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KITCHEN AND BATH IDEAS

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Makeovers

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into the Space
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PRICE GUIDE

How Much Does
a New Kitchen
Really Cost?

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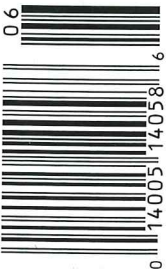
+ PACK MORE
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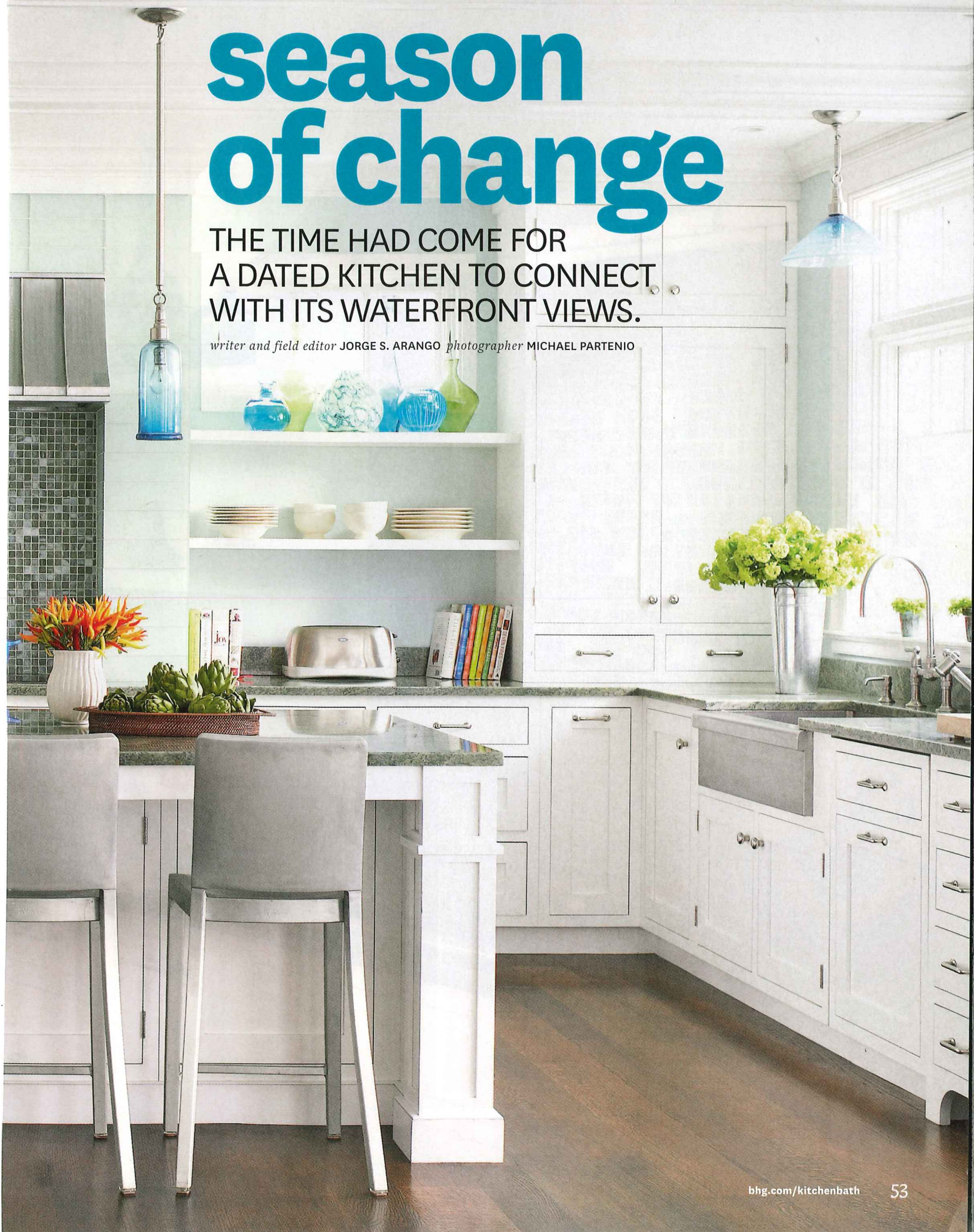


BHG SIP Orange Checkout

season of change

THE TIME HAD COME FOR
A DATED KITCHEN TO CONNECT
WITH ITS WATERFRONT VIEWS.

writer and field editor JORGE S. ARANGO *photographer* MICHAEL PARTENIO







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avid and Lisa Miller knew things needed to change in the kitchen of their harborside home in Darien, Connecticut. “It was about 15 years old and felt dated,” Lisa says.

Cherry cabinetry and dark granite countertops did nothing to connect the house to its beautiful marine surroundings. Additionally, she says, “there was a funky jog to the architecture, so the room wasn’t square. It didn’t have great flow, either. The orientation was the other way around, and I didn’t want my back to the view.”

What she didn’t know was exactly how much would change when she called in kitchen designer Jason Landau for advice. Landau began by squaring the room, which yielded space. (It went from about 460 square feet to 580.) Next came a major reconfiguration.

The original kitchen was oriented toward the dining room and away from views. Landau fixed that by separating the cooking and prep areas from the cleanup zone. The sink now sits under an enlarged bank of windows overlooking the harbor. On the adjacent wall, which previously offered only a view of a neighbor’s property, Landau placed the range, flanked by shelves topped with clerestory windows that let in light while maintaining privacy.

The kitchen had a butler’s pantry but, as Landau says, “nowhere in the kitchen for you to sit.” Lisa desired a desk and computer station, but she wanted it out of the main flow of kitchen activity. The couple also have kids, and, Lisa says, “my little one wants to watch TV and be near me.” So Landau converted the butler’s pantry into a sitting area with a desk. Also boosting the hangout potential is a generous island with ample seating. It’s fitted with refrigerator drawers and a microwave set low so it’s accessible to the kids.

OPPOSITE: Earth-tone glass mosaic tiles on the backsplash create textural interest and contrast with the watery glass tiles of the range surround. Homeowner Lisa Miller says the smooth surface of the induction cooktop makes cleanup a breeze. **ABOVE LEFT:** A microwave tucked into the island is easily accessible for kids. **ABOVE RIGHT:** The dishwashing station is now oriented toward the harbor view. A traditional-looking apron-front sink feels more modern in stainless steel.

DESIGN TIP

Continuing the white cabinetry finish on the coffered ceiling creates a unified look that keeps the room light and bright.



OPPOSITE LEFT: A small sink adds service potential to the island, which is covered in Costa Esmeralda granite. **OPPOSITE RIGHT:** Next to the wall ovens, a translucent glass door disguises a walk-in pantry. **THIS PHOTO:** Cabinetry panels seamlessly integrate the refrigerator into the rest of the space.