



Simply Elegant

Abundant windows, ample storage, and thoughtful decorative details combine in this dreamy South Carolina kitchen. BY JENNIFER BERNO

I wanted a home that looked like it had been here for 100 years,” says Linda Griffith of the “new old house” she dreamed up to build on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, the home where she’d make memories with her grandkids and relax with her husband, Dennis. Linda turned to architect William Court and kitchen designer Stephen Litchfield to help realize her “traditional Southern” vision.

Style Meets Function The kitchen was top priority for Linda, and she knew exactly what she wanted—a timeless look with modern functionality. Nearly wall-to-wall windows on one side of the room, with a view of palm trees and a lagoon, fulfilled Linda’s desire for lots of natural light but posed a challenge to Stephen, who had to get creative with cabinet space. His solution: two pantries with full-extension rollouts for dry goods or dishes, plus a serving area and glass-front upper cabinets. Stephen and Linda introduced simple yet elegant features

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ABOVE: Functional fixtures and modern appliances peacefully coexist with graceful glass lanterns and cushy swivel-seat barstools in this Lowcountry kitchen.

RIGHT: The Griffiths’ kitchen connects to their sunroom, where the ceiling is painted a soft blue to look like the sky and the windows are left bare to enhance the view.





ABOVE: The pantry-flanked serving area with glass-front cabinets gives Linda space to store her dishware as well as her groceries. She oils the African iroko wood top on the island every six to eight weeks.

popular in Lowcountry homes, such as Shaker-style cabinets and hidden appliances. Beaded board, which appears on the island and behind the serving area, is a unifying element.

Paint Sets the Tone On the walls, vertical stripes painted in two subtle shades of blue create a soothing atmosphere. Linda alternated one paint color with stripes of the same color tinted half formula. (Tip: Any paint retailer can mix this for you.) Many of the kitchen's features have the feel of a comfortable living room: a mantel-style range hood, which displays pewter candlesticks; decorative columns throughout; and cozy upholstered barstools with nailhead trim. "They're the most comfortable chairs," Linda says. "That's where we sit and have drinks with friends." The African iroko wood top on the island complements the hardwood floor and is a stunning contrast to the white cabinets.

Adding Character Linda wanted a beautiful space but one that would be lived in, not just admired. Though professionals advised against white marble for countertops because of its porous nature and tendency to scratch, Linda went with her instinct and chose white marble anyway. "This is a home, not a museum," she explains. "Having a lived-in feel will give our house its own special character. Spills are allowed." ●

Love It? Get It.

We loved the living room feel of Linda's kitchen and checked in with some of our favorite retailers to help you bring home this elegant look. Here's what we found.

► Romantic lanterns add a touch of dining room style to the kitchen island. **Star Glass Smokebell Lantern**, \$299, from Shades of Light; www.shadesoflight.com



◀ Upholstered barstools are a comfy alternative to the basic backless versions. This one can be customized from among 70-plus fabrics. **Marcello Barstool**, \$359, from Ballard Designs; www.ballarddesigns.com

► Store everyday items, such as coffee beans and oatmeal, in lidded glass jars to up the pretty factor. **PB Classic Glass Apothecary Jars**, \$39 each (small, 14.5"H), from Pottery Barn; www.potterybarn.com



◀ Pile fruit in a ceramic-and-pewter bowl for an easy island centerpiece or simple counter-top accessory. **Tuscan Large Footed Bowl with Handles**, \$277, by Arte Italica; www.artevalica.com for retailers

▼ Add a decorative shelf to an empty wall for architectural interest. **Elegant Wall Shelf**, \$99, from Home Decorators Collection; www.homedecorators.com

