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PHOTOS Michael Kaskel

smooth BLEND

*A suburban Chicago kitchen
melds elements from multiple
eras into a cooking and
gathering space for the ages.*



OPPOSITE: Black cabinetry and handmade tile dial up the drama in the bar area of the butler's pantry. THIS PHOTO: Brass interiors on pendant lights over the island mesh with unlacquered brass on hardware and the traditional-style faucet.



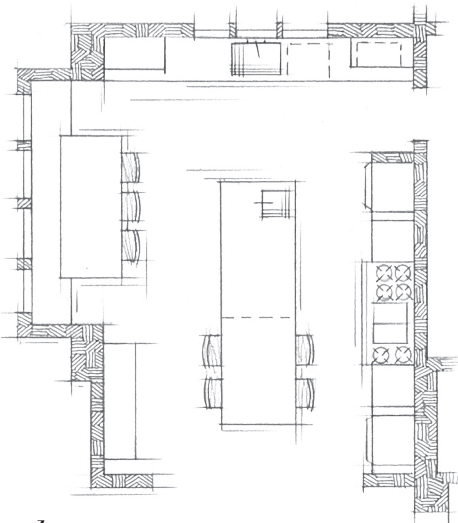
When designer Rebekah Zaveloff couldn't find a marble slab long enough for the island she envisioned, she took inspiration from a vintage French cabinet and trimmed the marble with wood.

FORGET BURNT ORANGE, LAVA LAMPS, AND DISCO.

Designer Rebekah Zaveloff and her friend Lorie FitzGibbon love the 1970s, but when they wanted to bring a touch of their childhood to Lorie's new Chicago-area kitchen, they plucked only elements that have evolved into classics—well-traveled boho, geometric pattern, sultry brass, textural rattan and cane—to be part of their timeless blend.

“Lorie and I grew up together in Ohio,” says Zaveloff, cofounder and principal designer at KitchenLab Interiors. “We were both heavily influenced by the style of the late '70s and early '80s—boho/hippie meets disco and glam.”

So when Lorie and husband John started work on a new home, she knew where to find her muse. “I love the character that comes with old houses, and I wanted to give that aesthetic to Lorie in a home with casual elegance,” Zaveloff says. The key, the friends agreed, was bringing elements from past eras into the new interiors.



the plan

A long island separates functions, with the cooking zone on one side and a breakfast nook and additional storage on the other. Along the back wall of cabinetry and paneled appliances, the kitchen's main sink has a prime spot below the window.

That viewpoint is evident in Lorie's kitchen, where fads are forbidden and the magic is in the mix. White-painted upper cabinets serve as a classic foil to the warm, organic vibe of riftsawn white oak. At the same time, traditional crown moldings play off the farmhouse simplicity of a shiplap-covered range hood. A newly built wood-and-glass hutch reflects the craftsmanship of an earlier era, giving it the venerable feel of a family heirloom. An inset marble top brings the element of surprise to a classic Mission-style table that doubles as the kitchen island. White quartzite countertops recede, allowing the spotlight to fall on two distinctly different backsplashes: marblelike porcelain in a modern slab format behind the range, and terra-cotta tile with a geometric bronze inlay behind the sink. Contemporary black accents marry with ageless unlacquered brass. "There is no one style, no one era," Zaveloff says. "It's about how materials interact."

A pro-style double range, two sinks, a built-in microwave, and undercounter refrigerator drawers that supplement the panel-cloaked main fridge meet all the needs of a busy mom getting dinner on the table every night.

"I love this house," Lorie says. "There's so much of me—and Rebekah—in here. It feels good, like our childhood. And that's a really happy feeling."

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DESIGNER INSIGHTS: MIXING ERAS

Want a new kitchen to have the look—and character—of a space that has evolved over time? Bring in a blend of styles and eras.

• *Count on the classics.* Designer Rebekah Zaveloff eschews one-hit wonders from any era. Pick elements with staying power to build a blend that's collected, not chaotic. Shaker cabinets? Marble and wood? They're in style yesterday, today, and always.

• *Repeat yourself.* Don't mix things up too much. Pair different styles of cabinets or different species of wood as long as nothing feels random. Repeat wood or white-painted elements, for example, so there's eye-pleasing continuity across styles.

• *Follow your heart.* Create a signature moment or two with elements you love, like Lorie FitzGibbon's geometric-pattern backsplash and caneback, tubular-steel barstools (a '70s favorite descended from Marcel Breuer's classic 1928 Cesca design).



ABOVE: The kitchen connects to a comfortable breakfast area where the entire family can share a meal—and time—together. A new hutch built to look like an old piece contrasts the island's white oak trim.



ABOVE: A panel that looks like a pantry closet stylishly hides the refrigerator/freezer. FAR LEFT: A sleek microwave oven is positioned into the cabinetry in the back of the kitchen, forming a workstation that is out of the way. LEFT: On the other side of the back wall, a double-drawer refrigerator is concealed by cabinetry panels. The under-the-counter appliance keeps beverages cool and within reach.

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—REBEKAH ZAVELOFF, DESIGNER