

RETRO REDO: The goal: create a large family-style kitchen that is low maintenance and rugged enough for heavy use and do it on a tight budget. The plan: enlarge the space into an adjacent bathroom and add a new back door leading to the patio. The Ocean Grove homeowner tapped Niv Miyasato of NIV Interior Design + Décor in Short Hills to design the kitchen. The home is Victorian, but Miyasato chose a Retro look for the kitchen to represent the evolution of the house over time. "Something comfortable and relaxing, something that would evoke 'the good-old days' of traveling and stopping at a diner, while still having all the modern conveniences," Miyasato says. Even the laminate countertop has metal banding reminiscent of a 1950s diner. The backsplash is white ceramic tile, and the walls are brown (Benjamin Moore, Waynesboro Taupe). **Sources:** design, Niv Miyasato of NIV Interior Design + Décor in Short Hills; cabinetry, Ikea in Elizabeth; counters, Abet Laminati with Retro edge banding, BarsandBooths.com; appliances, Whirlpool range, Kenmore hood, Minkaire fan, Schoolhouse Electric and Robert Abbey ceiling fixtures; flooring, Italian porcelain tile; brushed aluminum stools, CB2 by Crate & Barrel.

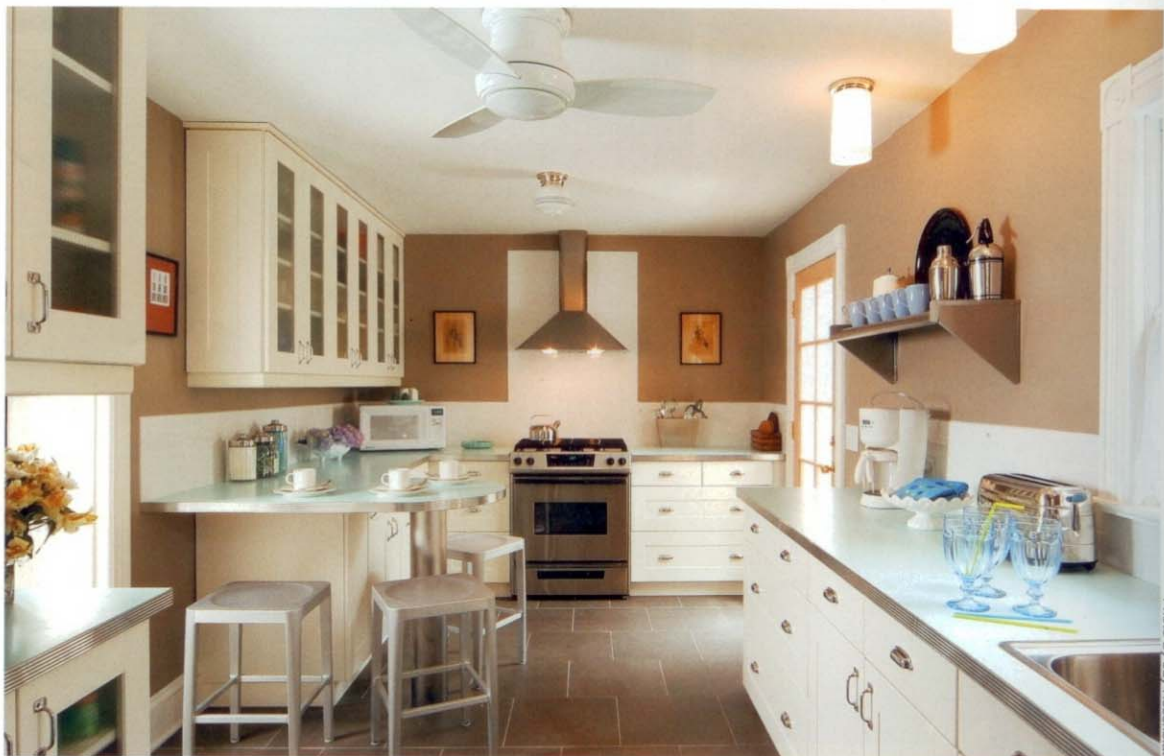


Photo by Jay Rosenblatt

What's Cooking

Several trends emerge for the most remodeled room in the house:

- Kitchens today have seen a "growth in size and complexity ... as they become the hub of the home and increasingly incorporate some features usually found in living rooms, dining rooms, or even home offices." *Source: EPM Communications*
- The top features homeowners want in their kitchen include a walk-in pantry (84%), an island work area (77%), special-use storage (62%), and a built-in microwave, (62%). *Source: National Association of Home Builders*
- Freestanding ranges remain the most popular cooking appliance, but cooktop and wall-oven combinations have increased in popularity in new homes. *Source: National Kitchen & Bath Association*
- In wood finishes, "white is a classic, and cherry is always a winner," says Tess Giuliani, CKD, of Tess Giuliani Designs Inc. in Ridgewood. "Multifunctional" appliances that are easy to use are also hot, she says. In larger kitchens, Giuliani's clients often request two refrigerators (with a freezer combination) or a separate refrigerator and freezer.