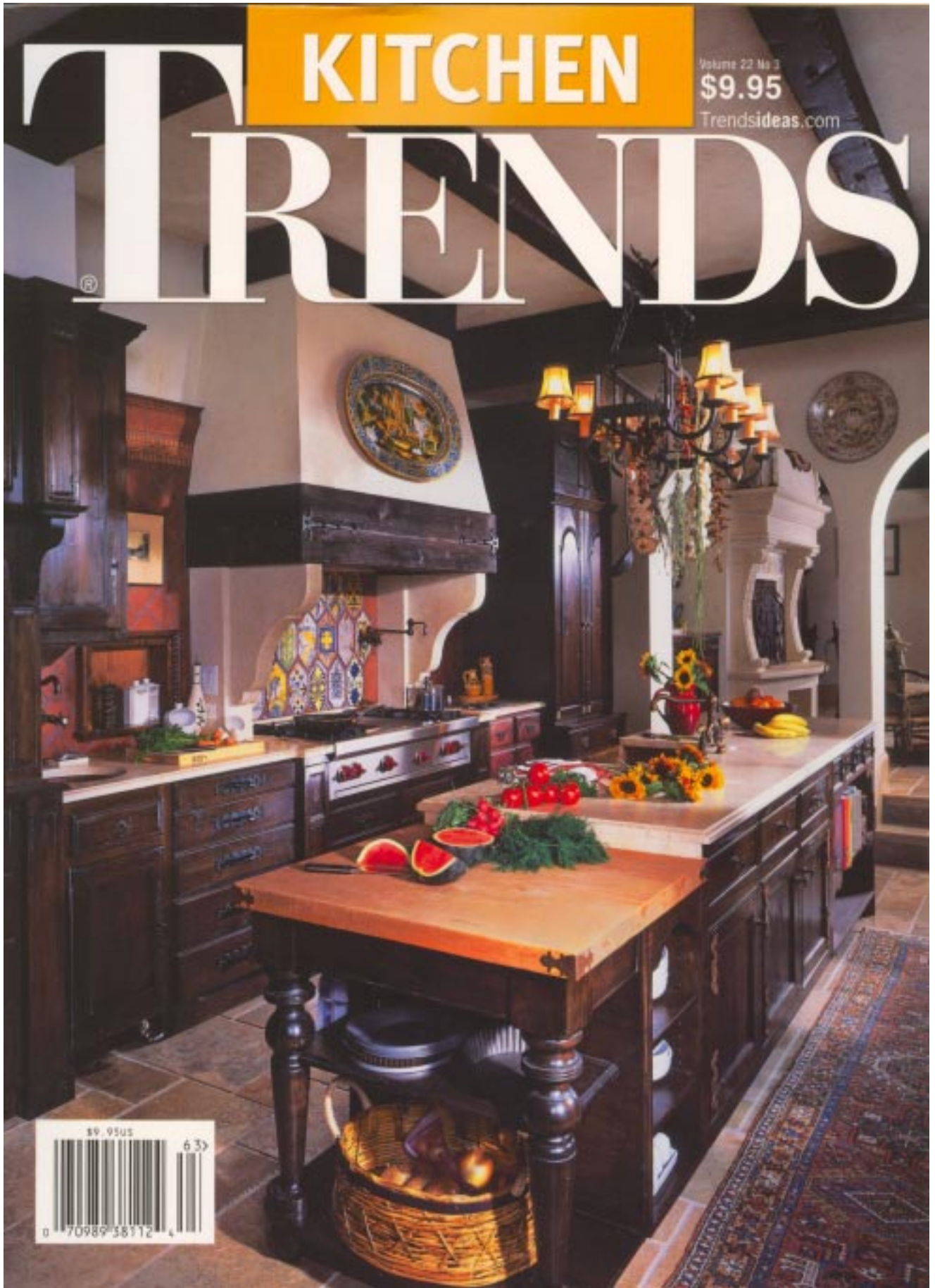


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Impression of space

Light, color, angles and irregular lines create an illusion of width in this remodeled galley kitchen

Sometimes, when remodeling a kitchen, it's possible to push out part of a wall or even remove it altogether. At other times, however, all improvements have to be made within the existing space.

When designer Vernon Applegate was asked to remodel a narrow galley kitchen in an old Victorian row house, he knew the project would be challenging.

