

10 things to love about this kitchen

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Delightfully DIY

A do-it-yourself approach lets a couple fill their close-to-nature kitchen with color, creativity, and country character.

1. RESOURCEFUL ROOF-RAISING

Doing most of the work themselves, Sally Stetson and her husband, Jim Hurlburt, raised the roof on their ranch home in the

Vermont countryside and more than doubled the size of the 1970s kitchen, creating a space where they can comfortably gather with friends and their three grown children.

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2. CHEERFUL COUNTRY COLOR

Sally, a graphic designer, chose a warm, cheery color scheme that complements the verdant fields and

orchards surrounding the couple's home in the Green Mountain State while offsetting the dreariness of Vermont's winters. She started with two shades of

ocher on the walls and , continued with a leafy-green for the cabinets—made by Jim, a builder turned blacksmith and furnituremaker.

3. STRATEGIC STAINLESS STEEL

To keep the kitchen from looking too country, and to provide a durable work surface on the perimeter,

Sally chose stainless-steel countertops. The metal plays the sleek foil to all the rustic wood and “lets the colors of the kitchen be the heroes,” Sally says.



4. GOING WITH THE GRAIN

A standout feature is the use of wood, much of it from Jim's brother, a logger. The tongue-and-groove ceiling is cedar, the island top is oak, and the flooring is pine. Polyurethane and tung oil provide a unifying finish to the different species. The painted-wood cabinets are made of medium-density fiberboard.

5. FREE-FORM ISLAND SHAPE

Sally drew the organic shapes for the two-level island, then Jim fashioned both countertops from oak slabs. “The undulating softness and free-form shape make it more comfortable for gathering around,” Sally says. Jim also made the bar's metal legs, which hide electrical wiring.



6. SMOOTH STONE HARDWARE

The couple love the outdoors: Sally is a serious equestrian, riding in national competitions, and Jim is a talented farrier,

making shoes for horses. Their fondness for nature—and horses—is reflected in the cabinet knobs, which incorporate stones the couple collected on a beach in Maine. Time

had already polished the stones, so the couple applied a clear finish coat, then Jim glued the stones to hardware with an epoxy sometimes used to attach horseshoes to hooves.



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7. COOK-FRIENDLY CHARACTER

Though the kitchen has a fun, down-home feel, the space is also designed for serious, stylish function.

That combination is evident in the cooking area, which features a professional-grade range, stainless-steel hood, and matching backsplash.

Copper detailing punctuates the state-of-the-art hood with back-in-the-day spirit. To the left of the hood, an upper cabinet boasts vintage-look wavy

glass in the doors and classic beaded board on the sides, like a cupboard in an old farmhouse kitchen. The beaded board repeats in base cabinetry

and on an open shelving unit in the corner. The in-plain-sight storage calls attention to collectibles and makes everyday items easy to find and access.

8. PANTRY PERSONALITY

The pantry doors offer another rustic, whimsical touch. In searching for suitable door handles, Sally remembered the oversize fork and spoon she found while on vacation in California. The door glass is wavy.

9. LIFESTYLE LIGHTING

Lighting fits the quirky style mix: The island pendants are quite modern, the green-glass tulip lamp over the sink is a flea-market find, and Jim made the wrought-iron chandelier as a Valentine's Day present for Sally.



10. NEXT-TO-NATURE DINING

The expanded kitchen includes a new mudroom and a dining area with terrific views of the idyllic scenery. "We live outside

as much as possible," Sally says. Jim built the Arts and Crafts-influenced dining table out of American chestnut, a rare wood he harvested and saved after coming upon a dead tree in

the woods. Leaves enable the table to be expanded for large gatherings, while square insets in the corners match the copper detailing on the range hood. **KBI** RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 130.