



**DESIGNER:**

Seborn Ragsdale & Lisa Principe  
 CKS Kitchens & Design  
 2408 Reichard Street  
 Durham, NC 27705  
 919-477-6318  
 www.cksdesignstudio.com

**LOCATION:** Jamestown, NC

**DIMENSIONS:** 34' by 20'

**>>> SPECIAL FEATURES:**

Magnetic chalkboard inserts on refrigerator surface; Two islands—one for children and one for adults; Multiple prep and clean-up areas

**PRODUCTS USED:**

- Range: Wolf 48-inch
- Range Hood: Wolf
- Dishwashers: Bosch
- Warming drawer, wall oven, microwave: Dacor
- Faucets: Danze
- Sinks: Rohl Fireclay
- Tiles: Ann Sachs
- Cabinetry: Dura Supreme
- Wine Cooler: Marvel

MICHAEL TRAMER FOR CKS KITCHENS & DESIGN

# new design for 1800's home

A BIGGER KITCHEN BECOMES AN EVEN BETTER ONE

**WISH LIST**

- Modern, contemporary design
- Flexibility for cooking, entertaining and family time
- Warmth and intimacy within a very large space

Too much space is rarely a problem, but it was the challenge this kitchen presented to designer Lisa Principe. Principe's mission was to create a space to accommodate a large family comfortably while retaining the elements that tied it to the rest of this 1800's home.

"The home has been in the family for generations," explains Principe. To make it a family affair, the homeowners asked Principe to collaborate with their relative, New York-based interior designer Seborn Ragsdale. "This really made the project much more fun. Seborn had extensive knowledge of the home's history and understood exactly what his brother and sister-in-law wanted," says Principe.

First on the menu was to reorganize the kitchen for efficiency. An adjoining wall was removed to make way for two islands and a breakfast nook. Seating was built into both, each at a height to accommodate both the parents and their children. "The children spend a lot of time here so we wanted them to be comfortable," says Principe. Another additional kid-friendly touch is the magnetic chalkboard inserts on the refrigerator surface. "Most stainless steel kitchens can't accommodate the things kids love, like magnets and a place to hang their latest drawing," she explains.

Because the large space needed visual balance and proportion, cabinetry was brought to a height of 9½ feet. Interiors were customized with shelves and dividers to accommodate the many sets of dishes and glassware that the homeowner has inherited over the years. Next, a soffit was added to establish a boundary for large wooden beams and tongue and groove paneling on the ceiling. White painted inset cabinetry with cloverleaf punched steel inserts was incorporated to stay consistent with the home's architecture.

For a colorful contrast, both islands were painted a cool silvery shade of blue-green, while a quarter-sawn oak desk and hutch were stained an earthy cocoa brown. The cooking area countertops are cherry plank. In keeping with the homeowner's wishes, the existing wide-plank pine floors were custom painted in complementary tones and allowed to scuff and wear to some extent prior to adding polyurethane. —Diane Speros





An island this large would overwhelm a smaller space, but here it's the visual focal point and the center of activity.

OPPOSITE: The little ones enjoy their own special island while the adults appreciate the extra storage space that keeps clutter under control.



PHOTOGRAPH BY GUY AROCH/PHOTOGRAPHY

**DESIGNER:**  
Zack Simmons  
CKS Kitchens & Design  
2408 Reichard Street  
Durham, NC 27705  
919-477-6318  
www.cksdesignstudio.com

**INTERIOR DESIGNER:**  
Lucinda Poole  
919-593-4965

**LOCATION:** Carrboro, NC

**DIMENSIONS:** 17' by 20'

**>>> SPECIAL FEATURES:**  
Lots of natural light; Island with plentiful and varied storage; Microwave sliding drawer in island; Arched pass-through to the adjoining family room

**PRODUCTS USED:**

- Range: Wolf
- Range hood: Vent-A-Hood
- Refrigerator: Amana
- Sinks: Blanco
- Plumbing fixtures: Supplied by Wilkinson Supply
- Microwave drawer: Sharp
- Hardware: Top Knobs

# expansive center unit

FITTED WITH CABINETS AND DRAWERS,  
THE ISLAND IS THE CENTER OF ACTIVITY

## WISH LIST

- A large workhorse of an island with a single surface
- Enough seating for the whole family
- More room for entertaining

While too many cooks can spoil the broth, these homeowners wanted a kitchen large enough for both of them to cook together with ample storage and lots of windows. Rising to the challenge, kitchen designer Zack Simmons of CKS Kitchens & Design and interior designer Lucinda Poole suggested making one change to the architect's original plan: "Instead of two smaller, separate islands, we recommended a single expansive center unit that could work for them both," explains Simmons.

