



ner. Their previous home, a converted chicken barn, was only finished so that it could be sold. The cobbler's children would have shoes this time.

The ranch was leveled and an expanded cape was built on the foundation. The first floor, with 1,400 square feet, was dedicated to the living area. With two young children, the Bryans felt no need for a formal living area. The kitchen and family room are separate, but are joined with a wide doorway, giving the area an open-concept feel.

The kitchen is Brenda's pride. Through careful allotment of the budget, she was able to have a kitchen that had the features she wanted while saving money on other applications. Certain counter surfaces were chosen for their practicality, but in two contrasting colors. A third surface was finished in wood.

The home has no basement, so extra storage was planned in the kitchen with a wall of shaker-style, red birch cabinets. They contrast with the white, painted cabinets, which matches the kitchen's painted wood trim. The glass-front cabinets contain everyday dishes and display items. A pass-through into the dining room makes entertaining easier.

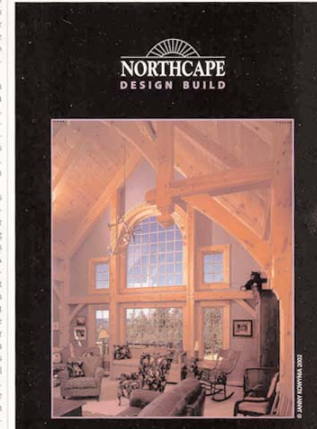
The flooring is the same oak that is used throughout the house. An undermount Franke sink with soap dispenser was placed on the island—a positioning recommended by David, since more time is usually spent at the sink than the stove. A water-powered disposal is installed adjacent to the sink, though it's an investment that the couple is still weighing. A 30-inch Thermador convection and radiant-heat oven is at eye level. A trim kit for the microwave, above, helped integrate it over the oven. Facing the windows is a Thermador five-burner stove. The Bryans chose the griddle rather than the grill option, feeling it was more useful for them. A downraft vent rises up in front of the back splash when in use. They chose an over-under Sub-Zero instead of a side-by-

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by Susan Sauer



A Kitchen Designer's Kitchen

When you're in the trade, what do you choose for your own kitchen?

How do dream kitchens come true? How about through the marriage of a kitchen designer and a home remodeler? David Bryan, president of Blackdog Kitchen and Bath remodeling and his wife Brenda, a certified kitchen designer, finally have the kitchen they knew was possible.

When they bought an outdated 1950s contemporary ranch, David promised Brenda that this home would be finished in a timely man-

