

# THE This Old House

JULY | AUGUST 2007

**STOP!**  
Don't buy  
an appliance  
'til you read  
our advice

## annual kitchen & bath special

- ▶ plans for any size budget
- ▶ 57 great design ideas
- ▶ the best new products

**EASY SUMMER SOLUTIONS**  
FIX CEILING-FAN WOBBLE  
ADD LAST-MINUTE GARDEN COLOR  
SET UP AN OUTDOOR SHOWER

THISOLDHOUSE.COM  
AOL KEYWORD: THIS OLD HOUSE



# Custom Design, Top of the Line

*Made-to-measure cabinets, pro-style appliances, and plenty of personal touches make this handsome kitchen a comfortable place for hanging out 24/7.*

{COST}

\$100,000 PLUS

IT MAY BE THE ULTIMATE DREAM kitchen, but what makes it work is its down-to-earth approach: There's a place for everything—and everyone—in this New Canaan, Connecticut, home's friendly, high-functioning command center. Created by Norwalk-based kitchen designer Matt Giardina, the relaxed environment reflects the architectural style of the house as well as the lifestyle of its owners. "It's a large house, but it isn't formal," Giardina says. "We wanted the kitchen to have a comfortable, almost country feel to it." He underscored the kitchen's

**{ TIP }** Can't swing custom cabinets? Create a one-of-a-kind effect with stock sizes by varying the height and depth of the cabinet boxes. And give an island a contrasting finish.

informality with Plain & Fancy custom maple cabinets that have the look of built-in furniture with turned legs, recessed-panel doors, and three oven-dried finishes mixed to the owner's specifications. While the hub of the kitchen is fairly compact and easy to navigate, its 10-foot-high ceilings give the impression of grandeur. Giardina took advantage of the wall space by stacking cabinets right up to the wide crown molding, adding a stretch of narrow cases with flip-up, glass-front doors across the top. Appliances suit the owners' penchant for entertaining at home, providing them with a 60-inch Wolf range; twin 36-inch refrigerators (camouflaged behind custom panels), four freezer drawers, and a wine cooler, all from Sub-Zero; as well as a microwave, a warming drawer, and a built-in coffee station. The result is a kitchen with a timeless look and long-lasting, high-quality materials to match. ■



**1 ISLE SEAT** The marble-topped island with bar seating puts family and friends in proximity to the cook, who is just steps away from sink, stove, and storage aplenty.

**2 ISLE TWO** A second maple-topped island bracketed with columns and fitted with open shelves and cabinets separates the kitchen from the family room, providing a friendlier barrier than a wall and allowing the cook to monitor the action in both zones.



