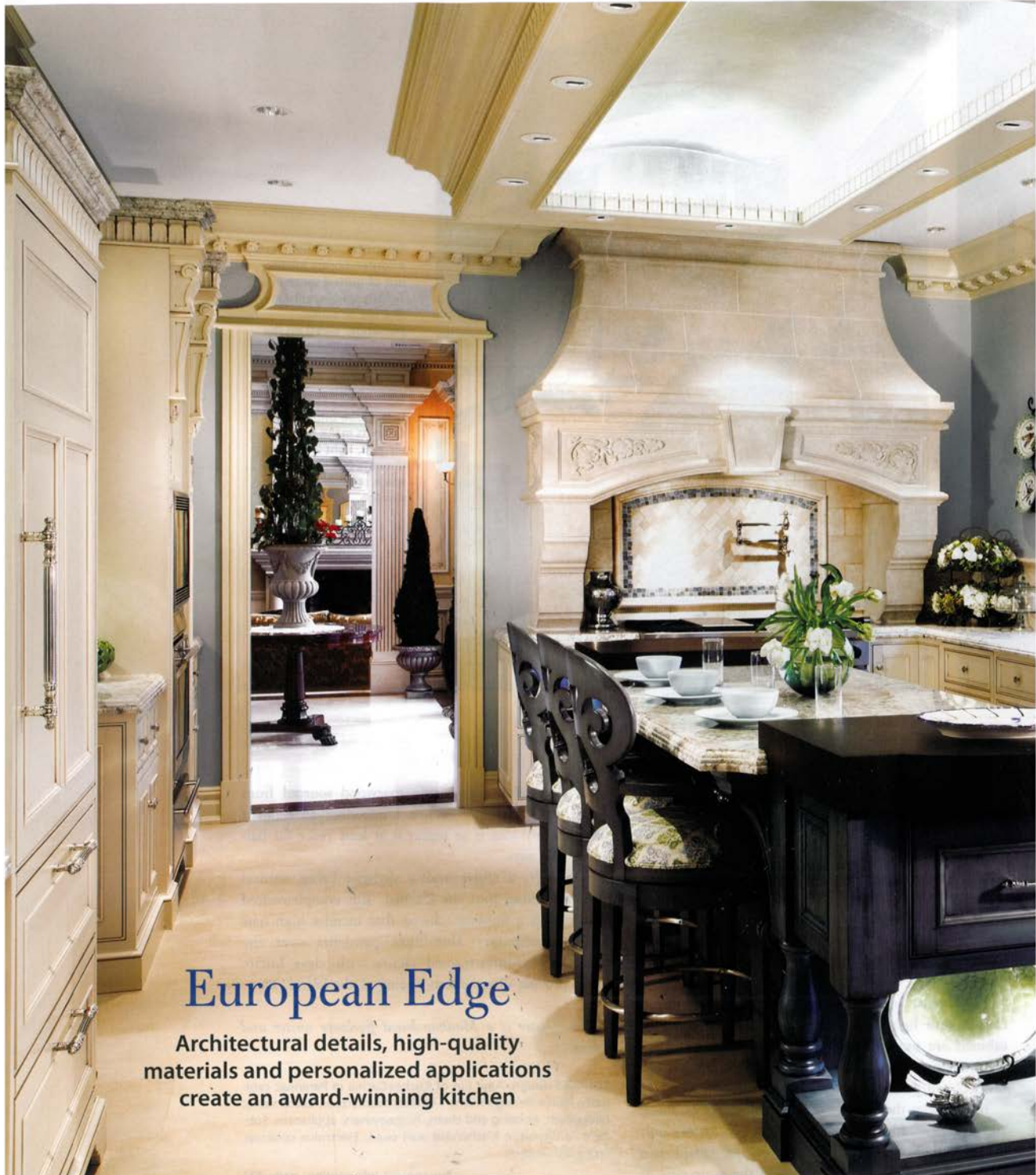


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## Kitchen Inspiration



### European Edge

Architectural details, high-quality materials and personalized applications create an award-winning kitchen

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Multiple layers of molding and a barrel-vaulted ceiling enhanced by silverleaf and LED cove lighting add prominence to glazed cream cabinetry. Delicatus granite — mitered and stacked 2½-inches thick — tops the cabinetry and coordinates with the countertops. The island is stained and glazed denim blue, and both ends are covered in 5-inch wenge butcher block. The armoire-like hutch houses serving pieces on top, silverware in the middle drawers and plates in the bottom, which is fitted with pegs to allow stacking. A custom limestone hood and mosaic backsplash provide a regal focal point above the range. The designer kept the grout lines tight on the Italian porcelain tile floor so the 16-by-32-inch brick pattern appears as a restrained backdrop.

