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# Kitchen Style & Storage™

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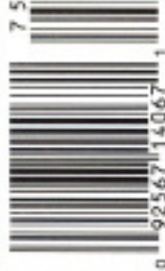
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**THIS PHOTO:** Antiques—including a brass mercantile scale—impart a lived-in, history-rich feeling in the new great-room.  
**OPPOSITE:** Weathered materials, including tumbled-stone countertops, distressed pecan flooring, aged timbers for ceiling beams, and an island of custom-distressed alder, complement the homeowners' antique furnishings and make the kitchen feel like it's been here for centuries.

# rustic refinement

Rich texture, heirloom pieces, and distressed surfaces give a brand-new combination kitchen and dining room the warmth and patina of a centuries-old European lodge.





Charm is everywhere in this casually elegant kitchen: family heirlooms, character-rich surfaces, and an inviting Provençal-meets-Mediterranean vibe. The surprise is that the room is part of a new house in the fir-dappled hills of Medina, Washington. Like every inch of the two-level stucco and clay-tile home, the kitchen was designed with the goal of “imperfect perfection”—a sense of lived-in beauty and history right from the start. Inspired by a vacation in a rural French hotel, the homeowners and architect envisioned a single expansive room for cooking, dining, entertaining, and conversing.

**LEFT:** Custom cabinets painted a shade of barely blue act as an elegant frame around the tumbled-marble backsplash and counters, gently arching window, and traditional apron-front sink.

**ABOVE:** Used as a serving buffet near the dining table, the rough-hewn butcher block inspired the room's surfaces.

## style statement

**STREAMLINED OLD WORLD:** Distressed woods, mottled wall texture, and tumbled stone create the illusion of age. Fainted and stained cabinets mask modern appliances and introduce grand architectural details, such as arches and columns, to the rustic setting.



Photographer: John Graven. Field Editor: Linda Humphrey.

French-style arches with limestone accents mark the entrance to the kitchen/great-room. The stone fireplace opening, the window above the sink, and the passageway to the butler's pantry repeat this classic design element. A beamed ceiling, walls covered with a golden decorative paint treatment, and floors finished in distressed pecan create a backdrop that's both robust and surprisingly graceful.

A mix of stained and painted cabinets topped with russet-tone marble tile countertops line the outer wall of the room, minimizing the state-of-the-art refrigerator, dishwasher, and other appliances. Hidden accent lighting in the soffit highlights displays of baskets and pottery, while discreet undercounter task lighting boosts the usability of prep areas around the apron-front sink and French range.

The island is critical to the look and flow of the space. Custom-constructed of knotted alder planks, the high front counter hides dirty dishes from guests seated at the intimate dining table beyond. A local craftsman stained, glazed, and distressed the wood on site using knives and forks to give the piece the look of real use and wear. In contrast to its vintage appearance, the island incorporates many modern conveniences, including a copper prep sink, microwave oven, refrigerator drawers, and custom spice and garbage storage.

Continuing the focus on casual elegance, the upholstered chairs in the dining area feature an unlikely combination of buttery leather seats and stonewashed chenille backs, perfect for gathering around the antique Irish wake table for relaxed meals. The nearby stone fireplace stands table height to facilitate viewing while dining. A rewired vintage chandelier and other family treasures mingle with new acquisitions for a look that's cultivated and instantly comfortable. □

*Resources on page 108*

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Warmly glowing, copper countertops in the pantry add another old-world surface to the room's mix of rustic textures. **OPPOSITE:** A mantel-style hood mimics the basic shape of the stone fireplace in the dining area and hides a high-power exhaust fan.



## RUSTIC ELEMENTS FOR NEW KITCHENS

Give a new kitchen vintage appeal with these tips:

- **Tone down colors.** Give color choices an aged look by incorporating gray or golden undertones. Glazes and decorative finishes can temper bright colors.
- **Do some research.** Know the general era or geographic region you want to emulate. Search online and browse books and magazines to locate images and resources to identify finishes and materials.
- **Choose weathered surfaces.** Seek out naturally aged materials, such as reclaimed timber, cabinetry, and stone, from salvage and antiques dealers. Look for new materials that mimic distressed looks, including chemically aged woods, hand-scraped finishes, and decorative paint and stain treatments.
- **Select rugged finishes for new items.** Here, new iron stools, leather upholstery, and bronze faucets perfectly mesh with heirloom and aged surfaces.