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Kitchens: *a love letter*

The 6 Most Beautiful
Cookspaces in the State

For a Chef-Baker
on Sebago Lake

With a View on Great
Cranberry Island

Bold and Blue
in Kennebunkport

+ MORE

A MODERN
BARN RAISING
IN FREEPORT

A Serene
SCANDI-STYLE
CHALET
in Cape Elizabeth

February
2021

And a Very
Decadent
Guide to
MAINE'S BEST
CHOCOLATE
SHOPS

Kicking the Kitsch

out of the Kitchen

Six skilled specialists take the aesthetic of this dutiful space up a notch

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Meals gone awry. Late-night conversations around the island. Spilt milk. The kitchen has seen it all, from bearing our botched baking to heeding our domestic burdens, but only recently has it done so while exuding glamour. For a room whose purpose is strictly tactical—our place to break bread together—its stylish modernization is a testament to the keen designers, builders, and craftspeople who have made the fit and finish of this hardworking space their bread and butter. Here, we spotlight six standout kitchens and the aficionados behind them who are well-practiced in making the workhorse of the home *work* for them.

A modern shade of Benjamin Moore's Tricorn Black pops on custom Kountry Kraft cabinetry, and contrasts stark-white floor tiles.





M.R. BREWER:

Built for the Chef-Baker



Benjamin Moore's Secret Path green and deep teal add playful punches to this lake house kitchen.



Barstools from Venn + Maker and lighting from Fogg Lighting—both based in Portland—add refined rustic ambience.



Tavia worked with Tia Green of Capozza Floor Covering Center to source tile for the backsplash.



top, right Quartz countertops from Surface Creations provide a stylish prep surface for the homeowner, an avid home chef and baker. *above* This kitchen was built with functionality in mind, reflected in the pop-up lift for the KitchenAid mixer.

INSIDE A NEWLY BUILT VACATION HOME ON Sebago Lake reigns a kitchen that pleasingly complements the exterior landscape, consisting of a wooded lot and lakefront views. “The owners wanted the great room and kitchen to be a timber-frame build, and they also desired the incorporation of natural elements indoors,” explains Tavia Douglass, lead designer at the Portland-based full-service custom home builder and millwork company M.R. Brewer. Exposed pine beams and walls and a commanding 10-by-3½-foot dining table milled from trees felled on the property seamlessly bring the outside in. To provide respite from all the wood, a luscious coat of Benjamin Moore’s Secret Path green was selected to grace the cabinets.

Working alongside the homeowner, Tavia drafted three iterations of the kitchen layout before finally settling on the existing plan. The deciding factor? Resoundingly, the pantry—a coveted 4-by-8-foot walk-in space carved out behind a built-in breakfast bar. A bright-teal antique barn door on sliders, a find by the owner, marks its entry. “The pantry door

helped drive the decision for the darker-teal built-in china hutch accent piece at the end of the kitchen,” Tavia explains.

“The homeowner is an avid baker and chef, so many of the custom elements were informed by her functional needs,” Tavia says. A pop-up lift for the KitchenAid mixer and a prep sink were both built into the oversized island, and large storage drawers house numerous kitchen tools. Perhaps the most custom portion of the kitchen huddles under the range top: four exposed walnut roll-out trays, designed based on inspiration photos provided by the owner. “This was a rather unorthodox request, but the owner told us that while cooking, she likes to be able to grab pots and pans quickly and easily,” Tavia says. With M.R. Brewer’s reputation for quality hinging on custom Maine-made cabinetry, this element proved an enjoyable design and install. The result? “A kitchen that accommodates guests and really works for the client. Now, all of her cooking and baking accessories have an accessible home of their own,” Tavia says.