

COUNTRY COLLECTIBLES PRESENTS #45
DISTINCTIVE

**COLOR & MATERIALS
THAT WORK TOGETHER**

Kitchen™ SOLUTIONS

2008 WINNERS

THE NEW MUST-HAVES

WHAT'S GOT EXPERTS BUZZING

BEST ADVICE FROM TOP DESIGNERS



**COOL GADGETS
YOU CAN'T
LIVE WITHOUT**



52

**BRILLIANT
KITCHENS &
BATHS**

**KEY TRENDS: INNOVATIVE STORAGE
APPLIANCES * SURFACES * GREEN OPTIONS**



DISPLAY UNTIL NOV. 17, 2008



open design for an active family

A CORNER SINK TAKES IN THE VIEW IN THIS LARGE, OPEN ROOM DESIGNED FOR ENTERTAINING

WISH LIST

- Cottage-style cabinetry to fit the nautical-style exterior of the house
- Quartz countertops for practicality and good looks
- Large island for kids to eat casually and to use as prep area

When builder Bob Meringa, owner of Platinum Custom Homes (platinumcustomhomes.net) in Byron Center, Michigan, near Grand Rapids, decided to build a house for his family—wife Amy and three children, all under 7 years of age—he opted for a novel two-story “coastal” style design with nautical dark blue siding and crisp white trim. With help from designers Doug Bakker and Jennifer Fortuna at Starlite Kitchens & Baths, Meringa put together a kitchen with a highly traditional look that’s also functional.

Whether it’s just the family gathering for meals, or extended family or friends coming to visit, the large, open room was designed to seat varying numbers, particularly since Meringa designed the house without a separate formal dining room. At the large cherry island, four can

sit at stools. The dark wood island was built to resemble a piece of furniture, with turned legs in the corners, base molding and a quartz countertop of dark blue with black, gray and taupe flecks. With a sink, microwave drawer and sufficient elbow room, the island also functions as a prep center. The double ovens have Trivection technology to provide optimal texture and crispiness to foods—in less time.

Other appointments give the room additional punch: a hood with hearth-style detailing, a backsplash of tumbled limestone bricks laid in a herringbone pattern, a two-sided fireplace between the hearth and family rooms, glass-fronted upper cabinets that can be illuminated and a pantry door with a magnetic chalkboard. Walls were painted a khaki color that complements the maple flooring, which resembles a hand-scraped wood surface on a boat deck. The windows above the sink offer sweeping views of the property and a nearby ravine.

The hearth room beyond the kitchen can fit more diners when necessary—a dining room table expands to seat 15. There’s still more room to sit and schmooze in the adjacent three-season screened porch with a stone fireplace; this space is favored for Sunday brunches and summer barbecues. “These are the areas where people come and hang out when they’re over or where we convene when it’s just our family,” Meringa says.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Peter Bessack, People Places and Things Photography, Grand Rapids, MI





DESIGNER:

Doug Bakker and Jennifer Fortuna
 Starlite Kitchens & Baths
 365 84th St., SW
 Byron Center, MI 49315
 616-583-9304
 starlitekitchens.com

LOCATION: Byron Center, MI

DIMENSIONS:

17' by 12'

>>> SPECIAL FEATURES:

Large range hood in a hearth style; Stacked cabinetry with trim molding between the cabinets and stacked crown molding at the ceiling for a sturdy, durable look; Microwave drawer for convenience

PRODUCTS USED:

- Refrigerator/freezer, cooktop, double ovens: GE Profile
- Cabinetry: Haas Cabinet Company Inc.
- Sinks: Elkay, stainless
- Faucets, pot filler: Danze
- Countertop: Quartz, Bradford from Cambria
- Microwave drawer: Sharp
- Floor: Maple, Mannington
- Backsplash: Tumbled limestone in 2" by 4" bricks with an insert in a herringbone pattern and a chair rail border, also in limestone
- Faucets: Kohler (prep); Grohe (main)
- Decorative Lighting: Oggetti

Contemporary stainless steel appliances give this roomy, classic kitchen a modern twist.

ABOVE LEFT: Crisp white woodwork creates a cottagey feel.

ABOVE RIGHT: A herringbone backsplash supports a convenient pot-filler faucet.