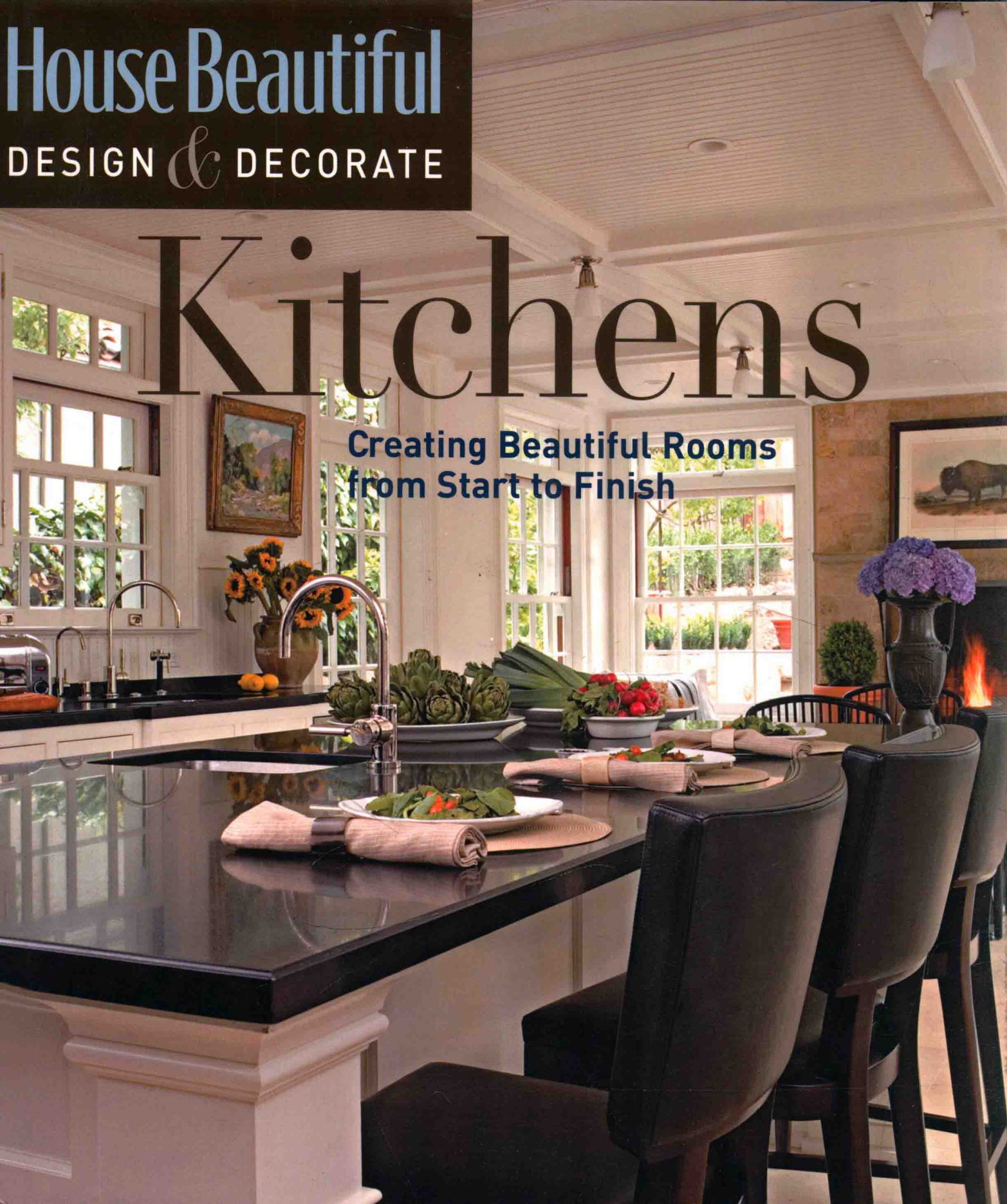


House Beautiful  
DESIGN & DECORATE

# Kitchens

Creating Beautiful Rooms  
from Start to Finish



# House Beautiful

## DESIGN AND DECORATE KITCHENS



EMMA CALLERY

HEARST BOOKS  
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# Foreword



ABOVE AND OPPOSITE: THE KITCHEN IS THE HEART OF THE HOME AND, AS SUCH, DESERVES TO BE LOVINGLY PLANNED SO THAT YOU CAN OBTAIN MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY AND ENJOYMENT FROM IT IN THE YEARS AHEAD.

