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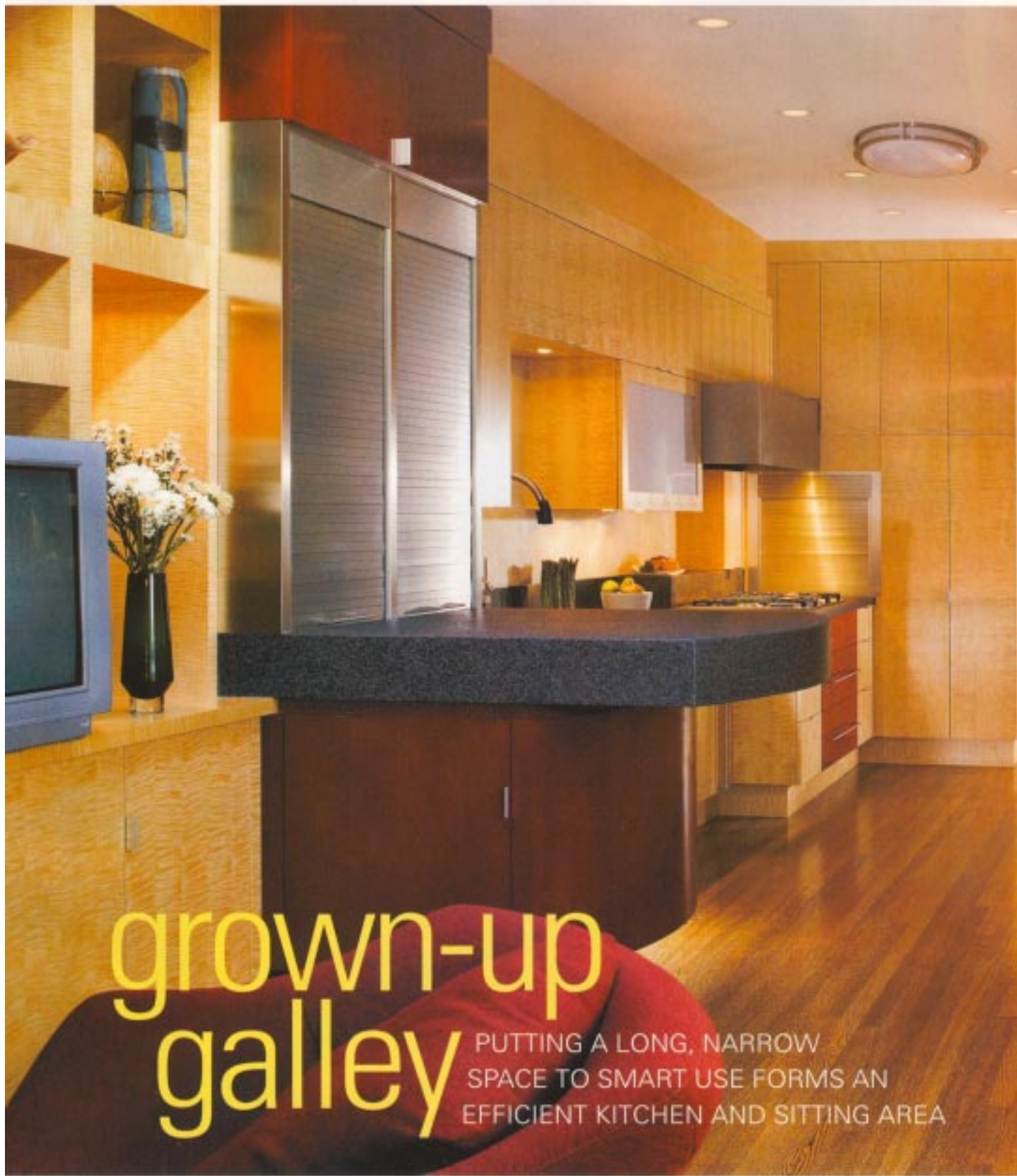
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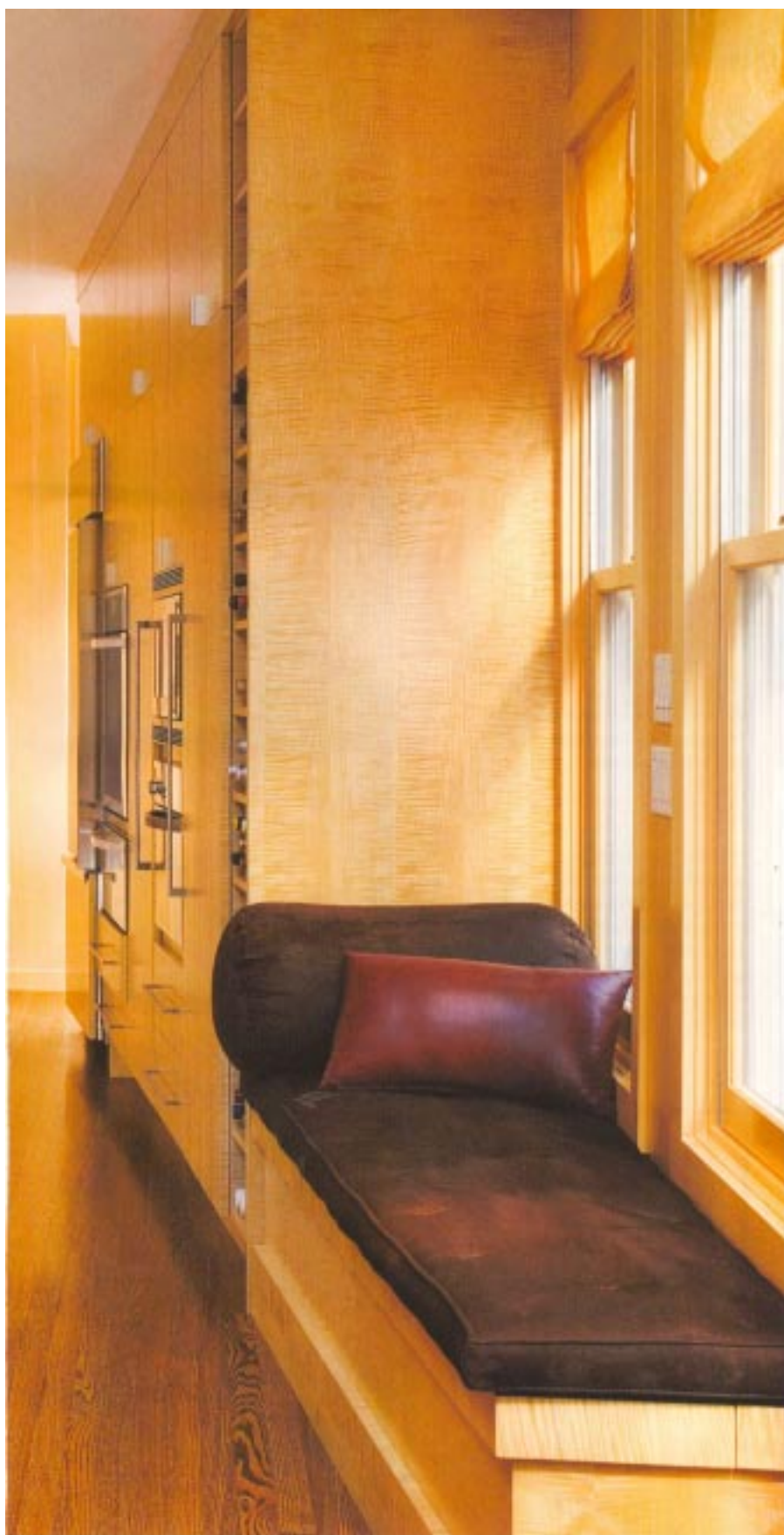
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# grown-up galley

