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AMERICAN HOMESTYLE & GARDENING

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kitchen & bath

C U S T O M P L A N N E R

27

Award-Winning Makeovers

Surviving a Kitchen + Bath Remodeling

3 Mosaic Bath Styles

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KITCHEN MAKEOVERS

Redone right, even the crabbiest, most crowded kitchen can transcend its limits, becoming a warm, inviting space for family and friends to cook, to eat, to gather



The integral sink serves multiple functions with two bowls, one shallow, one extra deep.

AROUND THE BEND

PHOTOGRAPHY AND STYLING:
DALE BERMAN

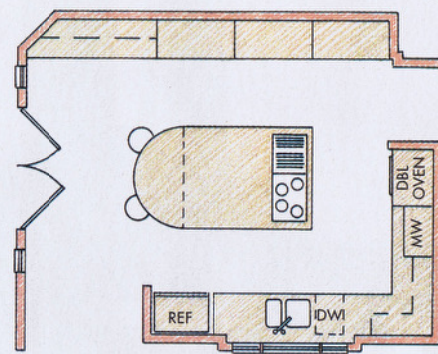
banishing right angles
and sharp corners
lets a California kitchen
go with the flow

A curved island buffers the cooking zone from seated spectators; wide aisles mean even family pets are welcome.

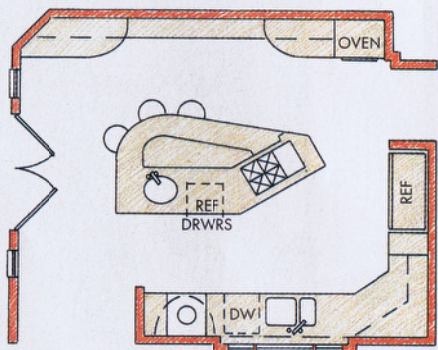
a kitchen has the propensity for being a Rubik's Cube of right angles. All of its major elements—refrigerator, range, dishwasher, even cabinets—are boxes in one form or another, all tightly packed together inside yet another box. Savvy certified kitchen designers like Adel Visser, though, are throwing curves into the mix to civilize all these hard angles. In a kitchen Visser remodeled for a family near Sacramento, California, radiused edges give the doors and drawers of maple



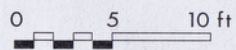
Stainless drawers house pots and pans below the cooktop; ceramic-glass electric elements at right double as landing space when not in use.



BEFORE



AFTER



Plans: The new island packs in more usable features than the unwieldy old one and liberates the 16 x 21-foot kitchen's cooking area. While landing space is missing beside the refrigerator, counter surfaces aren't far away.

Below left: A marble pastry-making shelf slides under the island counter.

Below middle: Pullouts flanking the cooktop hold tall bottles of oils.

Below: Chrome handles and embossed glass add texture to cabinet doors.



sans hard edges, elegant materials help civilize a kitchen's workhorse nature



▲ BEFORE

Above and top: Replacing an enormous and obtrusive island hood, the new one boasts a svelte, sculptural shape; its brushed stainless, echoed by refrigerator and prep sink, works as a softening element.

SOURCES

Designer: Adel L. Visser, CKD.
Cabinetry: Teixeira Woodworks.
Solid-surface countertops, sink: Avonite. **Refrigerators:** Amana; Sub-Zero (drawers).
Cooktop, ovens: Gaggenau.
Wok: Thermador. **Hoods:** Independent. **Dishwasher:** Miele.
Prep sink: Franke. **Faucets:** Grohe. **Lighting:** Translite (pendants); Artemide (over sink).
 ■ See page 127.

cabinets a "pillowed" look, while bullnose edges soften hefty countertop slabs of terrazzo-look solid surfacing. Elliptical stainless steel exhaust hoods—one over the main cooktop, another above a separate wok unit—allow the eye to flow around them and take in the vaulted ceiling. But the gentle geometry is functional as well as decorative. On the multilevel island, which houses a combination gas/electric cooktop, a salad sink and two refrigerated drawers, a sweeping curved countertop yielded a generous dining bar. Counters flanking a shallow built-in china cabinet opposite mimic that curve and smooth traffic flow as well. "In the old kitchen, a huge blob of an island took up so much

room that the aisles were narrow all the way around and the kitchen felt very confining," says Visser. The new island's intriguingly irregular shape solves that problem; angling it on one end not only boosted space in the chef's L-shaped work area but, in effect, created two cooking zones, each with its own cooktop. Along with the wall ovens, the primary cooktop and the main sink's counter were dropped 2 inches to accommodate a 5-foot-2 cook without inconveniencing her 6-foot husband. "The new kitchen is the same size as the old one," points out Visser. "But now it caters specifically to the people who use it." Which is exactly what a kitchen ought to do.—MICHAEL WALSH

