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The Magazine of Southwest Living

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This highly functional butler's pantry is situated between a kitchen and dining room. See Page 92.

ON THE COVER:
A large walnut island is the centerpiece of a spacious family kitchen. See Page 92. Photography by Michael Woodall.



ISLAND FERVOR

TEXT BY ROBERTA LANDMAN ■ PHOTOGRAPHY BY MICHAEL WOODALL

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HIS PHOENIX HOME'S KITCHEN IS MOSTLY white-on-white, with marble countertops, cabinetry and tiled backsplashes the hue of fresh-fallen snow. Add the contrasting richness of dark wood flooring and a walnut island, and you have a recipe for classic, timeless elegance, according to homeowner

Leslee Allen.

That quality is exactly what she and her husband requested when they engaged interior designers Berkley Vallone and Kris Stockfish to create a kitchen that would be compatible with

day-to-day family living and entertaining as well.

"The kitchen is the hub for our family," Allen comments. "It's a sanctuary to which we come at the end of the day to talk about school, work, etc."

Her favorite element in the room is the island. "It's an intimate spot for guests to have a quick cup of coffee or glass of wine. It also is where we often sit as a family for dinners," says the homeowner.

Overall, she remarks, "I love the simplicity of the kitchen—the neutral-colored cabinets, the beautiful white marble. It will never grow tired." □



THE BIG THREE

Cabinetry: Traditional-style custom cabinets feature separate storage areas above upper cabinetry. In the adjacent butler's pantry, cabinet doors have leaded-glass detailing in a diamond pattern.

Countertops: These surfaces are crafted of Calcutta marble, which is softer than granite and prone to staining, says Vallone. "Marble needs to be professionally sealed and should be resealed every six months to a year."

Flooring: Walnut flooring is laid in 4-inch-wide planks.

Opposite: At this end of the butcher block-topped island is a camelback-style settee with leather seat and embroidered linen back. In addition to storage, the island contains two refrigerator drawers.

This page, clockwise from top left: Providing ambient lighting is this brass pendant with pleated fabric shade. Just beyond, the tiled stove nook contains a pot-filler faucet and a small cabinet for spices. The backsplash's ceramic tiles are laid in a diamond pattern. ■ The swinging door in the butler's pantry—fitted with a restaurant-type glass port-hole—opens to the dining room. ■ All made of Calcutta marble, the counter, backsplash and curvy side-wall element form an elegant backdrop in this silver service vignette.

See Sources.

“I love the simplicity of the kitchen—the neutral-colored cabinets, the beautiful white marble. It will never grow tired.”