

CANADA'S

style at home

GOOD-FOR-YOU
KITCHEN
PRODUCTS
(YES, they
really work!)
page 64

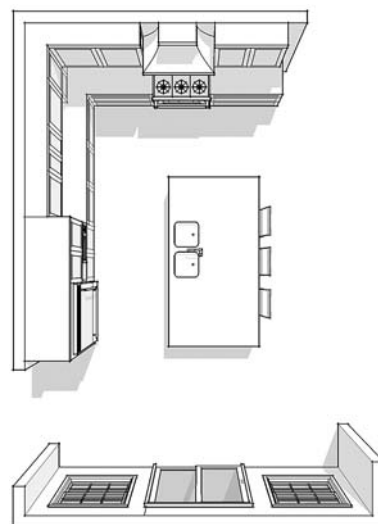
120
brilliant
organizing
ideas!

35⁺ pages of
the most beautiful
kitchens

make your home work for **you**
chic basements best organizing gadgets hideaway storage

idea 64

A silver platter hung above the range is a focal point and a decorative yet impermanent alternative to a mosaic tile treatment.



timeless elegance

An extra 2,000 square feet and a shorter work commute were enough to persuade Sandee and Chuck Tatham to move north to suburban Aurora, Ont., from a quaint 1,400-square-foot home in Toronto. But that didn't stop them from missing the architectural details their new 10-year-old builder home lacked. After living in it for a year and a half, the couple had interior designer Lisa Worth open up the kitchen to the family room. By improving the sightlines and introducing refined elements like custom frame-faced millwork, leaded glass and antique mirror, Lisa created a sophisticated, charming space the Tathams love.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LENI JOHNSTON

idea 65

A vintage-inspired “hutch” is a charming alternative to wine racks and TV nooks. The lower half houses a computer terminal. A keyboard fits inside the top drawer located underneath the monitor, which doubles as a TV.



“Halogen lighting is a necessity in a task-oriented space like a kitchen” LISA WORTH, INTERIOR DESIGNER

OPPOSITE, LEFT Ed, the Tathams’ goldendoodle, relaxes behind the island, which features vintage-inspired cut-glass knobs. Corbels add decorative charm, but they also provide extra support for the 12-inch granite overhang, says interior designer Lisa Worth. **OPPOSITE, TOP** Leaded glass doors embody the heritage feel homeowner Sandee Tatham was after. An art consultant and collector, Sandee hung an oil painting on the backsplash after reframing it in an antique silver frame. **ABOVE** Instead of going with more costly stained maple or walnut, the Tathams had the island painted taupe and topped with granite to contrast with the creamy white cabinetry and marble counters. The shaped toe kick on the cabinetry lends a handsome, traditional look to the kitchen. ▷

what was used

Shaker-style **cabinetry**, Rickwood Limited. **Paint**, Shaded White (walls), Slipper Satin (cabinetry), Farrow & Ball; White Down (trim, ceiling), Flagstone (island), Benjamin Moore. Crema Marfil **marble counter** (perimeter), Juparana Perla **granite counter** (island), Ciot. Crema Marfil tumbled-marble minibrick **tiles** (backsplash), Saltillo Imports. **Refrigerator, range**, Viking Range Corporation. **Dishwasher**, Miele. Franke **sink**, Franke Kindred Canada. Victorian **faucet**, Ginger’s. Hundi **lanterns**, Sescolite. Glass **knobs** (on island), Restoration Hardware. Oak hardwood **flooring**, Darmaga Hardwood Flooring.

There are countless ways to combine accessible beauty with functional organization. Here, interior designer Lisa Worth shares how she used 31 of them in this Aurora, Ont., bungalow. Written by Christy Wright | Photography by Donna Griffith

family matters

Despite having hectic schedules, a penchant for entertaining and three children age 10 and under, Jackie and Chris Venneri have a home that's kid friendly and the epitome of organization. But it hasn't always been this way. To make it happen, Jackie hired Aurora, Ont.-based interior designer Lisa Worth. The mission: create good-looking storage, a spacious feeling, comfortable flow and a design elegant enough to stand up to entertaining. Consulting with Jackie every step of the way, Lisa based her design on the Venneri family's lifestyle and tastes. She reconfigured the layout by removing the walls between the kitchen, living and dining rooms, added ingenious open and closed storage to every room, and finished it all with a mix of traditional design tempered by warm and cheerful elements. The result is a stylish and practical look that lends itself just as easily to kids' crafts as it does to sophisticated adult dinner parties.