Fitted with cabinets and drawers, the island has a furniture-like look in a rich stained cherry wood. Crafted with clean, simple lines, all door and drawer fronts are wide. Designed to hold everything from utensils and cookware to extra linens, the drawer and cabinet interiors offer convenient flexibility. One unique feature is a Sharp microwave drawer that slides out and "is very user-friendly," says Simmons. The scrolled overhead pot rack holds larger cookware while keeping it within easy reach.

To balance the island's grand scale, a professional range was placed in a large, arched alcove that mirrors the same proportions. In order to accommodate a large, stainless steel farmhouse sink, the cabinets on either side were raised two inches off the ground for easier accessibility.

Because the island eliminated the need for more wall cabinets, a large triple window floods the room with natural light. Granite surfaces on the island, countertop and range area were selected for their visual texture and easy-clean quality. A few wall cabinets were coated with cream-colored paint that coordinates with the wall and trim while avoiding a top-heavy look. Faux beams stained to match the island impart a French-country style. Limestone flooring in a light-reflecting tone adds an airy feel.

The cozy dining nook near the glass-front doors is the perfect spot for family dinners or Sunday brunch with friends. A double-pendant light fixture overhead and single pendants above the island and countertop provide illumination.

While meeting all of the homeowners' needs was a tremendous creative challenge, "this design solution really proves that a kitchen can be beautiful and functional without sacrifice," says Simmons. —*Diane Speros*





The island's wide, expansive surface allows for plenty of elbow room in a space that's light and bright.

OPPOSITE: Location is important for storage. A multi-shelf spice rack adjacent to the cooktop is right where it's needed, while a corner cabinet holds more necessities.

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MICHAEL, TRANSFER FOR CKS KITCHENS & DESIGN

# spacious & cheerful

EQUAL PARTS COLOR, TEXTURE AND PERSONALITY MAKE AN OLD KITCHEN NEW AGAIN

## WISH LIST

- Modernize a 20-year-old kitchen
- More storage space
- An ergonomic design with a stylish edge

After living with a kitchen that had become outdated, cramped and dark, this client looked to designer Zack Simmons of CKS Kitchens & Design and independent designer Julie Staelin for help. Empty nesters who were finally on their own, these homeowners wanted to fill their kitchen with personality, color and texture. "The kitchen was considerably small so we wanted to open it up and create a light, open feel," explains Simmons.

Accomplishing this meant enlarging the home while the kitchen's footprint was expanded. In addition, the overall design had to work with two large corner windows. "That was probably our biggest challenge," says Simmons. Granite countertops at the base of each window were chosen for their light-reflecting quality and also provide extra workspace.

A large curved island became the room's focal point. "The angular lines brought in a softer dimension," explains Simmons, "creating a graceful curve that encourages lingering." A wood countertop was used for a more tactile texture that created a dynamic contrast with the quartz surfaces. Italian stainless steel stools, both fun and functional, lend a casual air and complement the island's arch. Fitted with a double sink, a dishwasher and multiple storage options, the homeowners and their guests can work while they play—or vice versa!

While cabinets are employed atop the oven, microwave and refrigerator, drawers are the main means of storage in this kitchen. Simmons enhanced the drawer depths to accommodate such things as cookware stored below the cooktop, another with slots for various utensils and a single unit with a spice insert. Cabinetry finishes are both neutral and colorful to work with the multiple tones that brighten the walls.

Combinations of apple and pear greens warm the room without overpowering it. A natural finish for the maple floor made the perfect backdrop for a custom-made rug.

