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# KITCHEN AND BATH IDEAS

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ZONE YOUR  
KITCHEN

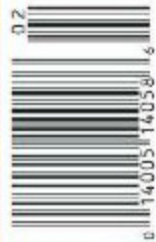
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The remodeled kitchen blends rustic elements such as wood and stone with clear, authentic finishes and clean, contemporary lines.

# middle ground

MODERN MEETS RUSTIC IN AN ARIZONA KITCHEN, BUT THIS WESTERN DUEL HAS A VERY HAPPY ENDING.

writer CHRIS HAYHURST photographer LAURIE BLACK field editor BARBARA MUNDALL



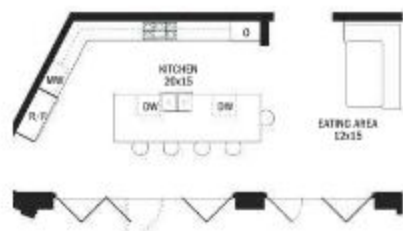
## IT WAS A CHALLENGE.

The homeowners, an empty-nest pair in Phoenix, were ready to remodel their kitchen, but as they talked with their designer, Caroline DeCesare, they were full of misgivings. "The wife definitely felt like her sensibilities were more clean and modern," DeCesare says. "Her husband, on the other hand, was leaning toward the rustic."

The couple felt they'd hit a wall. They agreed on one thing—they wanted their new kitchen to take full advantage of the adjacent backyard—but not much else. They just didn't like the same stuff, they said. DeCesare suspected otherwise, so she assembled a collection of images she hoped might bridge the gap. "We really just needed to refine what it was that they liked about 'modern' and 'rustic,' what those words meant to them," she says. Looking through the big stack of pictures, the couple were amazed to find themselves inspired by the same images. "When I listened to what they were each saying, I knew there was common ground," DeCesare says.

Now the kitchen is both rustic and modern, a space with clean lines and stainless-steel appliances, but also one with deep and lasting character, "where their Great Dane can bang into things and put dents in the floor, and you'd never even notice," DeCesare says.

On one side of the room, a glass wall of folding doors invites diners out to the patio; on the other, across a vast, granite-topped island, walnut cabinets



**OPPOSITE:** The multicolor backsplash is made from hand-cut, recycled-brass tiles. **ABOVE:** The kitchen embodies indoor-outdoor living. The patio is just steps from the island past a wall of folding doors. The limestone on the home's exterior wraps inside and sets the tone for the kitchen's earthy palette.

stretch toward the ceiling. “The kitchen is modern in the way that it celebrates materials,” DeCesare says. The vertical grain complements the straight lines of the cabinetry. “The finish is clear and authentic. On the rustic side, you can see the natural wood grain, and the flooring, made of reclaimed wood, has lots of character.”

Overhead, the gently sloping ceiling is spanned by a fleet of weathered wood beams full of twists and knots and splits. On the backsplash wall, recycled-brass tiles are laid out in what DeCesare describes as a “Mondrian-modern pattern.” On the cabinets, simply styled bronze hardware meets the couple’s dueling desires for both clean lines and an aged patina.

This kitchen, above all, is designed to work for the homeowners, who plan to do less cooking and more entertaining; to enjoy, in their well-earned peace, lots of long, leisurely breakfasts at their corner banquette; and to let, when necessary, their amenities do the work (double oven, two dishwashers). Here in Arizona, and especially in this space, the warm stones and earth tones know no bounds. It’s the kind of place where the doors are always open. **KBI**

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**OPPOSITE:** Conveniently close to the kitchen work zone, the banquette is a favorite spot for morning coffee and the newspaper. The high back, a zinc-topped table, and a simple, tailored light fixture instill the nook with bistro appeal. **BELOW:** At the island, a large farmhouse sink floats comfortably in a sea of granite. The warm hues of the stone echo those in the home’s limestone walls. **BELOW RIGHT:** The walnut found for the custom cabinetry was supposedly flawed, but that’s just what the homeowners wanted.



“I love when you finish a project and the space truly feels like the people who live there. It doesn’t feel like me, or the architect. It feels like them.”

Caroline DeCesare  
designer

## Takeaways

- 1 Rustic “flaws” such as knots in the cabinetry balance modern must-haves such as pro-style appliances.
- 2 Extra-tall cabinets and banks of drawers provide adequate storage on just two walls.
- 3 A wall of fold-away doors gives easy access to the patio and takes advantage of the warm climate.
- 4 A large island, a built-in banquette, and a table on the patio offer ample room for entertaining.
- 5 Earthy materials such as wood and limestone give the room warmth, color, and character.

### EAT-IN KITCHENS

Casual meals are cozier with the family gathered in the kitchen. Find 19 inspiring designs at [BHG.com/eat-in-kitchens](http://BHG.com/eat-in-kitchens).