"The kitchen space was long and narrow and was open to a small family room at the other end, but none of the



walls could be moved or altered in any way. The whole space had the feeling of a bowling alley," says Applegate.

To break up the galley feel and add some rhythm to the kitchen space, Applegate introduced a variety of angles and irregular lines.

One wall, completely made up of tall cabinets containing the refrigerator, pantries and oven, is angled so the kitchen appears to widen from the back to the front. This wall finishes on a low window seat, which looks out over the garden,



adding to the feeling of width.

On the opposite wall, the counter narrows and steps in at the sink then widens again around the cooktop.

"This creates interest in the kitchen. It also provides a little extra preparation space at the point where the countertop steps out, so more than one cook can work in the kitchen," he says.

The breakfast bar is higher than the rest of the countertop and protrudes into the galley, creating a sense of division between the kitchen and family room.



Facing page, above and lower: Designer Vernon Applegate has remodeled this galley kitchen, so it now appears less narrow and is more workable. An angled wall on the right makes the space look wider. Shelves and cupboards in the family room are in the same finish as the kitchen, helping connect the spaces.

Above and left: The chunky breakfast bar and countertops are in Venetian granite with a slightly rough finish, adding texture to contrast with the smooth, red-lacquered cabinets. Reconfiguring the cabinetry has provided additional storage space in the new kitchen.



Above: With two appliance garages behind the breakfast bar, it is easy to tidy the kitchen. A third appliance garage, also with a stainless door, is at the far end of the kitchen. The stainless is repeated in the legs on the island, handles and appliances.

Right and facing page, lower: The old yellow-stained floor has been stripped back to a natural finish.

Facing page: To add depth, the wall behind the fire is painted a bronze-brown tone. Hints of red in the furniture complement the red kitchen cabinets.

Photography by JD Peterson



Because the only natural light is from windows and a skylight in the family area, a light-stained, figured, vertical-grained sycamore was chosen for most of the cabinetry, with red lacquered maple used to add interest.

"The blond finish compensates for the lack of natural light, while the red lacquered cabinets add a playful note and ensure the space does not have a one-tone feel," says the designer.

To establish a clean-lined look, cabinetry finishes flush with the ceiling. On

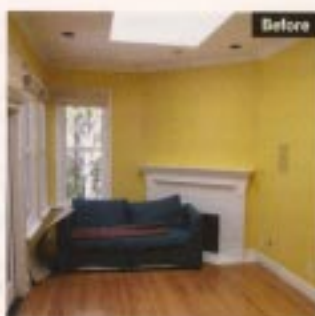


the wall above the sink, a soffit was created and brought down to meet the cupboards, while on the opposite side, the bank of tall cabinetry runs right up to the ceiling.

"This makes the space feel grander and more elegant, in line with the decor of the rest of the house," says Applegate.

For continuity, open shelves and cupboards in the same finish as the kitchen carry through into the family room.

A nine-inch-thick granite countertop adds drama and provides a punctuation point at the end of the kitchen.



Kitchen and interior designer: Vernon Applegate, Gio Tran, Applegate Tran Interiors (San Francisco, CA)
Contractor: Watts Construction
Cabinetry: Figured vertical-grain sycamore, red lacquer, brushed steel
Countertops: Venetian Canal granite
Backsplash: Cipe Cod Grey granite
Sink, faucets: Blanco
Oven, cooktop: Miele
Ventilation: Vent-A-Hood
Wallcoverings: Faux paint finish
Chair in family area: Linn
Sofa: Dellarobbia
Coffee table: Customized steel, built by Larry Brown



Opening up a space creates issues of light and privacy. Between the living area and the bedroom these problems have been overcome by creating custom barn doors, made from brushed stainless steel with frosted glass panels.

The original guest room at the other end of the living area was surplus to needs, so the wall was removed, creating a spacious lounge.

Now, occasional guests can be accommodated in privacy by drawing a heavy curtain across the width of the room. This



curtain mirrors the scale and color of the windows.

"Our biggest design obstacle was the bedroom," says Applegate. The wall behind the bed was at an angle compared to the other three walls, and confused the layout of the room. By adding a floating wall at right angles to the window we've created an art space, plus ensured the owners can see the view from bed."

Neutral tones play up the architectural details. A monochromatic palette of gray ensures, the view is the star, with color