

# EXPERTS SPOT THE SPACE-MAKERS

Borrow these six ideas to make your kitchen feel more spacious.

BY MARA BRAGG

## 1 DIVIDING WALL REMOVED

**Expert:** Claudia Opel, Architect and Designer, New York City

Opening up a small kitchen by removing an interior wall is a dramatic change that is hardly ever as difficult as one might think. In many cases, removing a wall will also ease work flow and improve accessibility to all cabinets, by eliminating dead corners.

## 2 KITCHEN ISLAND ADDED

**Expert:** Lisa J. Lichtenberger, Principal, LJI Design LLC, Holmes, New York

With just enough room—approximately three feet for clearance—adding an island in the kitchen gives you additional storage while leaving the space open at eye level. You gain the benefits of an extra work surface, serving area and gathering place without obstructing any views.

## 3 GLASS CABINET DOORS

**Expert:** Oliver James, Designer, New York City

Glass cabinetry doors eliminate the sense of having a row of “boxes” on the wall, and also allow you to see another 12 inches into the room.

## 4 PATTERNED BACKSPASH

**Expert:** Anna Marie Fanelli, Partner and Designer, Floor & Decor, Tenafly, New Jersey

A patterned backsplash gives the space added dimension. Using 8-by-8-inch tiles reduces the number of grout lines and prevents the small space from looking busy.

## 5 BONUS CEILING SPACE

**Expert:** Cheryl Parrott, Interior Designer, San Francisco, California

An angled ceiling with a soft tone permits the eye to pause and rest, while the horizontal line of the cabinet top, with the size graduation of barnyard animals, provides a grand illusion of height.

## 6 NATURAL ELEMENTS

**Expert:** Laura Benko, Feng Shui Expert, BenkoFengShui.com, New York City

The addition of flowers, plants and fruit displays in a small space adds a vibrant life force that brings in the expansive feel of nature.

