

# THE ESSENTIALS

Solutions for the Busiest Rooms in the House

Clean-lined Dutch doors in a Scottsdale, Arizona, kitchen contrast with salvaged materials while maximizing breezes.



KITCHEN OF THE MONTH

## In With the Old World

*Mais oui!* This French country kitchen is actually in the sun-baked Arizona desert.

PHOTOGRAPHER LISA ROMERIN

KITCHEN OF THE MONTH



Bringing together the rustic and the streamlined wasn't the only balancing act architect Don Ziebell and designer Inga L. Rehmann, of Oz Architects, pulled off in this Provençal-inspired kitchen in a new Scottsdale, Arizona, home. The clients are empty nesters who wanted the kitchen to feel "cozy day-to-day, but spacious when they entertained," Rehmann says. By tailoring the adjacent morning room and pavilion to accommodate large groups, the kitchen "could stay intimate. It's the best of both worlds," the designer says. —Kathleen Renda

**1. FOREIGN EXCHANGE**

Sourced in France, reclaimed-oak ceiling beams established the kitchen's Gallic bona fides. Both decorative and supportive, the weathered timbers "bring an authentic vibe to the space," Ziebell says. Also adding a French accent: limestone from Provence for the counters and floor tiles.

**2. STONE WALLS** Locally quarried fieldstone mimics the stonework of farmhouses. Applying a mortar wash mixed with site dirt softened the colors of the rocks and upped the coarseness. With all the texture added to the walls, Ziebell wanted the cabinets, painted in Farrow & Ball's Wimborne White, to be a "quiet, reserved moment."

**3. MIXED METALS** Reminiscent of a bar top in a brasserie, the poured-pewter island will take on a patina over time as the surface changes from pale silver to a dark

gray. Along with the industrial zinc of the Urban Electric Co. pendants, pewter offers a counterpoint to the sleek stainless steel Wolf convection steam oven and Sub-Zero refrigerator. Apron sink, Rohl's Shaws Original.

**4. A PLACE TO SIT** Since the clients don't whip up many family-size meals, Rehmann shrank the footprint of the island and turned the saved square footage into a conversation area. The wingback chairs "are a comfy spot for them to sip drinks and chat," she says.

**5. ANTIQUE TABLE** The 1800s Spanish trestle table doesn't have a French pedigree, but Rehmann couldn't resist its rough-hewn appeal. After paint was stripped off, it was mounted on risers with the original ball feet reattached, boosting it to counter height. Paired with Verellen stools, "it's where the clients eat almost every meal," she says.

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### 6. READY TO MULTITASK

The morning room (*right*) morphs as needed: The antique French folding chairs can be swapped out for more formal seating or removed to transform the X-base pine table into a dessert buffet or drinks bar. Classic architectural details—clay plaster walls, a bistro-inspired floor of Belgian bluestone and limestone—won't clash with party decor, whatever the occasion. The planks of salvaged barnwood on the ceiling are milled flat, to tone down the rusticity.

### 7. BRINGING IN LIGHT

Floor-to-ceiling Hope's windows and French doors create an indoor-outdoor conservatory feel. The combo of the slim steel frames and large-scale panes "isn't modern or country. It's transitional, which works well for in-between rooms," Ziebell

says. Wood trim outlining the globe lanterns repeats the windows' grid pattern.

### 8. ALFRESCO PARTYING

Sized for socializing, the pavilion (*below*) gains drama from a 13-foot peaked ceiling with beams identical to those in the kitchen. A jute rug from RH, Restoration Hardware delineates a conversation area, along with a pair of Lee Industries sofas and teak cube stools from Ralph Lauren Home.

### 9. OUTDOOR COOKING

An Oz Architects design, the blackened-steel waterfall table offers diners a direct view of the culinary action happening at the cooking fireplace, which can be outfitted with a height-adjustable grate for Argentine-style barbecue. Antique French hearth bricks form a niche for the fireplace and the nearby grill from Alfresco.

