

**HOT STUFF**

To avoid competing with the attention-grabbing cabinetry, the ceramic floor tiles and backsplashes were kept neutral and low-key

Cardinal Rules

A Connecticut couple with a bold appetite cooks up a kitchen revamp where red-hot color is the main ingredient

When the owners of this chef-worthy kitchen embarked on a total overhaul of the 368-square-foot space, they were gripped with scarlet fever. But their daring vision of walls and cabinetry painted the glossy crimson of a fire engine “would have been far too bright and jarring,” says Jason Landau, whose firm, Amazing Spaces, guided the redesign. A less-intense solution: staining the minimalist, Shaker-style maple cabinets a deep, rich red. The process reduces the hue’s impact by letting the wood grain show through, yet still delivers the adventurous color the couple was after.

To showcase the custom cabinetry and avoid overpowering it, the rest of the kitchen was kept purposefully understated. The walls and ceiling,

painted a classic white, created a neutral backdrop for simple materials and no-nonsense extras. Rows of inexpensive and unfussy subway tiles formed the counter backsplashes. Plain ceramic squares in an unobtrusive gray went on the floor. The refrigerator doors sport panels of chalkboard slate for grocery lists and impromptu doodling by the kids. Heavy-gauge stainless steel industrial stools, typically found in hospitals, pull up to the marble-topped center island.

Even the kitchen sink has a utilitarian pedigree: With a three-foot-tall pressure sprayer styled after the commercial-grade dishwashing fixtures found in restaurants, it more than stands up to the daily demands of family life. ■



TALL ORDER
A ceiling-hugging corner cabinet was built specifically to accommodate a collection of over-size cookbooks



GRAPE EXPECTATIONS
Avid oenophiles, the homeowners installed an eight-shelf wine fridge and a marble-top uncorking station

FAST CHANGE

3 Tips for Colorizing Any Kitchen

1 BE SELECTIVE Before forking over cash at the paint store, realize that hues affect mood. Orange, the color favored by fast-food joints, can increase hunger, while zesty red is known to be energizing.

2 THINK LONG-TERM The resale value of your home may take a hit if you choose a nontraditional color. But if you’re planning on staying put for five years or more, don’t worry about the market’s tastes—pick what you like.

3 KEEP APPLIANCES BASIC Avoid trendy, hot-then-not colors for pricey items like stoves and dishwashers, or you’ll likely suffer buyer’s remorse sooner rather than later. Two words of warning: avocado refrigerator.