IDEA 78 The ottoman's leather upholstery makes it durable, easy to clean and kid friendly – a good thing, since the classic ottoman serves as both a coffee table and a spot for little ones to swap hockey cards and play games. It's also the preferred perch for the Venneris' four-year-old son, Austin. "Our little guy loves sitting up there," says mom Jackie.

IDEA 79 This large-scale damask-pattern fabric was the starting point for the living room's design. "It gives the space the 'wow factor' that Jackie was looking for, while providing a yin-yang balance between formal and casual comfort," says Lisa.



idea 80

During the reno, a Jamo surround sound system was installed in the walls. A bulky subwoofer is tucked away in this custom unit along with additional speakers – they all sit behind mesh screen doors so, though not on view, they still emit clear sound. ▷

idea 77

Instead of drawing attention to the window's angled shape, interior designer Lisa Worth ignored it and hung drapery at standard height, leaving the top of the window exposed.



idea 81

To add personal warmth and keep the dining room from feeling too formal, Jackie filled the niche shelves on either side of the entranceway with books, family albums and decorative items.



IDEA 82 Set into a niche along one wall of the dining room, this built-in serving area adds an additional 6½ linear feet of storage for dishes, linens and bar items.

IDEA 83 "Repetition of design elements ensures unity in living spaces," says Lisa. Here, some of the cupboard doors have the same wired-glass fronts that accent the built-in wall unit in the living room.

IDEA 84 For an elegant sparkle and to reflect light in what could have been a dark spot, Lisa installed an antiqued mirror backsplash. "Typical tile would have been far too kitcheny," she says.



"The open-concept design allows us to feel connected as a family, no matter which room we're in"

JACKIE VENNARI, HOMEOWNER

IDEA 85 Lisa carried the colour scheme from one room to the next for continuity in the open-concept home. Blue grey drapery references the living room's light blue accents. The dining table was refinished in a dark chocolate brown stain similar to the kitchen island.

IDEA 86 The Italian chandelier, a family heirloom passed down from homeowner Chris Venneri's grandmother, adds a sense of tradition to the new space.

idea 87

"This is where the family sits down to eat every night," says Lisa. "Jackie wanted function, so we chose simple Parsons chairs in wipeable faux leather."

IDEA 88 Instead of covering the floor with an area rug, Lisa left it unadorned to emphasize the open feel of the room and to aid in easy cleanup after meals. ▷



idea 89

The plate rack combines form and function: “I like its decorative aspect and its practical purpose of holding serving dishes,” says Jackie.



IDEA 90 Lisa had Pierre St-Marc limestone custom-cut into subway tiles for the backsplash. The brown tones add warmth and make the cream cabinetry pop.

IDEA 91 Built into the end of the island, the paper towel rack is unobtrusive and positioned at kid height. The island also features a drawer with a built-in dispenser for plastic wrap, complete with a cutter — handy when preparing school lunches.

IDEA 92 To keep the balance of formal and accessible, Lisa upholstered the backs of the bar stools with a casual striped fabric that complements the red faux leather seats, which make spills a nonissue.

IDEA 93 A kick sweep, a small rectangular built-in vacuum feature, is located just above the floor at the base of the sink side of the island. It blends in with the island, but when opened, it quickly sucks in swept-up crumbs.



IDEA 94 After the wall between the kitchen and dining room was taken down, shortened upper cabinets were installed. “They add more storage space and help define the two areas while still keeping them visually open to each other,” says Lisa.

IDEA 95 To eliminate clutter, Lisa added an appliance cupboard in one corner of the kitchen. It sits at counter level so appliances are easily accessible — no bending down or reaching overhead.

IDEA 96 Cupboards and drawers maximize every inch of storage space with pullouts for pots, bowls and even spice racks, plus built-in utensil dividers and a concealed spot for garbage and recycling containers.

IDEA 97 For even more storage, the peninsula features drawers and cupboards on both sides; the dining room side includes a built-in beverage fridge.



IDEA 98 “This isn’t a typical kitchen table,” says Jackie, “but I love its open quality and airiness, which work so well here.”

