

SERENE SIMPLICITY

This lake house kitchen embodies calming
and comfortable cottage style.



When homeowners Jennifer and Daryl Price began plans for the kitchen in their new lake house, their first priority was to keep things simple. “We really wanted an open-air kitchen,” says Jennifer. “We wanted it to feel clean, homey, white, bright ... those kinds of things.”

But while they knew what they wanted to see in the finished product, the couple found themselves overwhelmed by the possibilities. In order to turn their dream into a reality, Julie Couch, an interior designer based in Nashville, Tennessee, came on board, and her expertise proved to be invaluable. “When we would meet with Julie, she narrowed down the process because it can be completely overwhelming,” Jennifer says.

Under Julie’s guidance, Jennifer and Daryl’s kitchen became a serene space crafted to meet their specific needs. Floor-to-ceiling shades of white cover the cabinets, tile, and open shelving with a radiance that becomes the backdrop for the rest of Julie’s design choices. A lighter finish on the hardwood floor warms the space, and notes of industrial style found in the island stools, cabinet hardware, and stove hood add visual interest that keeps the room from being monotone.

Although Jennifer and Daryl enjoy entertaining, they also needed a space that would stand up to everyday use, so they didn’t want an inch of the room to go to waste. “We wanted to make sure that we utilized all of our space,” Jennifer says. One of the ways the design accomplishes that is through upper-level cabinetry that



Jennifer and Daryl’s favorite features of the kitchen include the open shelving, the marble countertops, and the floor-to-ceiling subway tile that adds texture to the stove area.




Although Julie chose to use color sparingly, glass pendant lamps and bottles on the island add a hint of ocean blue without detracting from the room's soft ambience.



is accessible via a library-style rolling ladder. The center island also plays a part in offering storage space while providing a place for Jennifer and Daryl to gather with their three children, Baylee, Nathan, and Drew.

The island also happens to be one of Julia's favorite features of the kitchen, despite the fact that she was wary about trying a wooden island top. "That was a great idea from Julie to do the wood island," she now admits, adding that the piece is the hub of the kitchen. "We use it every day."

Throughout the design, Julie worked to meet Jennifer and Daryl's needs while unearthing a style that was entirely their own. "It just brought me to tears how amazing everything looked," Jennifer says, noting that it was the "clean and simple" design that struck her the most. Carefully crafted to showcase the best features of every piece, it is this kitchen's quiet beauty that really speaks volumes. 

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Just off the kitchen, the breakfast table provides another place for family gatherings. Natural light from the windows and glass doors floods the space, reflecting off the kitchen's white surfaces to create a serene glow.