The overall effect, spacious and cheerful, makes for a refreshing change that's right in step with this new phase in the homeowners' lives. —Diane Speros

## DESIGNERS:

Zack Simmons  
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Julie Staelin  
200 Piney Creek Lane  
Durham, NC 27705  
919-383-9670

**LOCATION:** Durham, NC

**DIMENSIONS:** 15' by 16'

## >>> SPECIAL FEATURES:

Curved island; Multiple drawers with deep holding capacity; Multitude of paints enhance and highlight each area

## PRODUCTS USED:

- **Oven:** Dacor
- **Cooktop and downdraft:** Dacor
- **Microwave:** GE Spacemaker II
- **Refrigerator:** Jenn-Air
- **Dishwasher:** Kenmore Elite
- **Wood Tops:** Brazilian Cherry by J. Thompson Tops
- **Countertops:** Granite
- **Backsplash:** Glass by ClearVue
- **Paint:** Benjamin Moore 395, Apples & Pears
- **Sinks & Faucets:** Wilkinson Supply
- **Hardware:** Siro, Art de Provence, Stainless steel
- **Lighting:** Sid Phillips-Professional Lighting

ABOVE: Fitted with a double sink, dishwasher and numerous storage options, this island is a model of stylish efficiency.

OPPOSITE: Designed so guests and hosts can enjoy each other's company, the island's gently arched lines paired with the stools' playful look ensure a good time for all.







PHOTOS BY MICHAEL TRAMSTER



# striking palette

A TIRED KITCHEN IS REFRESHED  
WITH BOLD DESIGN ELEMENTS

## WISH LIST

- Modern galley-style kitchen
- A large island with a cooktop
- A kitchen without cabinets that turn a corner and cabinets away from the walls to let them breathe

When the owners of a 1980s Arts and Crafts home in Durham, North Carolina, decided it was time to refresh their tired kitchen décor, they called on kitchen designer Zack Simmons, ASID and NKBA of CKS Kitchens & Design.

Because one of the owners is a principal at a large architectural firm and he originally designed the house, it was not necessary to make major changes to the layout. Simmons adds, "The kitchen is basically a footprint replacement of their last kitchen. The elements—fridge, sink, cooktop, ovens—all stayed in their original locations."

However, several new elements requested by the homeowners were added to the kitchen. A cabinet just to the right of the refrigerator was added to hold the owner's stemware, and an open wall cabinet was placed to the right of the main window. Bold designs include a rectangular wine rack painted in a bright blue shade.

Another striking new design element added during the remodel is the reddish-orange panel that runs to the ceiling by the cooktop. "We did this to add color and a design element to that area for the same reason we added the wine rack," says Simmons.

Interior designer Julie Staelin, who had worked with the homeowners in the past as well as CKS, was responsible for the unique color palette and finishes.

One challenge came up during the renovation that affected the placement of the cabinets: the ceiling was not level. "We had intended for the cabinets to have a square band that would go all the way around the ceiling—in essence a crown molding," explains Simmons. "To overcome this we just left the molding off and have a small shadow line above the cabinets."

The kitchen combines several different lighting styles, including recessed lighting designed by Sid Phillips of Professional Lighting. "He suggested an array of recessed lighting because of the low ceiling height," says Simmons. A pendant light hanging over the sink was chosen by Staelin, and CKS provided the under-counter lighting. —*Cynthia Ward Vesey*



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**INTERIOR DESIGNER:**

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**>>> SPECIAL FEATURES:**

Large built-in wine rack and shelf unit for accessories; A cabinet to the right of the refrigerator to hold wine glasses and other stemware; Countertops made with CaesarStone, a quartz-based engineered stone; Reddish orange decorative panel that runs to the ceiling by the cooktop and hood

**LOCATION:** Durham, NC**DIMENSIONS:** 16' by 12'**PRODUCTS USED:**

- Refrigerator: KitchenAid
- Wall oven, microwave and cooktop: Dacor
- Hood: Zephyr • Dishwasher: Bosch
- Faucet: Franke • Sink: Blanco
- Red cabinet knobs: Green Street Details
- Wire cabinet pulls: Valli and Valli
- Lighting: Professional Lighting

The vibrant new kitchen, featuring shades of orange, green, red and blue, is a big departure from the previous all-white kitchen. The cabinets are stained maple with a very subtle grain.

OPPOSITE: The spacious wine rack features a bold blue shade. Black granite was placed around the wine rack for a striking effect.