



5 COOL KITCHENS

These dazzling kitchens combine creativity, efficiency and style

BY SHARON JAFFE DAN



3 A BOLD CHANGE

Homeowners in Oakton, Virginia, needed help with their small, lackluster kitchen and approached

John Heltzel to design an expansion. "Their previous kitchen didn't communicate well with the rest of the living space and was hard to move around in," Heltzel recalls. "It didn't take advantage of the views and was isolated from the rest of the house."

Heltzel studied dozens of possibilities, creating both three-dimensional models and sketches. Eventually, they decided on a plan that would bump the existing footprint out about 10 to 12 feet to create a large kitchen that opens to the dining room. "It has a central presence to other parts of the house and people when they entertain," Heltzel says. Picture windows frame views of the wooded backyard.

Jay Huyett and Robert Templon of Studio Snaidero DC collaborated on the layout of the new kitchen. Plenty of workspace atop a long, central island and a parallel bank of cabinets create efficient areas for cooking and casual dining, while copious cabinets and drawers provide plenty of storage. Sleek cabinets juxtapose high-gloss lacquered fronts in brightly hued cedar green with base units in a brushed-wood matrix finish. "The color really helps lead the eye through the space," says Huyett, "and makes it more lively and fun."

A built-in desk by the windows allows the owners to enjoy the view while they work. From here, they can also watch the flat-screen TV that hangs on the opposite wall of their new light-filled kitchen.

"It took a lot of time and thought to get it right," says Heltzel. "But in the end everything fell into place."



The new kitchen (left) opens to the dining room. Bright green cabinetry from Snaidero's Sistema Zeta line adds a lively contrast to the white CaesarStone countertops. The addition increased the size of the home by about 100 square feet; large picture windows (above) overlook the backyard. A built-in desk provides a spot for working or watching the flat-screen TV. The breakfast bar (opposite) offers a casual spot for dining.

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