

That's hot! Kitchen makeovers

# Island paradise

Designing the perfect destination spot for cooking and hanging out

**H**omeowners undertaking remodels have caught raging cases of island fever, as the space at the center of a kitchen is becoming a must-have mainstay. Think about it: Perhaps no other component of a kitchen can so effectively define cooking and living spaces, provide a casual place for wine-sipping or coffee-gulping and make food prep a snap. But there are tips and tricks to enhance your island style.

By Mikalee Byerman

## Forms that function

Define your goal. Are you looking for enhanced storage? A stylish space for entertaining? An informal breakfast bar? A place to rinse and chop veggies? Before you decide on your specific island style, give some thought to how the space will be used. This will dictate design.

## Take a seat

Islands create the perfect space for casual dining, chit-chatting while entertaining or for the kids to tackle homework. Consider styles of seating as you contemplate your island approach.



Homes & Land

Quick tip

## Space invaders

The island can occupy a sizeable footprint in your kitchen, so the National Kitchen and Bath Association offers guidelines to help you determine space constraints. First, leave at least 36 inches on all sides for traffic. Next, consider elbow room: A seated diner at a 30-inch-high counter, for example, will need 30-inch-wide by 19-inch-deep surroundings.

Barstools, plush chairs, benches and statement seating all have a place in island design. Or if you don't want to encourage seating, design your island without an overhang, keeping it slim and simple.

## Level up

Many kitchen islands make use of varying countertop heights, finishes and surfaces as places to multitask and add visual interest. When approaching your new island, think about the tiers and their uses. A teak center plank flanked by slate, for example, creates contrast and diverse surfaces for different functions.

## Stylish silhouettes

The rectangle may be the old stand-by, but don't feel confined by the tried-and-true. Consider round, triangular, square or L shapes to add interest to island design.

## Isles of many styles

Options abound for kitchen islands — well beyond the traditional built-in, which typically offers a home for pots and pans and extra space for food prep and entertaining. Think outside of the island box with the following:

**Mobile carts:** If space is at a premium, think about using a cart on wheels that can move around your kitchen.

**Furniture:** Restored dining room tables, end tables, dressers and butcher blocks can create stunning centerpieces — at a reduced cost.

**Stands with storage:** A mixture of open and closed shelving makes for a modern, convenient use of space.



Buying. Selling. Improving. Connecting.

# HOMES & LAND

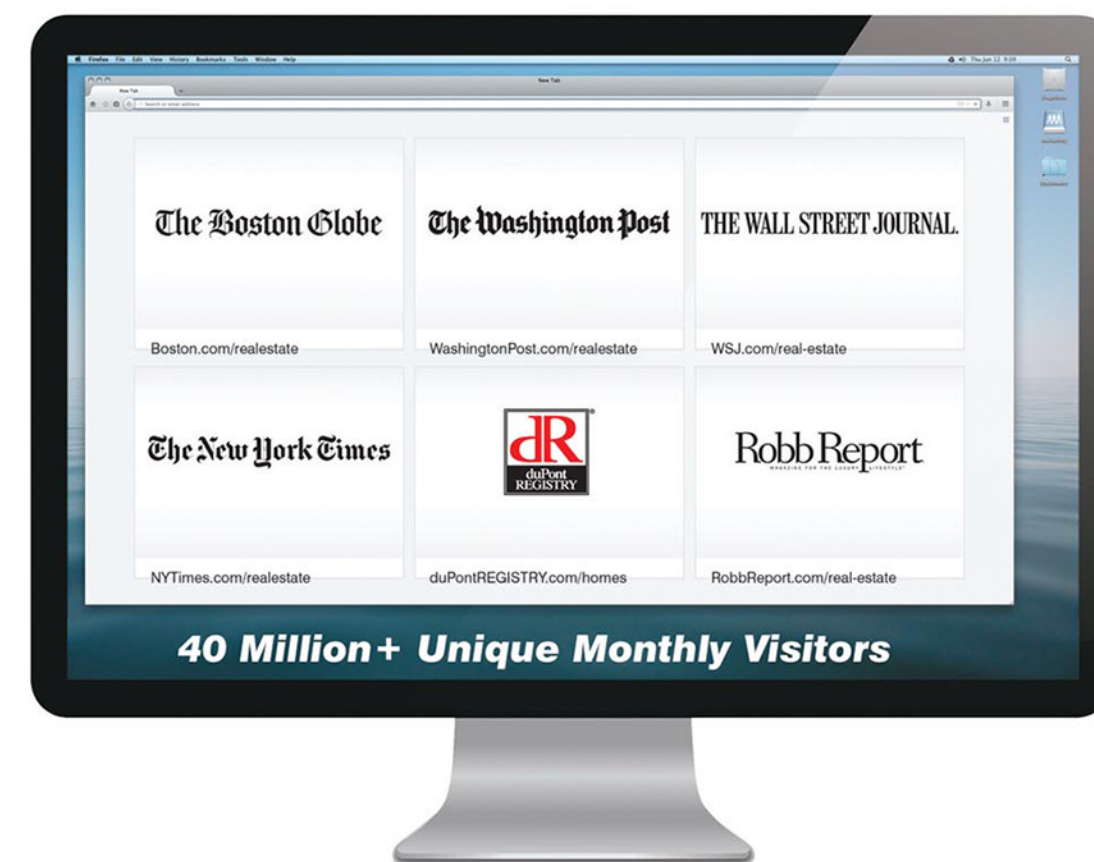
OF MALIBU TO BEVERLY HILLS®

HOMESANDLAND.COM

REACHING THE RIGHT AUDIENCE

No one delivers more **premium online reach** than Homes & Land

Homes & Land offers a unique marketing solution for your luxury properties. We **automatically update your advertised listings** to websites that attract affluent prospects.



## Exclusive Direct Mail Programs

Reaching buyers and sellers with Direct Mail throughout the **Westside** and in partnership with **Luxury Publications**



Delivering the magazine **in print** and **online** including special print distributions to readers of The Wall Street Journal, duPont Registry and Robb Report. All a part of our commitment to reaching the most **influential buyers & sellers** locally and worldwide.

HomesAndLand.com