

HGTV magazine

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

backyard bliss
everyone's
firepit fantasy
come true

make
your
home
feel

fab

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

grateful
for...this
handmade
stuff
page 41

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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

Before 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.