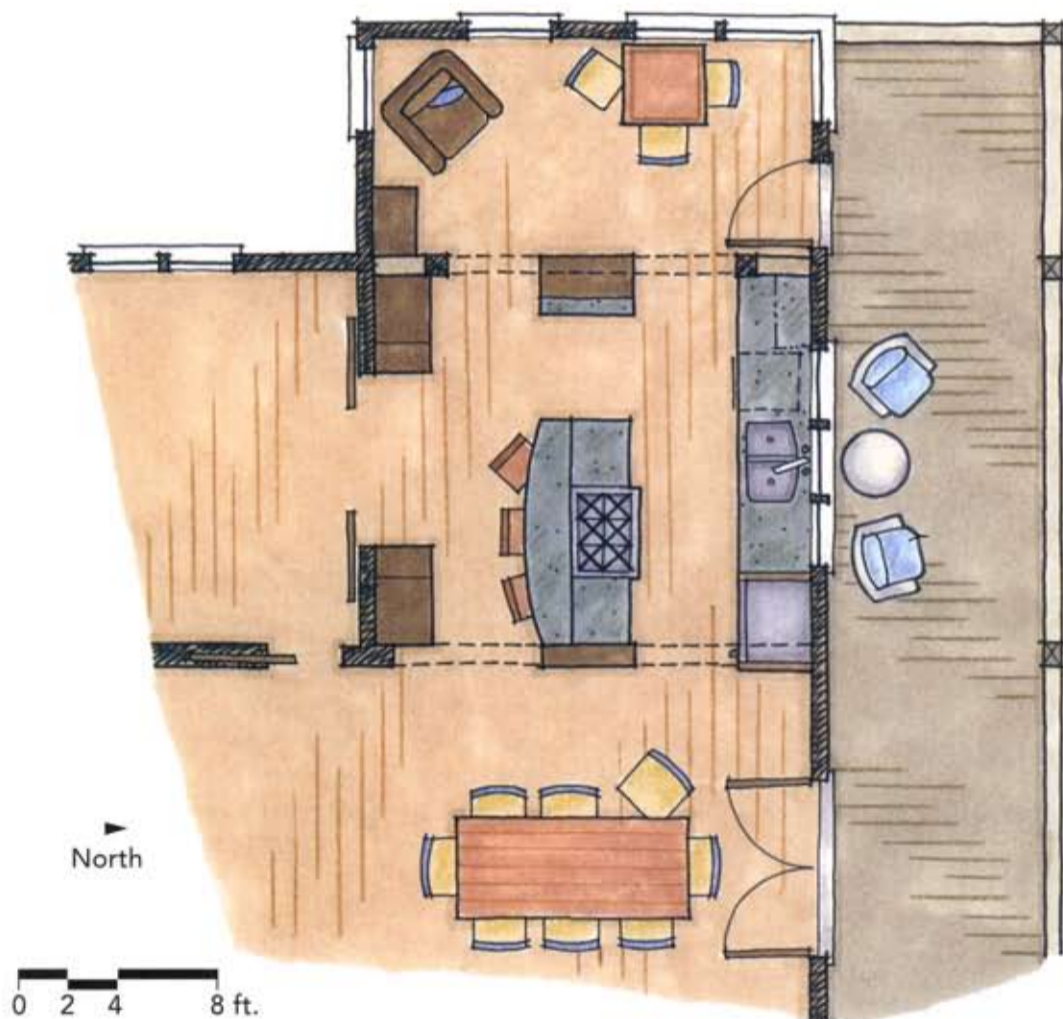


Instant Charmer

Century-old style and salvaged materials add character to a new Vermont kitchen

Among the peaks and valleys of Vermont's Green Mountains lives a rich architectural heritage. Towering church steeples, antique inns, timber-frame barns, and colonial farmhouses dot the rural landscape. For good reason, Vermont's builders and designers approach new construction cautiously, with tradition and preservation in mind. With some antique doors, turn-of-the-century Craftsman style, and a modern floor plan, this new kitchen celebrates Vermont and the folks who live there today.



