

SPECIAL SECTION

Great Kitchens & Baths



KITCHENS

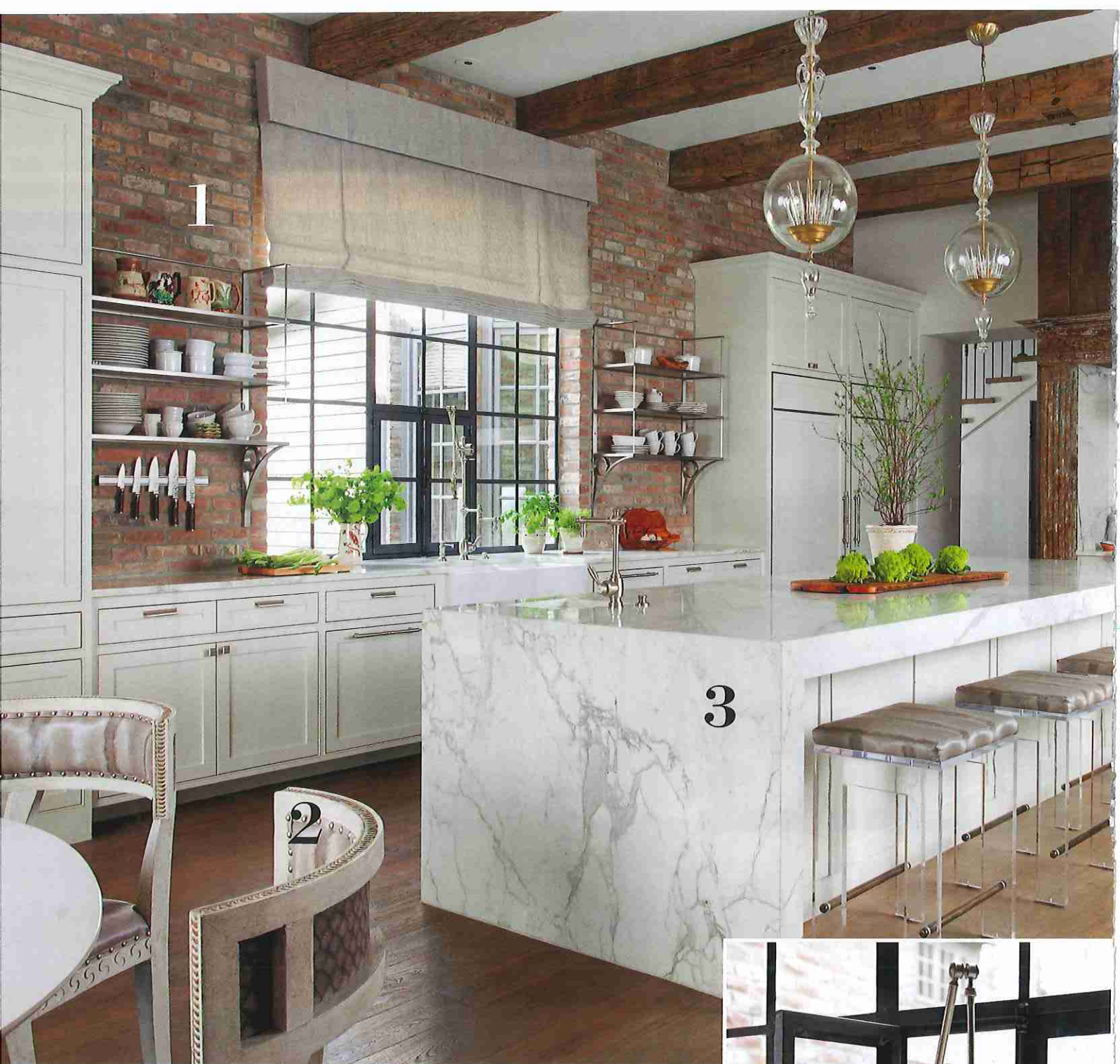
Rustic Glamour

Rough-and-tumble and sleek-chic marry for an inviting Texas kitchen

WRITTEN BY AMY ELBERT

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RYANN FORD PRODUCED BY DONNA TALLEY

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He wanted rugged and outdoorsy. She preferred elegant California chic. Houston interior designer Julie Dodson made each of them happy, designing a high-functioning kitchen that blends both aesthetics.

