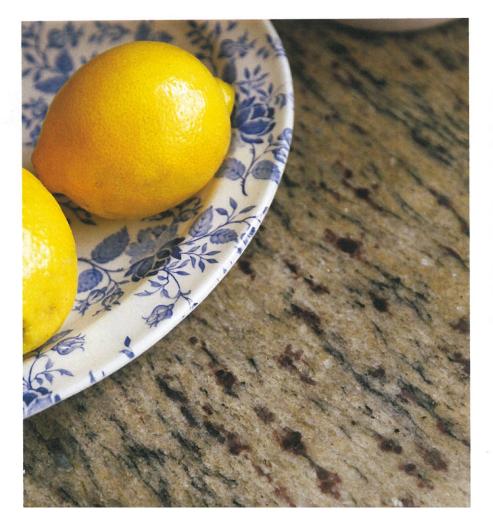
Relaxed and Refined

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

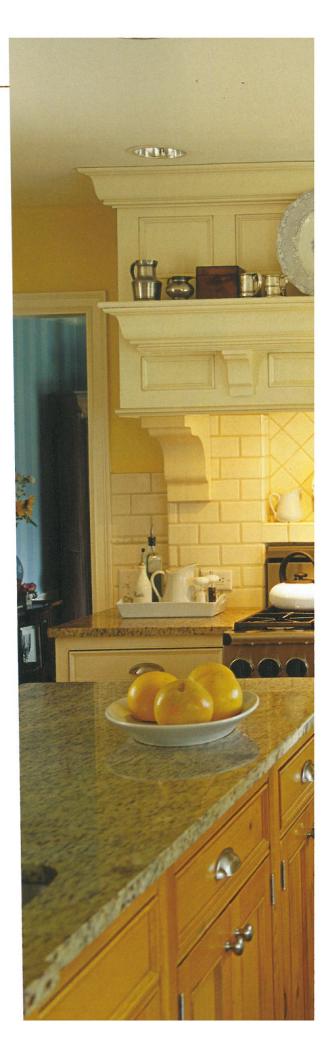
Country French style offers the rare opportunity to have it both ways: elegant and homey. This sunny kitchen, with its classic yellow and blue, displays the versatility of the style that welcomes knotty pine as readily as polished granite.

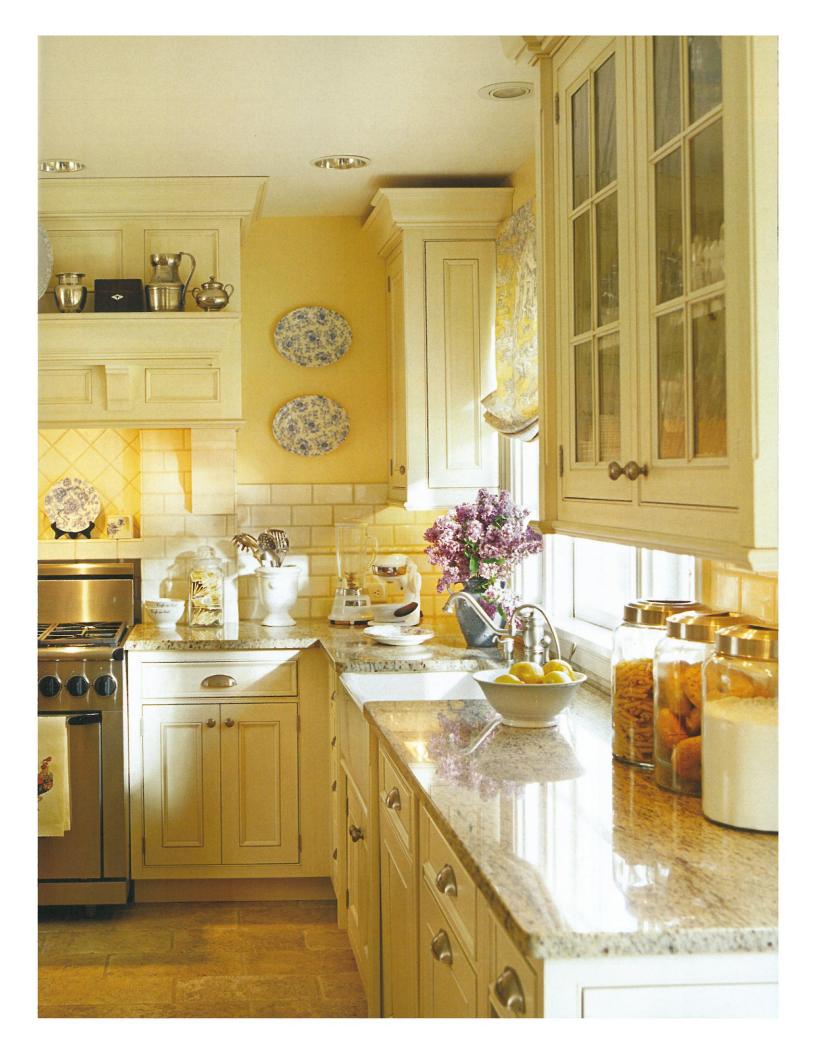
The pine island, brick fireplace, and yellow pantries with doors outfitted with chicken wire are big votes for rusticity. In contrast, granite countertops, formal white cabinetry, and a classically detailed mantel and range hearth move the design toward elegant. Finishing details give glimpses of the 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: OLDWORLD STYLE
PREVAILS HERE.
THE HEFTY TABLE
GROUNDS THE LIGHT
SCHEME. MATTEFINISH LIMESTONE
FLOORING IS A
CASUAL CONTRAST
TO THE GRANITE
COUNTERTOPS.

