

THIS PHOTO: "I love a big, deep sink—large pasta pots, frying pans, and skillets can be dropped right in," designer Lisa Furey says. "I always make sure the drain is offset to keep it and the garbage disposal from being covered over when a large pot is put into the sink." OPPOSITE: The backsplash wall is clad in Savannah Grey brick. The open shelving made of wood planks is attached to the wall with iron strapping.



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FARMHOUSE AT HEART

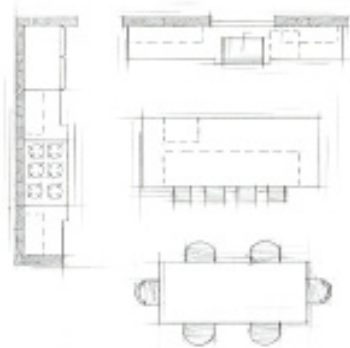
Rustic finishes and warm colors bring old-house charm to a new family kitchen.

THEIR HOME MIGHT BE BRAND NEW, but Jennifer and Sean Bleiler wanted it to feel as though it had been nestled into its bucolic setting near Allentown, Pennsylvania, for decades. They called on interior designer Lisa Furey of Lisa Furey Interiors and architect Christopher Carrigan of Historical Concepts to build in the character they craved. In the kitchen, Furey drew inspiration from classic farmhouse kitchens. “I deliberately chose the textures, colors, and style that would make the kitchen appear ageless,” Furey says. “The Shaker references in the style of the cabinets give the room a timeless look, one that I updated with the color choices and hardware. I added the peekaboo glass on top to make the cabinetry feel more modern.”

The open configuration of spaces—the kitchen accesses both the dining and living areas—supports a diverse number of activities and creates a spacious feel. To combat clutter, Furey devised clever ways to hide countertop appliances and cooking gadgets. “Personally, I don’t like clutter, so I try to minimize it as much as possible in my designs,” she says. “One of the ways we accomplished this in this home is we included a butler’s pantry off the kitchen.” The door to the pantry is topped with a transom, and a window on the interior wall above the sink offers a view into the study—both brighten the space significantly.

Knowing that the couple wanted a chic, functional backdrop for their active family, Furey selected furnishings for the room

the plan



Wide walkways ease traffic flow in this busy family kitchen, which opens to the dining and living areas. Although the kitchen lacks an exterior window, an interior window above the sink frames a view into the study and gives the room a brighter, more open feel.



ABOVE: The window over the kitchen sink looks into homeowner Jennifer Bleiler’s study and brings an abundance of light into the space. “The window frame over the sink was originally white and something bothered me about it for months,” Furey says. “I said, ‘Let’s paint it black,’ and it made a world of difference.”

THIS PHOTO: With open kitchens, Furey always chooses the quietest dishwashers and range hood inserts. Pale quartz countertops contrast perfectly with the mossy green color of the cabinets, which is a proprietary color. The custom range hood is made of rolled steel.



with resilience in mind, including metal barstools that slide completely under the dining-room side of the island when not in use. “This is a young family, and I chose these because they’re not upholstered; they are lightweight and easy to move,” she says.

Along the way, Furey also had to contend with the Bleilers’ competing design preferences. “The husband wanted more industrial and the wife wanted timeless,” she says. “I chose carefully, from the furniture to the worn, wide floor planks made of white oak. All in all, there’s a little bit for Mom, a little bit for Dad, and a little bit for the kids.”

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DESIGNER INSIGHTS: SEAMLESS STYLE

For designer Lisa Furey, seamless transitions are key when a room holds varied living spaces.

- *Repeat materials throughout.*

The dining table is made of the same wood as the open shelves in the kitchen and the finish matches the ceiling beams. Similarly, the bricks used for the counter-to-ceiling backsplash match those used on the living room fireplace surround.

- *Choose a cohesive palette.* Muted earth tones in the kitchen keep the look grounded and complement the home’s warm, neutral palette. Textures also repeat from one space to the next for continuity.

- *Keep clutter at bay.* In an open floor plan, out-of-sight storage for hardworking elements makes a kitchen feel like a true extension of the living space. If you don’t have room for a butler’s pantry, consider custom cabinetry inserts for everyday items to help keep countertops free of clutter.



TOP LEFT: The kitchen island, made of quarter- and rift-sawn white oak, is finished with a dark brown stain that Furey calls driftwood. Contemporary pendant lights feature seeded glass for a nod to the past. MIDDLE LEFT: Recessing the paper towel holder into the cabinetry is one of Furey’s tricks for minimizing clutter. BOTTOM LEFT: A family friend built the farmhouse-style dining table as a gift. A mix of wicker and upholstered chairs creates a gathered-over-time feel.