

Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications

# Beautiful KITCHENS & Baths

## Elegant Simplicity

*Why Less Is More*

**How to Add  
Color to a  
Neutral Palette**

**4 Ways to  
Choose and  
Use Marble**

Summer 2012  
Display until September 17

\$7.99 U.S.



BHG.com/KitchenBath

**Right:** Housing the refrigerator in a freestanding armoire reinforces the idea of the kitchen as a living space, rather than simply a working space, and ties the room visually to other living areas. **Below:** Ideal for cooks who like guests nearby but not participatory, this kitchen features a peninsula open to both the kitchen and other areas. Here, guests can congregate and chat with the cook without impeding meal prep.



PHOTOGRAPHERS: ABOVE, ERIC JOHNSON; LEFT, PHILIP HARRIST.

#### HOW WILL YOU CONNECT THE ROOMS VISUALLY?

Visual continuity isn't really an issue when a kitchen is surrounded by walls. But with an open floor plan, the kitchen's connection to the home becomes important, De Giulio says. "Kitchen design decisions are integral to decisions affecting the rest of the house," he says. "Design everything together." That kind of holistic thinking might result in placing the fireplace where it can be seen from both the kitchen and the family room, or making sure that window heights match the height of the cabinetry, he says.

#### OTHER SUGGESTIONS?

Choose a cohesive color palette to create a harmonious space without being matchy-matchy or boring, our experts say. "Paint is easily done," Liebold says. "And if you removed walls, you have to patch and touch up the paint anyway. It's an ideal time to paint the connecting rooms a single continuous color." She also advises repeating the architectural trim throughout the home. "You can't do a gorgeous crown molding in the kitchen and have nothing in the living room," she says. Zaveloff agrees. "Respect the home," she says. "Go the extra mile and match the millwork."

Choose furniture that suits the proportions of the space, says kitchen designer Iser Adams. "And make sure your furniture layout reflects the combination of multiple rooms," she says.