



BEST

# NEW KITCHEN

Houston-based designer **Chandos Dodson Epley** of Chandos Interiors raises the bar on classic kitchen design by mixing traditional elements with graphic, showstopping tile

BY  
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**Breakfront-style** upper cabinets that stop just short of the ceiling and decorative toe kicks help the cabinetry feel more like furniture.

## THE KITCHEN AT A GLANCE

**Location:** Houston

**Built:** 2012

**Size:** 650 square feet

**Builder:** Corbel Custom Homes; [corbelcustomhomes.com](http://corbelcustomhomes.com)

**Hardware:** Artifex; [schaubandcompany.com](http://schaubandcompany.com)

**Floors:** aged-oak veneer, Custom Floors Unlimited; 713/861-4139

**Backsplash:** custom, with Aguayo Tiles; [adrhouston.com](http://adrhouston.com)

**Hood:** The Lonestar Range Hood Co.; [custom-rangehoods.com](http://custom-rangehoods.com)

## WHAT MAKES THIS A WINNER

### SMART LAYOUT

Because the kitchen is visible from several other rooms, designer Chandos Dodson Epley had the task of making the space both pretty and functional. Brent Mooneyham, project architect at Norman D. Askins, PC, notes, "It's a clean design with subtle embellishments." Chandos started by

centering the range between a pair of windows to infuse light into the room. Then she packed in endless storage, a 5- by 10-foot island, and three eating areas. Furniture-like cabinetry and a muted color scheme help the kitchen blend with adjacent rooms.

### WELL-EDITED MIX

"An excellent combination of traditional and modern elements keeps

this kitchen fresh," says Ginny Lummus, executive assistant at Norman D. Askins, PC. Fixtures with clean lines, like the metal lanterns and graphic hood, satisfy the homeowner's affinity for contemporary details, while dark wood floors, a beamed ceiling, apron-front sink, wicker barstools, and hand-painted tiles steep the space in traditional warmth.

### SCENE-STEALING BACKSPLASH

"It's hard to inject character and soul into a newly built kitchen," says Jessica Thuston. "However, that stunning backsplash lends instant patina." Though the antique-inspired tiles extend to the ceiling, a tonal motif keeps the pattern from overpowering the room, and the glass lanterns provide clear views of the design.



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**MEET THE  
WINNER**

**DESIGNER:** Chandos Dodson Epley, Chandos Interiors, Houston; *chandosinteriors.com*

**EVERY KITCHEN NEEDS...** Patina. In the South, our rooms just seem to have more personality.

**BEST DESIGN TRICK:** Remove window and door casings to give classic spaces a crisper look.

**MOST WORTHY SPLURGE:** Hardware with a handmade quality. You want to feel every dimple and bump.

**CAN'T GET ENOUGH OF...** Using painted brick inside as flooring or a backsplash.

**NO-FAIL COLOR INSPIRATION:** Lots of white! It's so versatile and can go in a traditional or modern direction.

# NOTICE THE DETAILS

SMART STORAGE, A FRESH PALETTE, EYE-CATCHING FINISHES, AND INVITING SEATING COMBINE FOR A GRACIOUS KITCHEN. GET INSPIRED BY THESE SAVVY FEATURES



**1 DECORATIVE HOOD** “It needed to be something that had some presence,” says Chandos. With that focus in mind, the designer partnered with The Lonestar Range Hood Company (*custom-rangehoods.com*) to create the stately vent cover, made of powder-coated steel and brushed nickel.

**2 BESPOKE CABINETRY** A built-in wall of cabinets provides generous storage in a palette that the homeowner, who loves neutrals, could get on board with. Inspired by on-trend gray kitchens, Chandos opted for Mindful Gray by Sherwin-Williams—a fresh, taupe-y take on the popular hue.

**3 OPEN SHELVING** The first accessory selected for the space was a collection of antique ironstone china. The pieces are displayed on rustic, wooden open shelves supported by extra-long iron brackets.

**4 ISLAND STORAGE** With a clever paper towel holder, a disguised trash pullout, and plenty of storage for linens and utensils, the island was designed to be the room's command center.

**5 LOUNGE AREA** A light-filled nook that overlooks the pool is tucked into a corner of the kitchen and serves as a cozy retreat. The homeowner envisioned it as a place to enjoy a cup of coffee or host impromptu guests. ☺

PHOTOGRAPHY: JESSICA WILSON; STYLING: JESSICA WILSON; METAL HORSE (ON BAR): COURTESY MOCKINGBIRD DOMESTICS; MCKINGBIRD DOMESTICS.COM; SILVER CHAMPAGNE BUCKET: COURTESY MECOX GARDENS; MECOX.COM