

THIS PHOTO: A tile cooking alcove and a grand central island establish an aristocratic style in this timeless kitchen.

OPPOSITE: The farmhouse-style sink is positioned in an open arch, allowing views across the living area to the scenery outside.



Modern Manor

Phil and Carolyn Feldsine knew they wanted a kitchen that would match the beauty of their home's grand views of Seattle's Lake Washington. Although the couple was interested in a classical ambience, they also needed a room that would accommodate an active household of kids and pets. Reaching to an influence halfway around the world, the couple constructed a practical modern kitchen that brings a touch of Normandy to the Northwest.

Evoking an old-world timelessness, arches define each side of the kitchen. Major appliances are sheltered beneath a broad







arch that also provides display space along their tops, while a second wall features curving custom cabinetry. A dramatic, elegant alcove envelops a professional-grade range, and a fourth arch opens over the sink countertop, delivering a view through the family room to Lake Washington.

A long central island serves as the room's visual anchor, providing work and storage space. "The island was the conceptual center of the kitchen in more ways than one," architect Mark Elster says. "Because the room has a corner notched out for the eating area, all the nooks are off-center, but the island is big enough to fool the eye into thinking that everything lines up."

Grand European details and a subdued earthy palette combine to form styling that is both classic and comforting. Textured, neutral-tone plaster and tile contribute a distinctive sense of age. Building a refined, old-world sensibility, furniturelike cabinetry employs rich cherrywood and stately paneled doors to conceal the refrigerators. Along with sophisticated travertine countertops, carved braces and decorative tile enhance the room's Continental references. "I like to start with a beautiful space and then go back in and add

ABOVE: Distinguished by arching cabinets, a preparation space features a warming oven surrounded by cherry drawers.

LEFT: Cherrywood paneling frames the refrigerator and freezer, imbuing the stainless-steel elements with refined sophistication.

interesting details," Carolyn says. "What we ended up with was a modern interpretation of an old French-manor home."

Although the details may be drawn from a bygone age, the kitchen still serves the needs of an active family. Durable materials maintain their gracious appearance while enduring daily traffic. "The kitchen had to handle the everyday knocks that our three kids and pets were going to give it," Carolyn says. "It's set up so the kids can get their own breakfast, get a drink of water at the island."

The room fulfills Carolyn's desire for grand visual details and the family's need for function and durability. With Lake Washington as a striking background, the Feldsines' kitchen blends the romance of the Old World with the vitality of the New World. "It's beautiful, functional, and inviting," Carolyn says. "Even after 20 years, I don't think this kitchen will go out of style." **DK**

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GREAT IDEA

Place a pot-filler faucet above the range.

A pot-filler faucet allows cooks to fill large pots with water right at the range, rather than toting them between the sink and stove. The minimalist faucet located in this kitchen's oven niche is almost sculptural, and the effort-saving fixture pivots for filling pots resting on either back burner.



LEFT: A pot-filler faucet offers contemporary convenience against a backdrop of ceramic tiles and metallic inset details.

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: A Scandinavian-inspired starburst carving offers a subtle and simple example of old-world domesticity.

OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT: Evoking rustic French style, pullout baskets in the island add storage along with Continental charm.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT: The elegant copper faucet and basin boasts a rustic patina.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT: Cabinet panels conceal the pullout drawers of a dishwasher.

