

Cottage Kitchen

Combine friends with a dash of comfort food and you have the perfect recipe for winter entertaining.







Reaching Up

With space at a premium, this little kitchen utilizes every square inch for efficient workspace and storage—without sacrificing a pleasing design.

TEXT BY ANN ZIMMERMAN ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY SCOT ZIMMERMAN

In any home, space is one of the most important, and often most challenging, aspects of design. For this new contemporary home, the design is constrained by the 25-foot-wide lot where a miner's cottage once stood. An open living space occupies the second floor, and with careful design, the width constraints aren't apparent in the sophisticated black and white kitchen.

The kitchen claims a long rectangle under a high, beamed section of the ceiling with the cabinets creating an "L" shape along the walls. An island squares up the area and has bar seating that invites conversation. The sleek island also features an elongated bar sink, which can aid in food preparation or be filled with ice during parties and become a handy ice bucket.

Sheri Russell of Park City, Utah, is the interior designer responsible for the revamped kitchen design—a design that came with a unique set of challenges. "[The kitchen] was full of design and flow challenges that invariably created opportunities for better utilization of space," she recalls. "The high vaulted ceiling allowed for higher cabinets, and I had a rolling ladder installed for conveniently accessing the high cabinets." The track for the rolling ladder is echoed in the cabinet design, and it visually anchors the height of the space. Similarly, the black granite countertops provide another strong horizontal element, and the eye-catching pendant light fixtures are a third way Sheri's design offsets the sense of height in the room.



The layout still affords maximum workspace and storage. There is simplicity to the painted cottage-style cabinets and white apron-front farmhouse sink. The consistent color palette in the ivory cabinets, the range hood, and the white subway tile backsplash give the design an uncluttered appearance. At the same time, the choice of a lustrous black for the countertops adds sophistication by creating the black and white color scheme. By maximizing the space vertically, the small space performs just as well as a larger one. [1]

With the open floor plan only two sides of this kitchen can be used for cabinets and appliances. So for more storage on those walls, cabinets were added vertically, one on top of the other. A permanent ladder made the cabinets accessible. The island adds countertop workspace, and the low stools eliminate any visual barriers to the open sides. The flow of the kitchen allows foot traffic to easily access the dining and living areas.