



TWO KITCHENS  
INSPIRED BY EUROPE  
FEEL RIGHT AT HOME IN  
THE NORTHWEST

# FOREIGN INTRIGUE

Written by Monica Fischer Photography by Gregg Krogstad and Steven Young

Carolyn and Phil Feldsine always admired the Old World kitchens of France. But it took a murder to bring their ideas to life.

It was in the Michael Douglas film *A Perfect Murder* that the Mercer Island couple first spied their dream kitchen. Though not an exact replica, the room echoes certain elements from the film set, most noticeably the arched niches and enormous island that rests on legs.

"It comes across as a gargantuan kitchen table," says Mark Elster of AOME Architects.

Buttery marble rests atop cherry cabinets that were treated to a lightening stain to make them look slightly faded. "It mellows it out a bit," says interior designer Pamela Pearce.

A distinctive matte-black Lacanche range nestles into a tiled niche. In older European homes, similar nooks once housed huge arched fireplaces that were later replaced by ovens.

Carolyn and Phil wanted a kitchen that looked like it had been assembled over time, so Elster and Pearce chose finishes that suggest both maturity and variety: Venetian plaster for the walls and a combination of stained and painted cabinets. The tumbled-limestone floor and distressed (cosmetic) ceiling beams resemble those in the aged cottages of France.

Modern conveniences such as an appliance lift for the Cuisinart and a two-drawer Fisher & Paykel dishwasher hide behind the weathered façade. After all, in this new home the kitchen is only an *interpretation* of something old.



THE FELDSINE KITCHEN (TOP) DERIVES OLD WORLD APPEAL FROM LIMESTONE FLOORS, PLASTER WALLS AND NICHE HOUSING FURNITURELIKE CABINETS. CHANDELIERS ILLUMINATE THE ISLAND AND BREAKFAST AREA (ABOVE).