PUTTING A LONG, NARROW  
SPACE TO SMART USE FORMS AN  
EFFICIENT KITCHEN AND SITTING AREA



WRITTEN BY SUSAN MEREDITH  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID DUNCAN LIVINGSTON  
STYLED BY RUTH WELLS

The 2,800-square-foot Edwardian home on a hilly lot in a San Francisco suburb seemed to have it all—a prime location, a lush backyard, and enough of its original 1908 detailing to captivate the new owner, a single mom of a 12-year-old girl. But the poorly laid out kitchen and its cheap, 1970s cabinets and laminate counters were not the homeowner's taste. And the narrow galley shape was hard for two cooks to maneuver, making it difficult for mother and daughter to do something they love to do—bake together. Adding to the congestion, a hulking peninsula awkwardly divided the work zone from a snug sitting area and a fireplace at the opposite end of the room. "The mantel ate up most of the space. There was only room for a couch, and I wanted more of a connection between the areas," says the owner, who turned the challenging kitchen/family room over to designers Gioi Tran and Vernon Applegate, of Applegate Tran Interiors in San Francisco.

**LEFT:** Distressed Absolute Black granite on the peninsula echoes the counters. A trip through a tumbler imparted the natural look the homeowners sought. The 6-inch depth—actually two pieces seamed together—adds visual impact and height.



**LEFT:** A floor-to-ceiling wine rack on the appliance wall actually contains bottles of carbonated water because the owner stores wine elsewhere. The open shelves also add visual interest.