A SADDLE RIVER COUPLE chose to renovate their kitchen with the utmost unique details, says designer Anthony Passanante. “Their three most important requests were to add more square footage without having to build an addition, have a brighter color palette and make the kitchen feel more open,” says Passanante, a certified kitchen and bath designer, allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers and founder of Anthony Albert Studios in Waldwick.

A teacup on display in the designer’s office inspired the blue, cream and silver palette. Main cabinets were stained and glazed in cream while the base of the island, butcher-block tables and a freestanding hutch in the breakfast area were painted denim blue. Silver accents show up in hardware and plumbing fixtures as well as in the dramatic barrel-vaulted ceiling’s silverleaf paint application, a feature replicated in the adjoining butler’s pantry.

A carved limestone hood and walls detailed



The "scooped headpiece" above the sink is repeated above doorways and mimics the contours of the limestone hood. Carved rosettes—a recurring theme—were used to craft the inlays on the custom concrete sink front.

with crown molding set a tone of sophistication along with other custom flourishes: corbels and 2½-inch-thick granite inlays that top the cabinetry, a unique element that captured the couple's attention in Passanante's showroom. The individual corbels around the room's perimeter were "tediously spaced and laid out on site," Passanante says. "Scooped headpieces" above doorways and a window mimic the contours of the hood and tie in with the textured blue finish of the walls, painted in Benjamin Moore's Nantucket Fog.

#### SPACE-ENHANCER

"A lot of antiqued mirror was installed throughout the space for an open, glamorous feel," Passanante says. And to increase the feeling of spaciousness, all the wall cabinets were eliminated along the window wall. He compares it to European-style kitchens, where open shelves or furniture-like pieces often take the place of upper cabinets. With that in mind he

designed an armoire-like hutch along the window wall to accommodate serving pieces and silverware as well as a built-in television to make viewing easy from the island. On the opposite wall, panels and millwork details give the refrigerator/freezer the look of a custom piece of furniture.

More square footage was added by taking over a closet on the backside of the kitchen. Because it was a load-bearing wall, a new support header was designed with the help of an architect. "A trimmed arched opening was cut in next to the kitchen table, and a blue service piece was designed to look like a freestanding hutch with flanking sconces," Passanante explains. The standout piece with its two-inch thick bronze countertop, bronze arches and antiqued-mirrored back "is the first thing you notice when you enter the kitchen from the foyer," he says. "We wanted to create something special."

Italian porcelain tile flooring intentionally recedes



into the background in a barely there 16-by-32-inch brick pattern. "There is a lot going on in the kitchen," says Passanante, who chose tight grout lines to assure there are no busy lines to distract from the room's main features. Lighting plays another key supporting role. "A space is nothing" without lighting, he says. In this case, a single keypad manages all undercounter, cove and LED lighting. "There are seven scenes to choose from" to set the desired mood from day into night, he says.

The biggest challenges: demolishing and rebuilding the kitchen with the family still in residence and doing it all in about 12 weeks in time for the family's annual holiday event, says Passanante, who also served as general contractor. He attributes the efficient installation in part to the preceding four-to-five-month planning phase and a professional group of contractors. The project won the 2012 ASID Gold Design Excellence Award for Residential Kitchens.

SOURCES kitchen design, custom cabinetry and millwork, Anthony Albert Passanante of Anthony Albert Studios in Waldwick; Delicatus granite, Artistic Marble & Granite Surfaces in Hawthorne; bronze countertops and custom shelves on free-standing hutch, Craft Fabricators in Hackettstown; stone and mosaic backsplashes and Italian porcelain tile flooring, Mediterranean Tile & Marble in Fairfield; custom carved limestone hood, Francois & Co. in Atlanta; concrete farmhouse sink, Trueform Concrete LLC in Denville; antique mirror applications, Artique Glass Studio Inc. in Glen Rock; appliances (Wolf stackable ovens and range, Miele coffee maker, Sub-Zero refrigerator and wine cooler), Karl's Appliance in Fairfield; hardware, Edgar Berebi through Hardware Designs Inc. in Fairfield; LED lighting and Lutron system, Lightwaves NJ in Upper Saddle River; interior design, window treatments, furnishings and accessories, Jane W. Pierson Interior Design LLC in Ho-Ho-Kus; table, chairs and counter stools, Old Biscayne Designs through Uptown Home in Wayne; chandelier and sconces, Fine Art Lamps in Miami Lakes, Florida.

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**Above left:** Glass fronts lighten the look of the cabinetry. Note the granite rosette inlays beneath the corbels on both sides of the wall ovens. A basket-weave half-vessel sink gives the adjoining butler's pantry its own style, along with a hidden dishwasher, receptacle, and ice maker.

**Above right:** The owners agreed to eliminate a closet from an adjacent hallway to accommodate a new hutch with antiqued-mirror back, 2-inch-thick bronze countertop and arch, and bronze-leaf shelving brackets.