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kitchens



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# sweet success



Having a fabulous, well-ordered kitchen with plenty of counter space, lots of light and just the right mix of functionality and serene beauty is every homeowner's dream. Having two seems downright unfair. But for one New Canaan couple, a nondescript room—decorated unfortunately with weightlifting equipment and faux-finished burgundy walls—adjoining the main kitchen in a newly purchased house could be nothing else.

The homeowner worked as a wedding cake decorator many years ago and still turns out fantastical, intricate creations for close friends or special events. She is also an artist. In the past, whether working with oil paints or butter cream, "I would be trying to do these projects in the dining room and my little ones would come and poke their fingers in it. So this is what I was looking for in a house," she says. She called upon designers Lynda Saraceni of Kitchens by Deane in New Canaan, and Petra and Whitney Roberts of Boxwood Interiors in Norwalk to help bring the "cake kitchen" to life.

The challenge was to create a useful room with all of the requirements of a baker yet still feel like a calm, personal space. Lynda proposed keeping all the appliances along one wall to make room for a large island and space to add a cozy sitting nook surrounded by bookcases and storage. The owners opted for discreet refrigerator and freezer drawers, rather than imposing, full-sized appliances, and cabinets are clustered under the countertops instead of hung on the walls. Lynda replaced double-hung windows with deep, box bay versions that extend the space and bring in more light. The focal point of the room is the range hood, a faux-stone composite that adds definition to otherwise simple, uncluttered walls. "With the exception of the range and hood, it's a room that could function for anyone as a retreat space," she says.

The island, topped with Calcutta Gold marble, reflects several facets of the owner and how she uses the room. The uninterrupted

A library was transformed into a bright, cheery second "cake" kitchen—perfect for inspiring delicate confections and art projects. The homeowners also use this additional space as a catering kitchen during parties; the room leads directly to the outside patio, and it allows their day-to-day kitchen to remain mess-free. The range is a 48" Dual Fuel by Wolf, framed by Thassos subway tiles; hood is a faux stone composite, created by Francois & Co. in Atlanta. Countertops are Calcutta Gold marble, pendant lights are from Urban Archaeology, windows by Marvin Windows. Wall color is Borrowed Light by Farrow & Ball. Curtain fabric is Summer Square by Victoria Hagan.

*A former cake decorator gets a kitchen all her own—full of light, generous work space and, yes, storage for all those piping tips.*



*"This is truly meant to be her quiet space where she can go in, close the door and sit down to write a letter or do something creative—either with a cake or a piece of artwork."* —LYNDA SARACENI





surface provides ample space for spreading out supplies for her cake baking and drawings to her teenage daughters' homework. Open display spaces on the walls house the owner's favorite serving dishes and platters, and interior lights create a glowing showcase. "When I looked at kitchens I liked, the ones I really favored were the ones where they lit the heck out of them," the owner says. And, of course, tucked into its own special cabinet—on a garage-like lift that effortlessly brings it to counter height—is her hard-working KitchenAid mixer.

So, where are all of the sprinkles, pastry bags, offset spatulas and paintbrushes? Tucked cleanly inside storage cabinets filled with cubbyholes, next to the bookshelves. A tackle box full of piping tips lives underneath the cushioned bench. After all, baking cakes is a hobby, not a vocation. The owner is just as likely to be enjoying a cup of coffee early in the morning or watching TV with one of her daughters as she is to be rolling out a sheet of fondant. "She has another kitchen for day-to-day cooking," Lynda says. "This one is meant to be her quiet space where she can go, close the door and sit down to write a letter or do something creative—either with a cake or a piece of artwork."

With soothing blue walls and bright, geometric fabric patterns, the decor of the room is cheerful and airy while providing a colorful backdrop to the other creative pursuits that take center stage. And while its functions are multiple, the family still refers to the room as the cake kitchen. "It started out as that," says the owner. "Plus, it's a catchy title." —ELIZABETH S. PASSARELLA



**above, from left:** Too-pretty-to-eat cupcakes; a professional sprayer faucet, by Dornbracht, is hooked in place. The dishwasher is by Dacor. **left:** Spices are tucked away as discreetly as the warming drawer by Dacor, microwave by GE and the under-counter refrigerator and freezer by Sub-Zero.

**opposite page:** A sitting nook opposite the kitchen's appliances is surrounded by storage (piping tips are in a tackle box under the cushioned seat). Sconces by Vaughan, throw pillow fabric by Hable Construction.

#### Resources

Boxwood Interiors, New Canaan, 203-956-9882  
Kitchens By Deane, New Canaan, 203-972-8836,  
and Stamford, 203-327-7008; [kitchensbydeane.com](http://kitchensbydeane.com)

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