

# HGTV magazine

dining room change-ups  
little ways to  
show it lots of  
**love**

backyard bliss  
everyone's  
firepit fantasy  
come true

# fab

make  
your  
home  
feel

Your entry  
called—  
it wants a  
dresser + chair  
pair!



grateful for...this  
handmade  
stuff  
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[in the kitchen]

# BUSINESS ON TOP

Shaker-style cabinets: smart for years to come.

party on  
the bottom

A super-fun  
graphic tile floor—  
it looks 3-D!

A New Jersey family finally gets a kitchen that works for them, and it doesn't put style on the back burner.

## [in the kitchen]

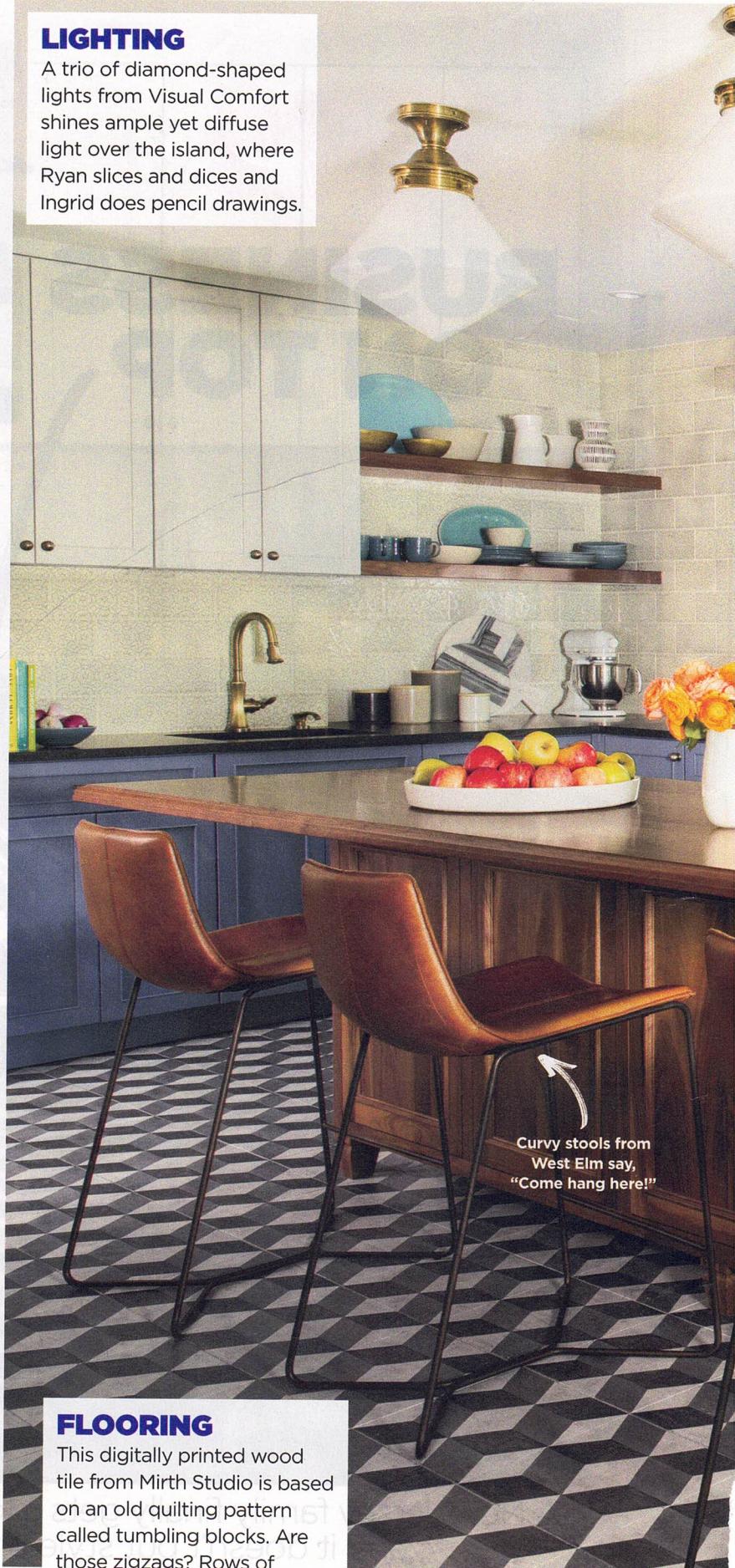


Ryan and Megan with Ava, 13 (standing), and Ingrid, 8

**B**efore they moved into their 1894 Glen Ridge, NJ, home several years ago, the Blank family had put up with a kitchen so small it barely qualified as a room. "Only two of us could ever be in there at once," says Megan, "usually Ryan doing the cooking, and me following him and clearing away the mess!" When they redid the kitchen in their new place, they were after roominess and functionality, though they didn't want a space that took itself *too* seriously. Working with designer Diana Weinstein, the couple snagged about 100 square feet from a laundry room that got kicked upstairs. They put in a ginormous island and two sinks—one for prep, the other for cleaning—then amped things up with a cornflower blue (Blue Heron by Benjamin Moore) on the cabinets and a very awesome floor. Ryan got elbow room galore for making his homemade pizzas... and everyone can dig in at once.

### LIGHTING

A trio of diamond-shaped lights from Visual Comfort shines ample yet diffuse light over the island, where Ryan slices and dices and Ingrid does pencil drawings.



### FLOORING

This digitally printed wood tile from Mirth Studio is based on an old quilting pattern called tumbling blocks. Are those zigzags? Rows of raised squares? You decide!

## OPEN SHELVING

Megan and Ryan keep everyday glasses and dishes within reach on walnut shelves that match the island.

Dark gray window trim (painted Wrought Iron by Benjamin Moore) makes a bigger impact than white.

## BACKSPLASH

Pratt & Larson ceramic tile is doubly practical: It brightens the space, and the large 5-inch-by-10-inch rectangles easily wipe clean—hooray for less grout overall.

## ISLAND

Megan calls the custom island, a spectacular 11½ feet long, "our second home." An elevated base gives it gracefulness. On Sunday mornings, the family gathers here for their pancakes-and-jazz tradition.