



New England retreat

Beadboard cabinets, shuttered windows and warm red furnishings enhance the relaxing ambiance of this remodeled kitchen and family living area in a beachfront vacation home

Kitchens are often described as the hub of the home, and this is especially true of kitchens in a vacation home. As well as being a gathering place for friends and family, the kitchen is most often the dining area, and a place to sit and relax with wine and a good book.

This remodeled kitchen, in an older New England house on the waterfront, is all these things – unlike the kitchen it

replaces. Designers Dee Elms and Andrew Terrat of Terrat Elms Interior Design say the original kitchen in the house was very disconnected.

“The house has had many owners over the years, each one undertaking a renovation,” says Elms. “The house was essentially a series of additions, all from different periods.”

The designers say the new kitchen, which was part of a

major restoration, needed to be seamlessly integrated with the rest of the house. It also needed to maximize views in two directions.

Consequently, the team introduced five new double-hung windows and shutters on the side of the kitchen facing a picturesque view of the street. Windows on the seaward side of the house were also enlarged to make the most of

Above left: Warm red walls and furnishings contrast with white painted cabinets and shutters in this new kitchen in a remodeled vacation house. A solid, three-sided island forms the centerpiece of the kitchen, linking several key elements, including wine storage, bench and bar seating.

Above: The island has an 8-inch CaesarStone countertop, which is paired with a wood veneer base, colored with a driftwood stain.



the view. The original ceiling, which featured a bulky soffit, was replaced with a coffered ceiling. And new millwork, including painted paneling and beadboard was introduced throughout the interior.

Because the kitchen needed to serve several purposes – as a meal preparation area as well as a casual dining room, family room and home office – the designers created a layout

that reinforces the sense of the kitchen as a hub. Key features, including bench seating, wine storage, bar stools and wing chairs, are positioned around a three-sided island.

“With its 8-inch countertop and solid base, the island anchors the room and provides a center for entertaining,” says Terrat. “It wraps around an existing structural post, which is like the spoke of the wheel.

This is the place where all the different components of the room come together.”

To enhance the traditional character of the house, the cabinetry features beadboard doors painted in a warm off-white shade, chosen to avoid a stark white look.

“The white is contrasted by Calacatta marble countertops on the perimeter cabinets, an antique-style subway tile

backsplash and a wood veneer with a pale driftwood-colored stain,” says Elms. “Because the owner loves red, we introduced bright red walls and cheerful furnishings.”

Appliances also contribute to the wow factor – a 48-inch range and 48-inch refrigerator with a glass door were chosen for their aesthetics as much as their functionality.

Furniture pieces include

a mobile padded bench seat, and a clean-lined, contemporary wood table with matching bench seat.

“We wanted to play up the informality of the space,” says Terrat. “This is almost like a picnic table inside – it’s a strong contrast to the classic New England architecture.”

➔ Save or share this story at [Trendsideas.com/go/28837](https://www.trendsideas.com/go/28837)

Interior designers: Dee Elms, Andrew Terrat, Terrat Elms Interior Design (Boston MA); with kitchen designer Ron Lewis, Designer Cabinetry (Newton, MA)

Kitchen manufacturer: Brookhaven from Wood-Mode

Cabinetry: Springfield beaded in maple, white with charcoal glaze

Countertops: Calacatta marble on perimeter cabinets; island in CaesarStone and Lagos Azul

Backsplash: Cream Crackle subway tile
Faucets: Rohl

Oven: Viking
Refrigeration: Sub-Zero
Dishwasher: Miele

Dining bench table: Big Sur from Crate & Barrel

Dining chairs: Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams

Flooring: Oak with walnut stain

Shutters: Plantation louvered from Barrows the Window Shoppe

Paints: Benjamin Moore

Cushion fabric: Ralph Lauren Sun Check

Above, far left: The cooking center features a 48-inch range with matching hood. Antique-style subway tiles create a subtle backsplash.

Top, above left and above: Wide openings and a consistent material palette ensure the kitchen-family area is closely connected to the rest of the house.

Story by Colleen Hawkes
Photography by Greg Premru