IDEA 99 “I searched for months for these chairs because sometimes the right piece just isn’t out there when you need it,” says Lisa. “When I saw these, I knew instantly that their rounded lines would work beautifully with the curved backs of the kitchen stools.”

idea 100

“Because there are lots of cushions on the window seat, I didn’t want drapery above it competing for space,” says Jackie. Also, the view outside the bay window is the tree-lined side yard, so privacy isn’t an issue. ▷

► Lisa (left) and Jackie smile over a job well done. “We worked together from start to finish, and Lisa listened to what I wanted,” says Jackie. “She took the stress out of everything.”

IDEA 101 “I don’t like messiness, but I do want to keep photos and mementoes on hand,” says Jackie. The solution? A built-in bulletin board fitted with a door that hides what’s inside.



idea 102

“My 10-year-old daughter, Hailey, loves to cook,” says Jackie. Holding the kids’ cookbooks is a built-in bookshelf, which Hailey and the other children can reach easily.



idea 104

Behind a tilt-down door, four labelled shelves – one for Mom and one for each of the children – keep everyone’s papers, from school trip notices to phone bills, in place. (Dad’s papers are kept tidy in his office.) “These shelves are a favourite of mine,” says Jackie, “and possibly one of the best organizing features in the house.”



idea 103

A sisal rug is a cheap and cheerful floor covering that’s durable and hides stains and dirt between cleanups.

IDEA 105 Adjacent to the eating area, Jackie’s office nook features large upper cabinets above the desk and a roomy filing cabinet in the bottom drawer.

IDEA 106 A built-in nook should blend in with the rest of the space, so this one was made to match the kitchen cabinetry; the desktop is the same granite as the kitchen counters.

idea 107

Next to the garage, an empty furnace room was transformed into a much needed mud room. Open shelves hold baskets for hats, sweaters and everything else the kids, including seven-year-old Carson (shown here), need to play outside. “The children each have their own shelves and baskets, so there are no excuses when it comes to putting things away,” says Jackie. Upper cabinets store off-season clothing and accessories, as well as Jackie’s collection of handbags. WHERE TO FIND IT, PAGE 184





“This is my own private spa, my little getaway”

HOMEOWNER

PHOTOGRAPHY BY LENI JOHNSTON

what was used

Paint, Light Gray 17 (walls), Farrow & Ball; White Down CC-50 (trim, ceiling), Benjamin Moore. Dark-stained oak **vanity**, Rickwood Limited. Polished-nickel drawer **pulls, sconces**, Restoration Hardware. Calacatta marble **counters**, Grigio Saraceno **honed-marble tiles** (floor, shower), Ciot. Calacatta marble **mosaic tile** (shower floor), Saltillo Imports. Ladena **sinks**, Kohler. **Faucet**, Jado. Guinevere **toilet**, Toto. BainUltra soaker **tub**, Anglaise **cradle faucet**, Waterworks **showerhead**, Eames **hand set**, Ginger's. **Chandelier**, Residential Lighting Studio.



the beauty of multitasking

An Italian-inspired chandelier hung above the tub adds formal elegance to the room. It also defines this area as “her” space.

best of both worlds

“Are you a bath or a shower person?” That’s the first question interior designer Lisa Worth asks clients when planning a bathroom. “It drives the scheme,” she says. Yet for the owners of this suburban master bathroom in Aurora, Ont., things weren’t so cut and dry. The husband, an engineer, loves showers whereas his wife (also an engineer with a more than 60-hour workweek) likes to de-stress by taking long baths. Both got their wish. Their 16-year-old builder’s-basic bathroom was transformed into a stately gem with an elegant marble shower and a tub so large the bathroom door frames had to be removed to fit it through. “It’s such a great, chic bathroom,” says Lisa. ▷

OPPOSITE Interior designer Lisa Worth topped the dark-stained oak vanity with slabs of Calacatta marble recessed an inch from the edges of the vanity. **ABOVE LEFT** Finding the right tub was a lot like buying a bed in that the homeowner had to test out four or five different models before she made a decision. “It was important to get one that was comfortable. How do you know unless you sit in them?” she says. **ABOVE MIDDLE** The custom dressing table has everything the wife needs to get ready in the morning, including a velvet-lined jewelry drawer. **ABOVE RIGHT** The husband “wanted some serious power,” says Lisa, pointing to the eight-jet showerhead. Grigio Saraceno marble, which she calls “stone at its finest,” was used in the shower and on the floor.