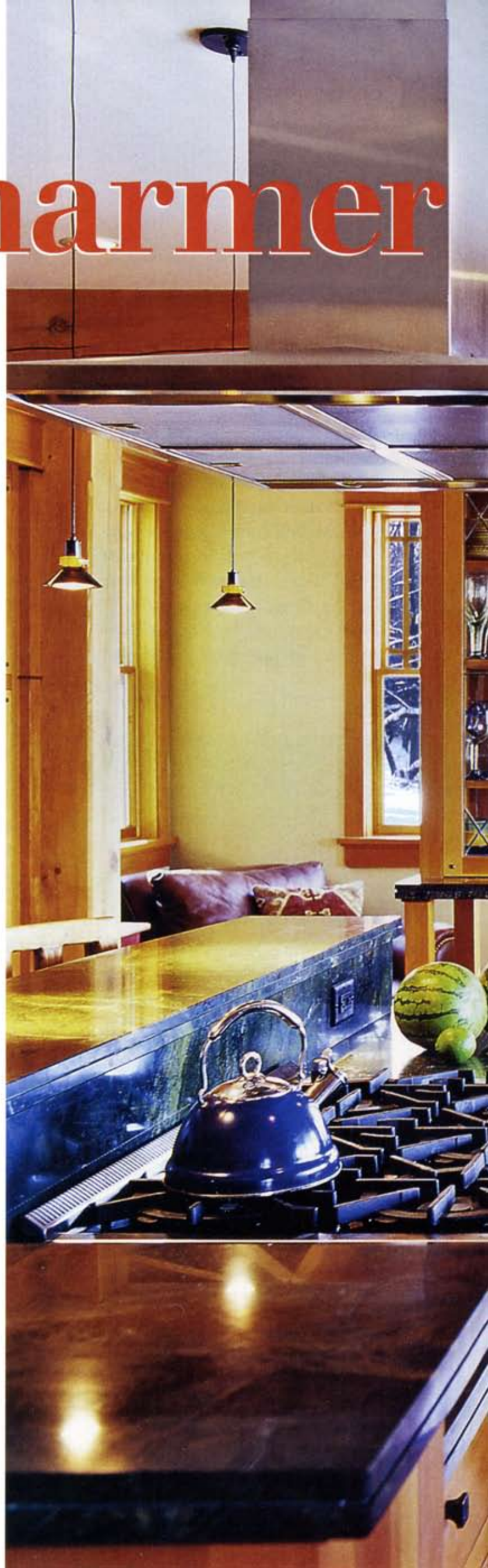
CONNECTIONS ABOUND

With a textbook work triangle at the heart of this galley-style kitchen, prep, cooking, and cleanup are concentrated along the exterior wall and on the inside of a bilevel island. Three large windows at the sink offer stunning mountain views. At the range, the cook can socialize with family and friends seated at the island's taller lunch counter. But there's more. The kitchen is open to a breakfast area on one side and a dining room on the other, and through a wide opening, the cook can even keep an eye on children playing in the adjacent den.

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BREAKFAST LOOKOUT

In a window-clad corner, the breakfast area overlooks the Green Mountains. The glass door offers full-length views and access to a covered porch and a nearby patio.

AN ISLE FOR COOKING

Surrounded by counters, the arrangement of sink, range, and fridge offers a convenient workstation. From this central location, cooks have eye contact with the breakfast area, dining room, and den.



Doors to the past

Asked why he likes to use salvaged items in new homes, Gristmill Builders owner Brendan O'Reilly responds: Why not? Salvaged materials, like the antique pine doors and leaded-glass cabinet doors used here, add character and history that new materials cannot. O'Reilly also believes that many of the salvaged items he uses are of better quality than what is being made today. And for environmentally conscious builders like Gristmill, nothing is more sustainable than reuse. O'Reilly dismantles old barns and shops salvage yards to find materials for houses (and for a line of reclaimed furniture designed and built by Gristmill). As long as a material is free of bugs and rot, O'Reilly considers it as good as new. Some materials, like these doors from Mason Brothers Architecturals and Antiques (www.vintagehouseparts.com) in Essex Junction, Vt., need to be in hand during the design process; others can be added during construction.





SEE-THROUGH DETAILS

A freestanding cabinet highlights the room's Craftsman style, adds storage to a kitchen with few upper cabinets, and provides a place for the microwave that even kids can reach. Glass doors don't block sightlines from the kitchen to the breakfast area. To give the right proportions to $\frac{3}{4}$ -in.-thick silver sea-green granite countertops, the builder doubled the edges. Centering a kerf on the edge hides the seam and adds a detail that fits the kitchen's crisp lines.



TIMBER TERRITORY

Reminiscent of Vermont's old post-and-beam barns, the timber-frame structure here helps to break up the ceiling and to define spaces in the open first floor.