



Singing the Blues

Some traditional and curvy, others sleek and angular, these top Colorado kitchens all point to one design truth: a blue kitchen never goes out of style

Family-Friendly Gets Fresh

Pretty colors and classic finishes make an expanded kitchen feel like home

By **NANCY RICHMAN MILLIGAN**
PHOTOGRAPHY BY **KIMBERLY GAVIN**

The Challenge

The owners of this suburban Denver home were tired of navigating a cramped, dated kitchen. With lots of children and grandchildren showing up for family gatherings, they needed more space and a smarter layout. "They wanted to open up the kitchen, living room and family room and create a great room with plenty of space for a nice, big kitchen," says interior designer Ingrid Fretheim of Ingrid Fretheim Interiors. "A place where everyone could be together."

Design Solution

A Provence blue La Cornue range set the stage for the design. "The homeowners fell in love with the range and we decided to match the island to that color," says kitchen designer Terri Rose of Exquisite Kitchen Design. "It was a pretty bold move." Ivory cabinetry on the perimeter of the L-shaped kitchen tempers the blue and adds interest with furniture-like details: legs, crown molding, a wood-paneled stove hood and varied upper cabinet heights. Texture comes into play with hand-painted and glazed backsplash tiles, leathered Tidal White granite countertops and an end-grain white oak accent counter. Open shelving and glass-front cabinets display bright accessories, while handmade wool rugs pull together all the colors in the room. The result, says Fretheim, is a "timeless and traditional kitchen with a bit of European sophistication."



The Details

- ❖ **Separate areas** for each major activity—food prep, cooking and cleanup—and multiple ovens, sinks, dishwashers and refrigerators allow multiple cooks to work together.
- ❖ **Upper display cabinets** loom large and offer ample storage by extending to the countertop in some areas, but with their shallow depth (8 to 9 inches), counter space remains intact.
- ❖ **A fresh blue-and-white palette** is warmed with buttery yellow walls, painted in Benjamin Moore's Desert Tan. The beauty of blue, says Fretheim, is that it looks good with almost any accent color.



DESIGN DETAILS

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