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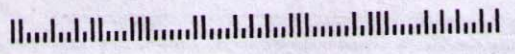
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KITCHEN AND BATH STYLE 2006 FALL FASHION AND BEAUTY STYLEBOOK

contempocasual

SMART PLANNING AND COLORFUL ACCENTS COME TOGETHER IN THIS INVITING FAYETTEVILLE KITCHEN

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PHOTOGRAPHY: BRIAN MEREDITH

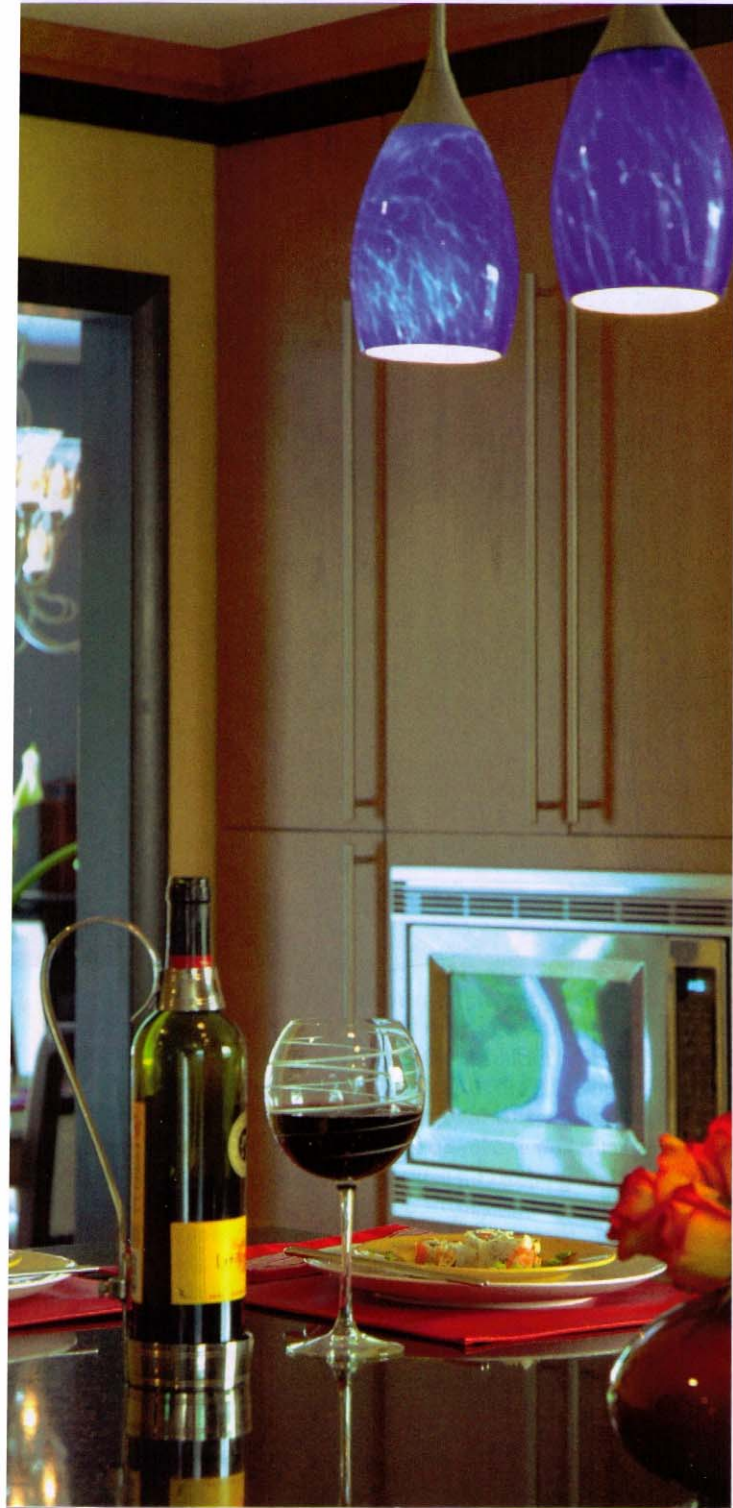


To create Bao Bui and Mike White's cool Fayetteville kitchen, Joanna Morton of Kitchen Distributors, also in Fayetteville, drew on the rest of the home's brilliantly accented color palette, as well as the pair's love of cooking and entertaining to transform a dated space into a contemporary cook's haven. "Before, the kitchen was closed off from the rest of the home, with cabinets and a soffit over the bar making the room feel extremely small and uninviting," Joanna says. "The dated yellow and white cabinets didn't fit with Mike and Bao's contemporary sense of style, and it wasn't a place where you would want to spend much time."

Now, thanks to a complete overhaul, the kitchen is the place to be. And although it's relatively small, clever planning and smart accessories helped fully maximize the space. Joanna relocated the refrigerator and range to different walls and removed a useless pantry to develop an ideal layout, before focusing on the smaller details, such as a variety of organizational accessories including roll-out shelves, tray dividers, plate drawers and a knife drawer, which help capitalize on available space.

Brookhaven cabinets finished in light and dark cherry and decorated with sleek tubular hardware and stainless steel inserts line the perimeter. "Combining different finishes is often found in many old-world and more traditional kitchens, but we thought why not do it in a contemporary one?" Joanna says. "The finishes work together because the woods are complementary of each other, and the inserts also help tie the colors together." Mike and Bao also knew they wanted black granite countertops before they began working on the kitchen, while the backsplash was inspired by the designer's own home. "I had actually used the stainless tile by Zhongyuan Art Stone in my own kitchen, and I thought it was just what they needed to take their space to the next level. It adds visual interest while tying all of the stainless steel together."

At the same time, colorful additions like the brilliant blue pendant lights, a blue accent wall and art by Little Rock artist Lynette Cox complete the kitchen's look while infusing the space with true personality. "The best part of this kitchen is that it beautifully reflects Mike and Bao's contemporary taste, and it's open to rest of the home, making it perfect for cooking, entertaining and living," says Joanna. ■





(above) Rearranging the floor layout and relocating appliances helped open up Mike and Bao's kitchen, making it more accessible for cooking and entertaining. (below) Joanna used stainless-steel tile, cabinet-door inserts and hardware to tie together the two different finishes of Brookhaven cabinetry. (facing page) Blue pendant lights add a splash of color to the space, which is now opened up to the rest of the home to make it more conducive to entertaining.



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