

WESTERN Interiors

FRESH Natural STYLE

INSPIRED DESIGN IN NAPA
Before and After Solutions
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Cooking Light

Blending a fresh coastal spirit with edgier industrial accents in a bright Arizona kitchen designed for social interaction

photography by MATTHEW MILLMAN text by JENNIFER QUAIL

“WE WANTED TO PRESENT AN ALTERNATIVE to what we feel is overdone in our region,” says Caroline DeCesare, an interior designer with Vallone Design, speaking of the updated classic look she created for a kitchen in Scottsdale, Arizona. “People here have been stuck in this

Tuscan, old-world box, but it doesn’t translate to their lifestyles. A white kitchen is so much more simple and light and clean. It’s modern but still traditional. It’s timeless.”

Choosing a backdrop of her “new favorite white” (a Sherwin-Williams color called

above Designer Caroline DeCesare created a bright kitchen in Arizona, placing comfortable slipcovered seating around a zinc-topped table. The classic white color scheme sets off modern steel appliances, concrete countertops and industrial light fixtures.



BRIGHT IDEAS

CAROLINE DECESARE'S RECIPE FOR CREATING AN INVITING AND SOCIAL KITCHEN

When modern steel appliances are paired with softer materials like natural fabrics and accessories, the look is both contemporary and comfortable.

Slipcovers can work in a high-traffic area like a kitchen because they can go in the washing machine.

Select lighting suited to the size of the room. A fixture that's too small can get lost in a large space.

Seating should encourage interaction between the kitchen's working and dining areas.

Creamy), DeCesare built her plans with the modern family in mind, going for a look that marries coastal charm and urban influence.

DeCesare began by planning ample seating, functional workspaces and a layout conducive to daily kitchen duties and easy group interaction. The decision to place a zinc-topped dining table at a perpendicular angle against the island was a natural one for the space. "It engages the activity in the cooking-island area with the people at the table," DeCesare says. "The tall settee closes off one side of the table and feels cozier than if the table was just floating out in the middle of the space." The white slipcovers may read as a daring choice, DeCesare notes, but they are actually practical for high-traffic areas like kitchens. "The slipcovers don't have a pattern, so you can just pull them off and bleach them."

Above the island, DeCesare chose to hang a trio of industrial light fixtures that have the effect of lowering the ceiling height and integrating the space. "I love lights

above A glass door on the Sub-Zero refrigerator echoes the glass-fronted cabinets and adds a casual, farmhouse feeling. Concrete countertops are paired with more-traditional cabinets painted a creamy white. **right** A large hutch provides extra storage and complements other natural elements in the room like the oak flooring.





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that look like you got them from an old warehouse,” she says.

DeCesare used concrete for the countertops, noting that the material has improved greatly in recent years. “They’ve really perfected the mix,” she says. “I love the thick edge that concrete gives, plus you can round the edges.”

Custom cabinetry from Desert Cove Woodworks was painted the same color as the walls for a unified look. A large hutch provides extra storage and fills a large blank wall where

DeCesare wanted something more than another row of white cabinets. The hutch’s natural wood finish builds on other natural elements in the room, like the oak flooring.

“We’ve been calling this the *Something’s Gotta Give* kitchen,” DeCesare says, referring to Diane Keaton’s kitchen in the 2003 film she starred in with Jack Nicholson. “Our clients in the thirty- to forty-five-year-old range have been requesting that lighter, cleaner look. It just works much better for the lifestyle they live.” +

above Placing the zinc-topped table perpendicular to the island engages the two areas. The white slipcovers are machine washable, an advantage in high-traffic areas. Dinnerware from The Willows and a vase from Pottery Barn maintain the room’s fresh theme.