



# cottage character

A PLACE FOR  
FAMILY, FRIENDS,  
AND FUN, THIS  
CLASSIC KITCHEN  
EXUDES A SENSE  
OF WARMTH AND  
WELCOME.

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Durable wood floors,  
honed surfaces, and a  
large table-style island  
make this elegantly  
appointed kitchen work  
for a crowd.



**THIS PHOTO:** Wide aisles provide ample space for cooks and kids when paths cross. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Multiple burners and griddles coupled with a pair of convection ovens give the range pro-style function. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** An apron-front sink complements the kitchen's cottage style.



**bright idea**  
Use a farm table-turned-island to gain storage, work space, and a cottage vibe.

**e**ntertaining, art projects, homework, reading, baking cookies, dancing: These activities are as common as cooking in this charming and accommodating kitchen in Frankenmuth, Michigan. "I call it our 'default room,' because no matter what family activity we are planning, we always end up in the kitchen," homeowner and designer Angie Gren says. "It's the hub of our home in every sense."

With three young children, Angie and husband David require flexibility and efficiency. The kitchen's L-shape work space, with an expansive 4-9-foot table-style island, saves Angie steps as she dances (hip-hop is the family's favored genre during meal preparation) from the main sink to the range and provides plenty of space for the children to march to their own beat. "To achieve the convenience of an island with an unfitted look, I opted for a farm-style table," Angie says.







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Topped with honed black granite, the custom piece was fashioned to resemble a Swedish antique Angie admired, but on a larger scale. The table has wide storage drawers on the long sides with an open shelf below for storing and displaying pots and serving pieces.

Angie chose to place the fridge on the wall opposite the range so children and guests can help themselves to beverages without interfering with food preparation. The fridge is also convenient to island seating and the breakfast area.

To create a sense of openness, wall cabinets are limited to the fridge wall, and all of them—with the exception of the cabinet above the fridge—have glass fronts. “Having dishes and serving pieces on display personalizes the kitchen. It’s also very easy to see and grab what you need,” Angie says. Displays include a collection of Meissen Blue Onion dinnerware the family inherited from a great-uncle and old ironstone crocks that Angie uses for organizing utensils.

“My husband and I love the look of old seaside cottages,” Angie says. “Although our kitchen is part of a newly built home, we chose materials and finishes that would typically be found in a 100-year-old residence.”

Vintage-look Carrara marble tops the perimeter counters, and ebony-stained oak planks cover the floor. Simple Shaker-style cabinets and beaded-board paneling line the perimeter. “I love a high-contrast, neutral look,” Angie says. “The nubby linen window treatments, wicker stools, and woven baskets lend interesting texture.”

As intended, the selections make it difficult to discern that this is a new home. “It feels serene and timeless, yet wears wells,” Angie says. “I tried to anticipate all the needs our family would have and what this kitchen would be used for. It has turned out to be the perfect family kitchen for us.”

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**OPPOSITE:** Topping the wall cabinets with crown molding draws attention to the beautiful ceiling molding. Hooks on the open shelves organize coffee mugs. **THIS PHOTO:** This length of counter often serves as a beverage and buffet center, offering up coffee, snacks, desserts, and more.



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