Because the room couldn't be changed structurally, Tran and Applegate worked within the 36x10-foot bowling-alley footprint, stripping walls down to the studs and filling every square inch with small space solutions. Along one wall, sleek, blond anigre wood cabinetry conceals storage and built-in appliances including a refrigerator, a wall oven, a microwave and, at the homeowner's request, a steam oven. "It's fantastic because we eat a lot of vegetables," she says. The opposite wall holds a long, distressed, black granite countertop that includes a stainless steel sink and a six-burner cooktop. Shelves above and drawers below the counter provide lots more storage. For a clean, uncluttered look, the flush-front units reach to the ceiling and the hardware is kept minimal; on the upper bank it's concealed at the bottom of each door. "We wanted the cabinets to look like wood paneling, which is more space-enhancing," says Tran.

**BELOW:** The angled wall of appliances and cabinets relieves any 90-degree boredom. The taper also allows a healthy distance between peninsula and seating area.

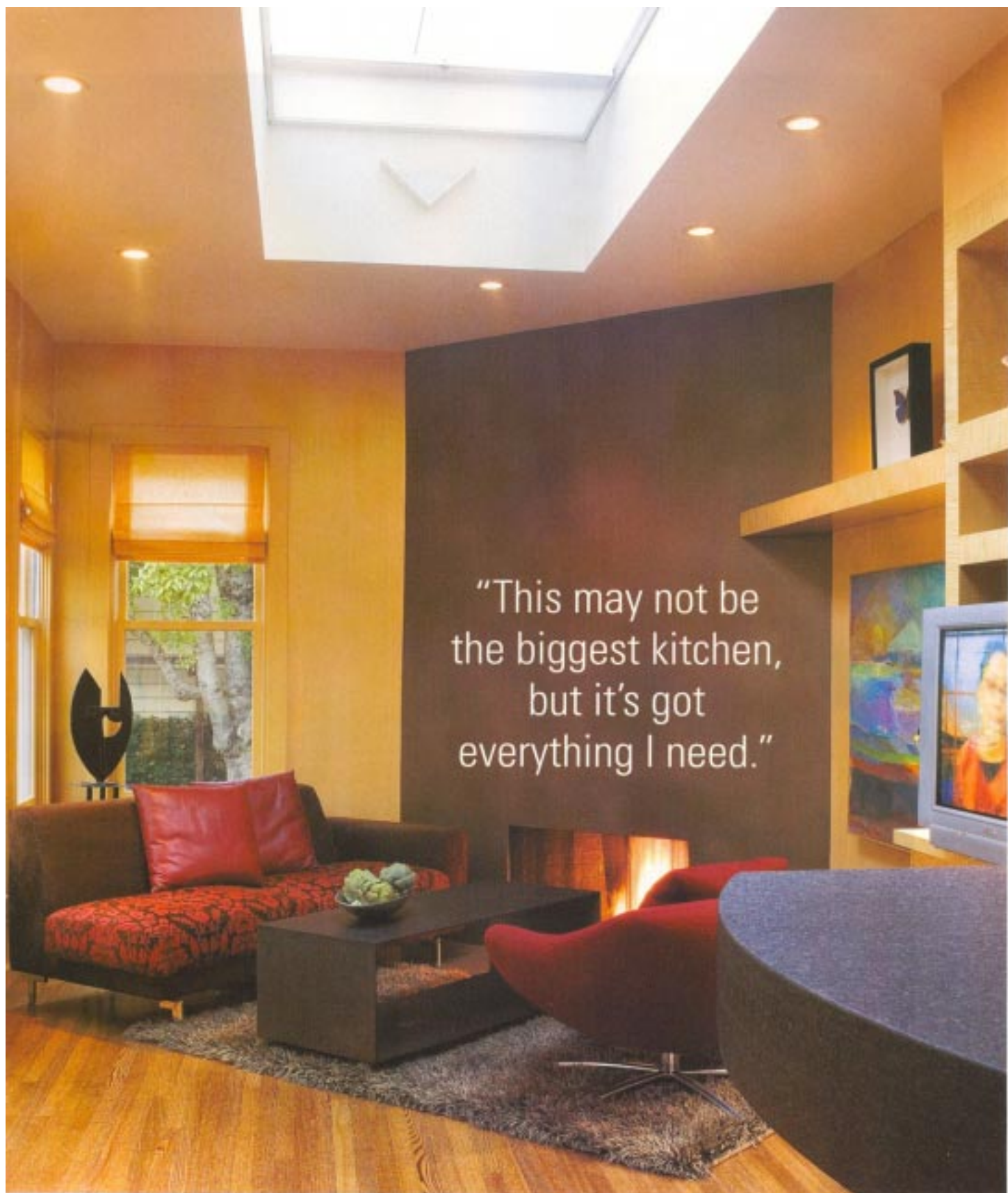


24' x 10'



In the sitting area, another angled wall surrounds the minimalist fireplace. A bulky sofa gave way to smaller-scale seating positioned to take in the kitchen and the deck through a bank of windows and French doors.

FLOOR PLAN: STEVEN STAMMBOCK



"This may not be  
the biggest kitchen,  
but it's got  
everything I need."

