



aging practically

Sociable design and partial-to-the-past style customize a builder kitchen so it can keep up with the Joneses.

fRAMING WAS UP WHEN ASHLEY AND ANDREW JONES BOUGHT THEIR NEW HOME IN Marietta, Georgia. Though the kitchen's location and size had been determined, the couple could still shape and style the space to fit their tastes. "We needed something very functional, but we tried to go for an old-world look," Ashley says. "We didn't want it to look like a new kitchen." They were influenced by the home's setting, an enclave not far from Marietta's historic town square. The Joneses wanted their home to fit in with the older neighborhood, as though it had been there for years. They also wanted the kitchen to connect with nature, conveying the spirit of a country home or a vacation lodge. "We are a very outdoor family," Ashley says. As for function, they needed a layout that would make it easy for young children to help out in the kitchen and easy for Mom and Dad to host gatherings of friends and relatives.

OPPOSITE: The wide-open island layout in Ashley and Andrew Jones' kitchen makes it easy for the couple's young children, Elinor and Rutledge, to help. **ABOVE:** The island's stools and prep sink let friends and family come in and chat or lend a hand during gatherings. Dishwasher drawers next to the main sink opposite the island speed cleanup afterward.



heavy-duty hospitality

- The island-centered kitchen opens to an eating area and keeping room, creating a large space well-suited for get-togethers and daily family interaction.
- The island is oriented to preparing and serving food, offering a cooktop, prep sink, warming drawer, and wine cooler.
- A two-bowl sink is close to dishwasher drawers and cabinets for recyclables and trash in a cleanup zone.
- Pantry cabinets help form cooking and food-storage areas in two corners.



Furniturelike cabinetry and natural surfaces

Interior designers Leslie Gross and Courtney Myers created a combination of modern performance and throwback style with a rustic bent. They modified the builder's long galley kitchen into a squarer, more open work core with an eating area and old-fashioned keeping room adjacent. The layout takes advantage of a cathedral ceiling that rises to 20 feet at its peak by placing a dramatic 14-foot-high copper hood over an island-based professional-grade cooktop.

The cooktop was part of Andrew's push for crowd-friendly, heavy-duty appliances. A warming drawer below the cooktop and dishwasher drawers opposite the island further ease entertaining. Though the stainless-steel finish of the appliances is contemporary, most of the kitchen's surfaces have an older, earthier look. The custom maple cabinets, for example, were designed to resemble fine antiques. More than just pretty faces, however, the cabinets provide efficient storage. "This is the first time in my life that I've had cabinets without things on all the shelves," Ashley says. The cabinetry includes a handsome desk area for computer gear. "I wanted to have the computer in the

ABOVE: With the kitchen open to an eating area and cozy keeping room, the combined space is the hub of activity for family or guests. OPPOSITE TOP: The desk area epitomizes the kitchen's blend of technology and traditional styling. Classic denlike trappings disguise modern office equipment. OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT: The island is like a piece of furniture. Curves at both ends soften its lines; this section includes stylish storage.

bring old-world style to functional design.

kitchen, but I didn't want it to take up a lot of room," she says. "Now I can easily get on the computer while the kids are eating lunch, or they can do computer games while I fix dinner." The desktop is made of the same baltic-brown granite as the counters. Its natural look works well with the maple cabinetry, the hardwood floors, and the stone in the keeping-room fireplace.

The Joneses appreciate the keeping room's proximity. "We can be in here cooking and have friends in the other room and not feel so isolated," Ashley says. Adding in potent appliances, efficient storage, and room to work takes the hassle out of hosting. "We find ourselves entertaining so much more often because it's so much easier to put things together," she says. **KBI**

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ABOVE CENTER: A 14-foot-tall copper hood solved the problem of how to vent the middle-of-the-room cooktop and became the room's focal point. The hood's natural color looks at home among the cathedral ceiling's exposed beams. ABOVE: Surfaces are key to the kitchen's traditional character. Maple cabinets with antique-style pulls mimic furniture, while granite offers timeless countertop elegance.