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Whether it's a farmhouse-inspired retreat accented with copper cookware or a modern chef's kitchen complete with sleek marble countertops and stainless-steel fixtures, today there are more options than ever for creating a functional and beautiful space for cooking and entertaining. With an endless variation of materials, island shapes and sizes, paint colors for cabinetry and backsplash designs, there are numerous ways to make a distinctive mark on the home's foremost gathering place. Here, we turn to experts who share their inspiring ideas for making one of the busiest places in the home both modern and timeless.



Designer Sherry Williamson, working with architect Andrew Mann and builders Michael McCutcheon and Alex Hodgkinson, spearheaded a meticulous renovation of a couple's East Bay home with the goal of creating a simple and eco-friendly environment. The kitchen exemplifies the structure's minimal materials palette as the walls, ceiling and floor all boast FSC-certified American white oak. A central dining area is appointed with a Knoll table and chairs by William Haines Designs.