



WHEN FAMILY GET-TOGETHERS CENTER ON FOOD, A SPACIOUS KITCHEN IS A NECESSITY. A retiring couple decided to remain in their longtime home and alter their kitchen's framework, rather than retreat to a condo by the beach.

Entertaining their children and grandchildren is the central activity, with hours spent planning, preparing and enjoying family meals. A kitchen to meet these directives entailed a more expansive design, open to the living area of their home and view of the pastoral backyard.

With the help of Jackson Design and Remodeling, they combined thoughtful space



TIP Another way to incorporate French Country ambience is by adding potted fresh herbs, especially lavender, to the décor. Plates or vases illustrated with an image of a rooster or other farm animal are an excellent addition to this style. French Country kitchens are traditionally very "chef-friendly," so experiment with displaying cookbooks, wine bottles, and supplies from wooden spoons to bottles of oils.

planning and French Country elements in a dramatically brighter and more welcoming environment. "After opening up a wall and extending an archway, the kitchen is wider and more connected to the family room and living area," designer Jen Pinto says. The room takes in abundant natural light from newly installed bay windows. Other amenities include such Provencal modern features as glazed cabinetry, a rustic chandelier and a pair of sconces in whitewashed wood. The 12-foot-long island with a prominently thick slab of granite and seating for three encourages socializing. "Family gatherings with shared meals are now a joyful and efficient pleasure in this warm, inviting kitchen," Jen says. ■

