

Today's kitchens are cooking up a storm. Full of flair, beauty and ingenuity, our six showstoppers range from traditional to contemporary in styling, and incorporate ideas and materials that are as diverse as the Canadians who live in them. WRITTEN BY SHERYL STEINBERG



we love this because...

A tempered reeded-glass backsplash adds an interesting texture and is easy to clean.



recipes for SUCCESS



modern family

As stylish as Marie Lussier and Paul Barker's loft-like white, grey and stainless-steel kitchen appears on the surface, it's what you don't see that makes all the difference. With the help of decorator Liz Watkinson and interior designer Susan Pollock, the Oakville, Ont., couple meticulously mapped out and organized every last inch of the 11- by 17-foot room. In the end, they got a smart space where everything has its rightful place. Plus, the house's computer network and wireless sound system keep them plugged in, says Paul, a mechanical engineer and stay-at-home dad who listens to music as he prepares dinner, while three-year-old Isabelle plays nearby on the computer. ▶

What was USED

White cabinetry, Luxor. Stainless-steel appliances, Jenn-Air. Hood, Bosch. Arwa-Twin faucet, TUBS The Ultimate Bath Store. Sink, Blanco Canada. CaesarStone counters, York Fabrica. Tempered reeded-glass backsplash, Adanac Glass. Pendant lights, Eurolite. ZonePlayer music system, Sonos. Ceiling speakers, Bowers & Wilkins.

OPPOSITE "Our whole house is grey," says Paul. As a result, he and Marie kept the kitchen neutral, using materials like glass and stainless steel mixed with white surface areas and accents that "really pop out." Knoll's Gigi bar stools are as aesthetically pleasing as they are comfortable, and topple-free for three-year-olds. ABOVE The former two-foot-wide broom closet (a "total waste of space," Paul says) was turned into a pantry. A slim Jenn-Air microwave, generally used over stovetops, was installed next to the refrigerator in a cabinet that hides the fan below.