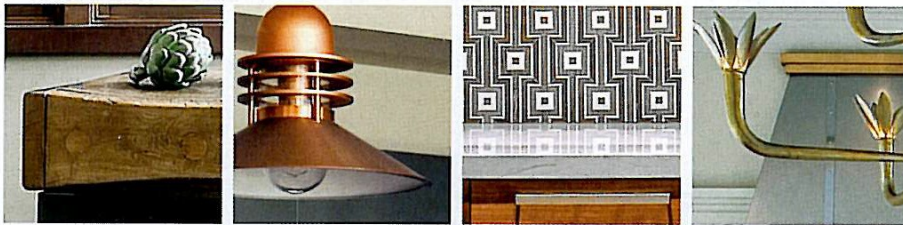
**BEST &
BRIGHTEST**

Ultimate kitchens from
the country's top designers

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KITCHEN ENCOUNTERS



IF ONE ROOM in the house best captures the spirit of its inhabitants, it is the kitchen. The truest character witness of them all, the kitchen reveals personal preferences and individual tastes through the distinct requirements of its users. Whatever the specifications—antique flooring, oversized windows, a range with just the right cooktop configuration—it is a space for gathering and feasting, for experimenting with new ideas or finding comfort in familiar rituals. Most of all, it is a place for every day.

Not that *every day* means everyday design. As the center of our stylish domestic universe, the kitchen is also a well-appointed room, no longer an area just for cookery and machinery. Interior architecture and design bring endless options to the space, which might be dressed in cabinetry that borrows elegant details from furniture craftsmanship or be outfitted with appliances that either quietly recede or appear chic enough to stand on their own.

Here, we present seven standout kitchens that suggest the wide array of possibilities. Featuring everything from unique materials and custom furnishings to must-have elements for the gourmand or the hostess, these interior designer-driven spaces exemplify why the kitchen is everyone's favorite room in the house. **BY ARIANNE NARDO**

FROM TOP LEFT: ROBERT CANFIELD; DOUG BURKE; ERIC VAN DEN BRULLE

“ The client loves to cook with modern facilities and appliances; however, the design intent was to carry through the rustic cabin feel. Islands and cabinets are designed as furniture, while large expanses of windows let the outdoors in. —JAMES RILL ”

JAMES RAY SPAHR





SETTING THE MOOD

The 385-square-foot rustic kitchen lies within an Emmitsburg, Md., log home. Custom-milled Douglas fir beams and butcher-block counters pair handsomely with the modern appliances and finishes to create a space for gathering and entertaining.

DESIGN TEAM

James Rill, AIA, principal, Rill Architects; Richard Rossi, architect, Rill Architects, 301.656.4166, rillarchitects.com

RESOURCES

Cabinets by Quality Cabinets, with Robin Lynch; appliances by Viking; windows by Marvin



“ I wanted the kitchen to be practical without having to compromise the grandiose architectural components of the space, so I repurposed the towering [9-foot-high] white columns as concealed storage units—ultimately creating the most luxurious kitchen pantry imaginable. —KAREN WILLIAMS ”

ERIC VAN DEN BRUULE



INNER LIGHT

This 750-square-foot kitchen—ensconced in a plush country house in New York's Westchester County—is suffused with natural light. A custom chandelier with a finish of satin brass and silver leaf is among the space's bold but elegant touches.

DESIGNER

Karen Williams, principal, St. Charles of New York, 212.838.2812, stcharlesofnewyork.com

RESOURCES

Range by La Cornue; custom cabinetry by Premier Custom-Built; range hood, custom design by Karen Williams; chandelier, custom design by Alexander von Eikh; microwave by Dacor; wall oven, warming drawer, dishwashers, steam oven, and coffee machine, all by Miele; refrigerator and freezer with ice maker by Viking; instant hot water dispenser with tank by Franke