

WRITER Paula M. Bodah  
PHOTOS Meghan Beierle-O'Brien

# a green to ENVY

*A custom paint color inspired by  
a pepper spices up a well-used  
Los Angeles kitchen.*



OPPOSITE: The kitchen's standout green cabinetry covers one wall from floor to ceiling, concealing serveware storage, a beverage station, and a paneled refrigerator. THIS PHOTO: A pro-style range with double ovens, six burners, and a griddle indicates avid cooks live here.





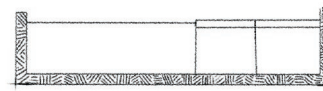
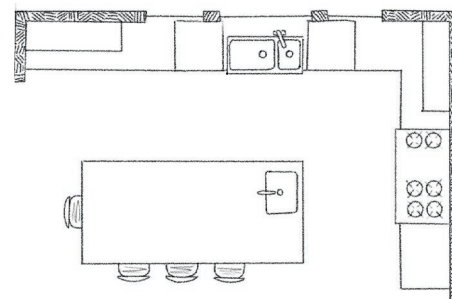
THIS PHOTO: The china cabinet, salvaged from the previous kitchen, is one of homeowner LeeAnn Kreischer's favorite elements. "When you walk in the front door, it's the first thing you see," she says. "It has a little bit of 'wow.'"

**LEEANN AND BERT KREISCHER'S SPACIOUS AND VERDANT BACKYARD, RARE FOR THEIR LOS ANGELES NEIGHBORHOOD, INSPIRED AN EQUALLY LUSH GREEN KITCHEN.** "I wanted to connect the indoors and outdoors so it would visually flow," LeeAnn says.

The Kreisachers turned to interior designer and kitchen expert Caren Rideau of The Kitchen Design Group to bring the colorful vision to life. "LeeAnn knew she wanted green, but she was afraid it would be a bit too much," Rideau says. "For all the cabinets, we developed this green that we named Serrano, like the pepper."

To usher in warmth, Rideau embraced subtle farmhouse characteristics and incorporated natural materials and earth tones. Black Belgian limestone tops the island, contrasting with the white quartz perimeter counters and the white subway tile that wraps the sink and stove walls. A beverage station tucked into a niche in floor-to-ceiling cabinets that dominate one wall of the kitchen is backed with glossy tile the color of old red brick. "LeeAnn likes red, so we brought that in here," Rideau says. "I didn't want it to look like a Christmas tree, though, so we went with this burnt color that nicely offsets the green."

Underfoot, Rideau set tiles of tumbled marble and limestone in a variety of tans, grays, and whites. "It's super durable," she says. "You'd have to take a sledgehammer to it to damage it." Against all that



*the plan*

Despite its dark cabinets, this kitchen maintains an open and fresh atmosphere thanks to a wall of windows and efficiently concealed appliances and workstations. The island easily houses four stools and a prep sink (within reach of the range).



TOP: "I like to use an apron-front sink because the apron keeps water away from the cabinets," designer Caren Rideau says. Black frames prevent the trio of windows from getting lost in the sea of white subway tile. ABOVE: A miniature forest of potted herbs is a subtle echo of the backyard's view. White quartz counters and backsplash tile are easy to clean and brighten the kitchen.





ABOVE: Easy-to-maneuver pocket doors open to reveal a brick-clad nook outfitted with everything the family needs for a quick cup of coffee. RIGHT: Disparate elements—quartz, limestone, marble, and porcelain tile—lend layered interest without overcomplicating the picture. The island, with its woven stools, is a favorite gathering spot for the family. Rideau chose to keep the lighting simple to lean into a farmhouse style.

rusticity, Rideau superimposed a dose of glamour with gleaming brass hardware in a variety of shapes, including round knobs, slender bar pulls, and sturdy bin pulls. To help reach the towering top cabinets of a room with 10-foot-high ceilings, Rideau added a handsome teak ladder that slides along a brass rail. “The ladder is so pretty,” LeeAnn says, “and the rail is like a piece of jewelry.”

The kitchen’s other gems are the stainless-steel Viking range with six burners and a griddle, plus the hood with contrasting burnished-steel trim that Rideau designed. “The range and hood look nice, but they also suggest that this is a real cook’s kitchen,” the designer says. Because LeeAnn loves to bake, she favors the double ovens. Bert, a stand-up comedian (who hosts a podcast called *Something’s Burning* in a kitchen also designed by Rideau), is a serious cook when he’s not on the road making people laugh. “He uses every inch of the kitchen,” LeeAnn says.

For the couple, their two daughters, and the friends they love to host, the room is a warm, welcoming spot. “The kitchen is the heart of the home, and ours is really special,” LeeAnn says. “That green is so calming and beautiful, we’re just happy to hang out in here.”  
Resources begin on page 92.



### DESIGNER INSIGHTS: GO FOR THE BOLD

Although a white kitchen is classic, a kitchen with vibrant color is a scene-stealer. Designer Caren Rideau shares her top tips for acing statement shades.

- **Enlist a pro.** Selecting which color will rule the kitchen is no easy task, Rideau says. A professional designer or color consultant can help you perfect your favorite hue.
- **Don't overdo it.** In this kitchen, the designer kept color from overwhelming the space by juxtaposing the cabinetry with white tile walls and by painting the back of the glass-front cabinet cream.
- **Let color be the star.** “You have to be mindful of what you want to pop,” Rideau says. “If color is going to play the starring role, then the supporting actors—the counters, the hardware, the accessories—shouldn't compete.”

“There’s a definite art to picking color. To use color in a big way, like on cabinetry, it has to have depth.”  
—CAREN RIDEAU, DESIGNER