The kitchen is a key room in any house, whether it is where you quickly consume a cup of coffee before rushing to work, or the place where you relax with friends in the evening—or both. Because it has so many roles—catering center, meeting place, dining venue, a base to work and play—it can be tricky to get the look and feel right. This is where this book helps. It gives an overview of the various styles of kitchen from traditional through retro to contemporary, and the chances are you'll take elements from a few of them. And that's the point: it's all very well having a custom designed kitchen, but what you want is a kitchen designed to your needs and lifestyle. Are you a one-, two-, or even three-sink household? If the only prep you do for a meal is to tear off the packaging on a pre-cooked meal, or freshen up on the way out to a restaurant, you have different needs than someone who prepares fresh food every night, glass of wine in hand and cool music in the background.

Once you've pondered your lifestyle, there are also very practical considerations to take in, like where the drain lines are, which walls can take electrical outlets, and where all that fancy equipment is going to fit if you're not going to build an addition. Not to mention finding a color scheme that won't send you reeling straight back to bed in the morning.

The book is divided into two parts: design and decorate. The first helps you identify your style, the best layout and the infrastructure, such as lighting, electrical, floors, and the all-important issue of storage. Part two shows you how to plan the décor, choosing a color scheme and deciding how the walls will be finished together with the style of window dressing and those all-important finishing touches. Making a kitchen that is right for you is like cooking a special meal. So browse through the "ingredients" and peruse the "recipes" until you can create your own unique kitchen dish—and live with it!

Stephen Drucker, Editor in Chief, *House Beautiful*













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# be prepared



ABOVE: MANY KITCHENS ARE ENTERTAINMENT CENTERS AS WELL AS WORKING AND EATING SPACES.

OPPOSITE: GET THE STORAGE ARRANGEMENTS RIGHT AND EVERYTHING WILL HAVE ITS PLACE, SO THAT YOUR KITCHEN DOES NOT FILL UP WITH CLUTTER.

The statement “The kitchen is the heart of the home” has been made so often it has become a cliché, but, if anything, it is more true today than ever before. For many people, the kitchen is by far the most important room in the home because it is so much more than the place where food is prepared and, increasingly, consumed.

The modern kitchen is the social (some would say emotional) hub for the family, often where children play or do their homework and their parents catch up on what's happening, click out a few orders online and maybe finish some office work. However, it is often where guests congregate, making it something of a showroom, too, especially on the weekend. Property developers say that great-looking kitchens sell property. But these picture-perfect creations don't necessarily fulfil the many functions of today's kitchen. A poorly planned kitchen will be a constant source of irritation however fabulous it looks.

This section enables you to create the kitchen that is right for you, in terms of looks, use, and practicality. It starts with an overview of the different styles available. You may well decide to combine elements from two or three of them. Then the role of kitchen as working, eating, and living space is considered. The section also looks at formulating a project plan and employing kitchen designers.

The section then studies the practicalities of kitchen cabinets and equipment—the myriad choices in appliances and countertops, and all the tiny but crucial details like drawer handles. It also deals with the vital issue of storage, and gives an up-to-date briefing on your flooring and lighting options. That should provide you with all the ingredients you need to create your unique kitchen recipe: part two of this book will help you cook it into a sumptuous dish!





# find your style



ABOVE: STRONG LINES AND COOL COLORS AND MATERIALS CREATE A MINIMALIST'S PARADISE.

OPPOSITE: THE WARMTH OF WOOD AND AN INTERESTING RANGE OF ITEMS ON DISPLAY MAKE FOR A COZY, WELCOMING ROOM.

Choosing a style for your kitchen can be a daunting task: the range of options is very wide and you want to be sure that you create something that will look right for at least a decade and won't be dated in a couple of years. Start by considering the period of your home, as that might guide you to a kitchen style that will suit its environment. It is often easier to determine what would be wrong: for example, a rustic-style kitchen will seem out of place in a cool, urban loft apartment. You might start by eliminating all the "wrong" looks and see what options remain.

However, it is also vital to choose a style that suits you as well as your home's architecture, and this may turn out to include elements from different periods. Of course, this happens naturally: a Shaker, Gothic, or 1950s retro kitchen will still have a microwave and a dishwasher. But by blending design elements that you like, you can create a room that is as individual as you are. The general trend is away from the uniform, fitted look to something more individual that looks as if it has evolved with the room. You could go for a quirky mix and match look, or unify the effect by painting the diverse design elements in the same or complementary colors.

As always with interior design, you also need to consider how the kitchen fits in with the rest of your home: rooms should flow into one another without shocking the senses. That doesn't mean they must look the same, but some continuity in use of materials or colors will help. A transition from a cozy living room in sophisticated shades of green to a vibrant kitchen with exotic citrus yellow walls can be rather jarring to inhabitants and guests alike.