The couple's new Texas home was under construction when Dodson stepped in. What everyone agreed on was the need for a kitchen where the family (including daughters ages 9, 16, and 19) could gather

daily and entertain family and friends. Dodson planted a super-size island topped with a thick slab of Calacatta marble in the center of the room. Ends of the island are also clad in the heavily veined marble, giving it the heft to balance the spacious room.

The island is centered on a nearly ceiling-high custom window with painted black steel mullions. Casement windows set into the large window behind the main sink swing inward for ventilation.

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8 Features That Foster Comfort and Easy Living

1. Warm-Tone Brick

A window wall was faced with brick in a mix of red, pink, and coral tones, giving the new kitchen an aged look and a warm, relaxed feel. Rough-hewn ceiling beams enhance the country-casual vibe.

2. Eat-In Kitchen

A dining area at one end of the kitchen along with four bar stools at the island allows the family of five to gather and friends to hang out. Upholstery fabrics are easy-clean vinyl.

3. Statement Island

The rich veining of the Calacatta marble is on display on the end caps of the large island. A thick countertop edge balances the massive size of the island.

4. Articulated Faucet

The adjustable "Traditional Gantry" pull-down faucet with an articulated spout from Waterstone Faucets makes cleanup fast. Behind it, the black metal-and-glass window features a center opening with swing-in casement-style windows.

5. Architectural Salvage

Well-worn salvaged materials, such as the recycled door surround that frames the range niche, add character and texture. The rustic elements contrast with the white polished surfaces and make the room feel casual and inviting.

6. French Oak Floor

Wide-plank fumed oak flooring with a slightly beveled edge and a hand-hewn surface is durable and easy-care, standing up to the family's frequent gatherings and two dogs.

7. Range Niche

A Wolf 48-inch, six-burner range tucks into a niche lined with heavily veined Calacatta marble. The sleek custom-made hood is from the Lonestar Range Hood Company in Houston.

8. Pizza Oven

A brick surround houses the Wood Stone Bistro Oven, which is one of the family's favorite appliances. The gas-and-wood-fired pizza oven has a three-inch-thick ceramic hearth and dome engineered for high heat, and the family uses it to bake pizzas, vegetables, steak, bread, and even nachos.



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“PULLING PIECES FROM THE PAST IS WHAT GIVES A HOUSE CHARACTER. MIXING OLD WITH MODERN MAKES FOR AN INCREDIBLY HARMONIOUS, BEAUTIFUL SPACE.”

—designer Julie Dodson

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In the Details



Island Orbs
Bubble-like crystal light fixtures that contrast with the rough-hewn ceiling beams fill the space over the island without obstructing views outdoors. “The lights are so perfect,” says designer Julie Dodson. “They’re like this glamorous take on midcentury modern style.”



Metal Shelves
Custom-made brushed stainless-steel wall units from Peck & Company in Houston flank the large window above the sink, keeping dishes in easy reach. A magnetic strip safely stores knives.



Bar Stools
Sleek acrylic bar stools through Design Legacy seem to float above the fumed oak floors. The stool seats are upholstered in Stark’s easy-to-clean “Zibeline” fabric in gris, which also covers the seats and inside backs of the dining chairs (right).



To add a rustic vintage feel, the window wall is clad with bricks in muted shades of red, a contrast to the smooth white marble. “I wanted a soft look,” explains Dodson. “The brick warms the room so much.”

Stainless-steel shelves flank the window, providing easy access to dishes and injecting a modern note.

While rustic hand-hewn ceiling beams speak to a casual Texas country style, the custom white cabinets with polished-nickel

hardware are clean and contemporary. Acrylic-base bar stools keep the space feeling open and modern.

For a glamorous touch, crystal pendants and an antique chandelier hang above the island and the dining table.

An antique wood door surround that Dodson scored at an antiques shop was fabricated to frame the range and hood. Salvaged barn siding covers the wall above the molding and blends with an adjacent

brick niche for the pizza oven. “There are so many different textures,” the designer says. “Mixing old with modern makes for an incredibly harmonious, beautiful space.”

Architect: Robert Dame **Designer:** Julie Dodson
For more information, see sources on page 125

Casual dining area The “Dakota” hammered-and-polished-nickel table base from Julian Chichester is topped with white marble. The “Delphi” chairs from Mr. Brown are covered in easy-clean fabric.