

KITCHEN

AND BATH IDEAS

**Amazing
Small Bath**
Just 63 square feet!
p.44

Best Small Kitchens Ever!

74 TIPS TO MAXIMIZE YOUR SPACE:

- Efficient floor plans
- Storage solutions
- Smart appliance picks

Guide to store-all refrigerators p. 28

December 2010
Display until December 14



\$5.99 U.S.

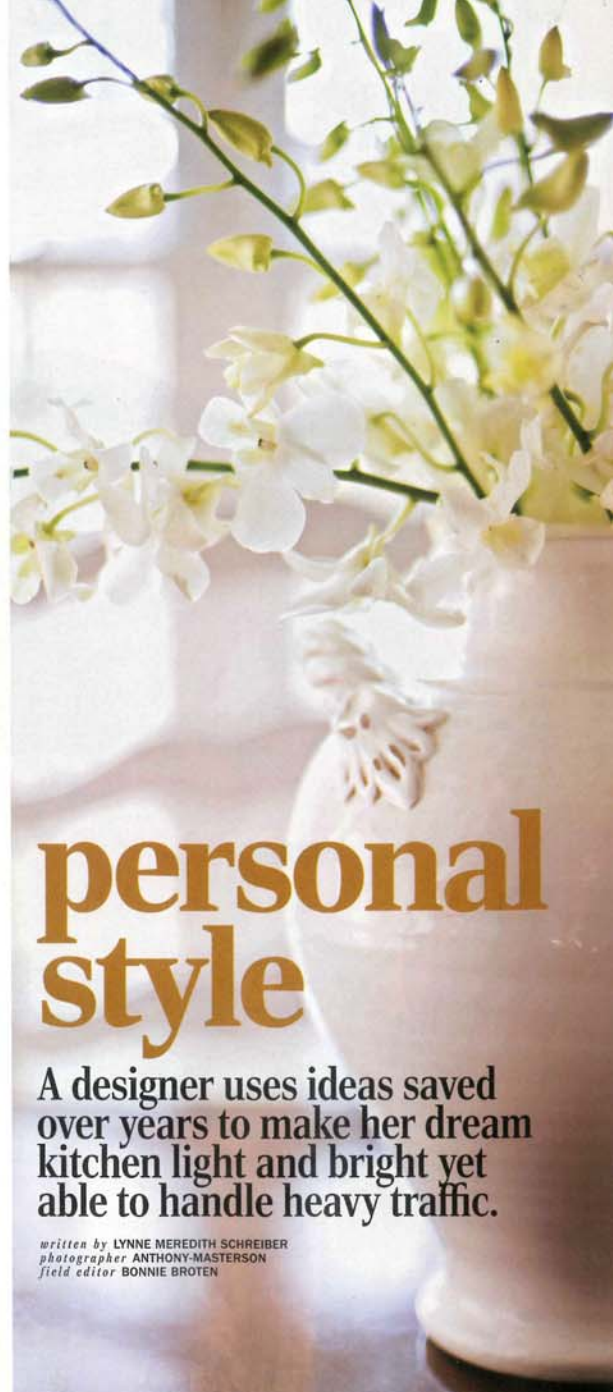
Photo: © Bruce White/Photomart

our
BEST
SMALL
kitchens



THIS PHOTO: White cabinets, Giallo Florence granite counters and decoratively painted wood valances and doors achieve the bright, airy feel designer Kristie Gardner wanted for her kitchen.

Slim Stature
A narrow island keeps walking aisles open and provides much-needed counter space for meal preparations.



personal style

A designer uses ideas saved over years to make her dream kitchen light and bright yet able to handle heavy traffic.

written by **LYNNE MEREDITH SCHREIBER**
photographer **ANTHONY-MASTERTSON**
field editor **BONNIE BROTEN**

down to details
Ornate moldings and scrollwork on corbels elevate a room's level of sophistication. Concentrate the decorative extras in one or two focal areas to prevent overwhelming a small space.



Years spent poring

over fabric swatches and cabinet details left designer Kristie Gardner full of ideas for her own kitchen. So when it came time for her and her husband, Bill, to build a new house in Wake Forest, North Carolina, for themselves and their three children, she had a pretty clear picture of what she wanted.

"I knew I wanted white cabinets," Kristie says. "Although we're not near the water, my house has a beachy cottage feel. I have always dreamt of a light, bright kitchen."

Fabrics in colorful plaids and florals maintain that spirit—and connect the open kitchen with the breakfast nook, dining room, and two-story family room. "The kitchen is the focal meeting place," Kristie says. "In the morning, the kids and I are always in there getting breakfast ready and preparing for our day. It's the center of our home."

And at the center of the space is a narrow island that serves as a prep area, a bar, or a buffet—but not as a spot for in-kitchen dining. Kristie intentionally designed the island without a countertop overhang—no stools allowed. "Our kitchen is open to a dining area, so

FAST FACTS

LOCATION: Wake Forest, NC
HOME STYLE: Traditional
KITCHEN STYLE: Cottage

FUN FACT: The decorative paint on the pantry door, including the bolts and cracks, makes it look older.



OPPOSITE: Designed to match the shape of the valance on the sink window, the hood over the cooktop also includes a plant shelf to connect the kitchen with nature. **ABOVE LEFT:** The hand-painted backsplash tiles reflect the cottage charm of the kitchen. **ABOVE:** A deep, double stainless-steel sink makes cleanup easy. An oil-rubbed bronze faucet matches the cabinetry hardware.





OPPOSITE: The sun-drenched dining area is a welcoming spot for casual meals or formal dinners. **ABOVE:** Artist Patsy Reeves painted the decorative details on the pantry door and throughout the kitchen for a warm cottage feel. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The walk-in pantry keeps dry goods out of the way but close at hand—and easy to find, thanks to a light that turns on automatically.



centralize storage
A corner walk-in pantry maximizes storage space for food items and small appliances, leaving space in the cabinetry for kitchen essentials.

we didn't need to try to squeeze a sitting area into the working part of the space," she says.

The functionality is further evident in a large, walk-in pantry offering abundant storage, with a light that comes on automatically when the door opens, so you can always find what you're looking for. Drawers below the cooktop keep cookware where it's needed. To lighten the look of the cabinetry, Kristie included an open shelving unit in the corner to display items.

Kristie followed the same advice she gives her clients and tore out inspirational pages from magazines. The bookcase niche near the door, for instance, was an idea straight out of a magazine. "I had to decide what to do with that space," says Kristie, who showed her carpenter the picture. He built a case to fill the designated space and stained it to match the cabinets.

Every detail represents something Kristie loves. She saved up for a year to buy the backsplash tile. The valance with pink glass beads was tacked above her desk until she had a chance to use it. It all works to create a warm, welcoming space.

"I love everything about my kitchen," Kristie says. "It's really the heart of our home, where we spend the majority of our time." **KBI**

RESOURCES BEGIN ON PAGE 132.

TAKEAWAYS

- 1 A narrow island offers additional counter space.
- 2 For a consistent look, the vent hood and wood valance have a similar shape.
- 3 A large walk-in pantry boosts storage.
- 4 Decorative paint details and hand-painted tiles add personality.

