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# GREAT GOURMETS

Kitchens that master both convenience and style

BY BECKI BRYANT

**R**emarkable chefs and kitchens share many of the same attributes. Both are innovative and superbly skilled, yet unique in their own way.

When it comes to creating fine cuisine, presentation is second only to taste. With kitchens, convenience must take precedent over style. "A kitchen should be beautiful but practical," says Wendy Beckerman, a senior designer with Perla Lichi Design. "A kitchen's workspace and the location of its appliances and storage areas should all flow well together."

But that's not all. Much like mom's apple pie or chicken soup, kitchens must also exude comfort. Today's kitchens are as much about nourishing the soul as they are the body.

On the following pages, *Luxury Living* showcases great gourmets—kitchens that master both convenience and style while welcoming you and your guests to sit down and savor not only the food but also the moment.

## SURREAL SOUTHWEST STYLE

This kitchen's focal point, a funky island supported by two stocky, curved legs and a round butcher block, resembles something from a Dr. Seuss story. It is not only cartoonish but also captivating—and it sets the tone for an unforgettable kitchen.

"I love round objects," says homeowner Leah Mactas, "and that's what led to the unique design of the island and, ultimately, the whole kitchen."

Some of the cabinets are finished in the same distressed shade of green as the island. Its faux-painted checkerboard design is repeated on a nearby rug and on the tile backsplash. Green-and-black granite countertops stand out against the Australian cypress floor and dark-stained cabinets. A stainless steel refrigerator/freezer and breakfast table provide a contemporary zeal. Carved niches display artifacts and a round cedar plank ceiling with large vigas leading to a soffit, which mimics the island's shape, add additional interest above.





*SOURCES: Kitchell Interior Design, (480) 951-0280; Shiloh Custom Homes, (480) 951-0585; Urban Design Associates, (480) 905-1212; custom cabinetry by Kiesler Enterprises, (623) 582-3366*