

in the kitchen



How to have a simple color scheme and still dish out drama.

anything but basic
**BLACK &
WHITE**

in the kitchen

Choose the unexpected: That's always been Deanna Cornelius' design philosophy. Which is why she ripped out the old-fashioned spindles on her Brentwood, TN, home's staircase and replaced them with ultramodern wood slatted handrails. And it's why, last New Year's Eve, guests were greeted by 60 pillar candles in glass vases lined up on the island of Deanna's new non-cookie-cutter kitchen. She and her husband, Jon, had moved into the 1990s Colonial-style home in 2009, and for seven years had put up with hunter green painted cabinetry and dated, dark, speckly granite counters. The area was cramped, too, with barely enough room for their family of five. Deanna's plan: Open it to the dining room, then do it up in black-and-white. "It had to look contemporary but classic, in keeping with the house," she says. Once the wall came down, she and designer Scarlett James glam-ified the space with tall black-and-white cabinetry, a giant island, and oversize pendants—plus dashes of gold in the light fixtures and faucet. "Scarlett told me not to include too many 'rock stars' or the kitchen wouldn't look chic," says Deanna. "It was hard picking, but I think what's here steals the show!"

pendants

When your island is this big, you need impressive pendants. These 18-inch-diameter Restoration Hardware ones, with their sleek dome shape and gold-toned interior, do the trick. "They have the cool look of heating lamps in restaurant kitchens," Deanna says, "but their size makes them inviting." Swinging doors, also restaurant-like, lead to the laundry room.

cabinets

True, anything was going to be better than the old green cabinets, but these Shaker-style ones that run up to the ceiling are particularly stunning. While most are painted black, crisp white uppers (painted Delicate White by PPG Paints) next to the range add airiness, as do the stretch of open shelves and the white subway tiles by Nanda Tile. The brass sconces are from Schoolhouse Electric.

island

Deanna told designer Scarlett she wanted the island to be "as big as possible," and she meant it: This behemoth stretches 12 feet wide and 4 feet deep. It seats the entire family and a couple of friends, too—which came in handy that time Deanna organized a *Chopped*-style cooking competition during the girls' school break. A gray soapstone counter is sophisticated, and its matte finish doesn't compete with the room's other striking elements. The stools are by Four Hands.

cabinet color
Black Magic
by PPG Paints

floor

The old kitchen had stained wood floors that were in fine condition—but their reddish tint felt too traditional for the update. Deanna had the oak boards refinished in a deep walnut-color stain; the new tone looks modern yet warm.

Deanna with daughters
(from left) Kate, 15;
Audrey, 10; and Ellen, 12

in the kitchen

light

A dramatic kitchen calls for an equally impactful dining area. “I wanted to do something extra funky over the table,” says Deanna, so she chose this mod 12-light fixture from Visual Comfort; the frosted globes give off a soft glow. Touches of brass echo the ones in the cooking space.

wall color

Revere Pewter by Benjamin Moore

table and chairs

This glass-top table, with a composite base that looks like tortoiseshell, may seem like it was purchased to go along with the room’s statement choices—but it’s actually an heirloom from the 1930s passed down by Deanna’s parents. She surrounded it with walnut-toned chairs from Modway that have padded faux-leather seats.

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chair

Modway Presidential wood and vinyl chair, \$188, bedbathandbeyond.com



pendant

Pablo Designs Swell 12"H x 12"-diameter aluminum pendant in black and brass, \$249, lumens.com



art

From top: *Arranged Shapes 1* and *Arranged Shapes 2* by Christopher Bettig 18¼" x 24¼" framed prints, \$199 each, both schoolhouse.com

vase

Mainstays Geometric 10¼"-tall ceramic vase in white, \$15, jet.com



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cutting board

etuHome 25½" x 31" reclaimed-wood charcuterie board, \$85, overstock.com

runner

Tuscan Scandinavia Diamond 2'6" x 8' wool runner in black, \$99, rugsusa.com



faucet

Delta Cassidy 15½"-tall brass pull-down faucet in brilliance champagne bronze finish, \$390.50, wayfair.com



barstool

Sophie 44"-tall steel and canvas barstool, \$420, memoky.com