

Relaxed and Refined

POLISHED GRANITE AND FLUTED TRIM. KNOTTY PINE
AND EXPOSED BRICK. THERE'S A PLACE FOR ALL OF
THEM IN THIS WELCOMING COUNTRY FRENCH KITCHEN.



LEFT: BLUE AND
PURPLE STREAKS IN
THE RICHLY VEINED
GRANITE EXPRESS
THE COUNTRY
FRENCH LOOK.

OPPOSITE: THE
BRICK FIREPLACE
SURROUND IS A
RUGGED CONTRAST
TO THE REFINED
MANTEL. WALLS
FLANKING THE
FIREPLACE HAVE
BEEN REMOVED TO
OPEN THE KITCHEN
TO THE FAMILY ROOM.



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COLLECTIBLE BLUE-AND-WHITE CHINA AND PEWTER PIECES GIVE THE ROOM A COZY QUALITY. THE SUBWAY TILE BACKSPLASH AND EXPOSED HINGES ON THE CABINETS CONTRIBUTE VINTAGE CHARM.

Country French style offers the rare opportunity to have it both ways: elegant and homey. This sunny kitchen, with its classic yellow and blue, displays the versatility of the style that welcomes knotty pine as readily as polished granite.

The pine island, brick fireplace, and yellow pantries with doors outfitted with chicken wire are big votes for rusticity. In contrast, granite countertops, formal white cabinetry, and a classically detailed mantel and range hearth move the design toward elegant. Finishing details give glimpses of the contrasts. Take the fabrics: On the built-in hutch doors, it's blue-and-white gingham; on the windows, it's elegant toile. The unmatched, casual-meets-formal approach yields an evolved-over-time look.

A less-evolved element is the floor plan, which was revamped into an efficient and modern workspace. Removing walls that flanked the fireplace opens the kitchen to the family room, creating a great room with a bit of separation. Appliances are grouped on two adjacent walls, conveniently located near each other and the dining room. The island anchors the layout, offering extra seating and work space.

While inviting to a cook, the kitchen's comforting quality caters to noncooks too. Displays of delft pottery and pewter pieces contribute a lived-in look. And when there's a crackling fire, the kitchen is the place to be.

Resources begin on page 142.





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ABOVE: THE COOKING AREA EXUDES ELEGANCE, THANKS TO THE POLISHED GRANITE AND SHELF ABOVE THE STOVE.

OPPOSITE: PANELED DETAILING ON THE CABINETS AND THE TOILE SHADE BRING AN AIR OF FORMALITY INTO THE KITCHEN.



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LEFT: BASKETS, A COUNTRY STORAGE FAVORITE, WEAVE TEXTURE INTO THE KITCHEN. THEY'RE INSET INTO PULLOUT UNITS AND LEFT EXPOSED FOR FUNCTION AND STYLE.

OPPOSITE: OLD-WORLD STYLE PREVAILS HERE. THE HEFTY TABLE GROUNDS THE LIGHT SCHEME. MATTE-FINISH LIMESTONE FLOORING IS A CASUAL CONTRAST TO THE GRANITE COUNTERTOPS.

