

The homeowners asked for a comfortable, functional and timeless European-inspired kitchen with modern touches in which they could cook and entertain for at least the next twenty years. Designer Jason Ball achieved their design goals by strategically placing classically styled cabinets along the walls, featuring a furniture-like center island and using modern stainless steel appliances and other metal finishes.



# French fare

WRITTEN BY Stephanie Soyle Mays PHOTOGRAPHED BY John Vails

When Peggy and Stuart Jacobson, a former personal chef and sculptor respectively, built their McMinnville home, they shortchanged themselves on the kitchen. "You're building a house; you start thinking about all the money you're spending," explained Peggy, "and you just start cutting back." But after twenty years, they decided it was time for something better. "And while it used to just be me in the kitchen," she added, "my husband started cooking with me. We needed a space where we could work together."



Much like a chef stages ingredients with *mise en place* at the ready, pots, pans and other kitchen equipment were measured and assigned to specific drawers in the center island to ensure that everything had its place. Built from sustainably harvested oak, the island also provides a gathering space where the homeowners and guests can mix and mingle. Pendants shed ample light while their metallic finish is echoed around the room in the cabinet hardware, appliances, sink fixture and open shelving.

Charged with blending classic European style with a modern élan, Jason Ball of Jason Ball Interiors in Portland, created the comfortable and functional room for cooking and entertaining that the couple wanted.

Traditionally styled French gray cabinets wrap the room's perimeter. Wall ovens by Electrolux, a microwave by Sharp and a Wolfe induction cook top are placed to promote workflow. "We don't have gas out here," explained Peggy, "and I am very, very happy with the cooktop." Drawers and pullouts hold spices, condiments, and pots and pans near the appliance where they are most likely to be needed.

"We used marble for the counters," said Peggy. "A lot of my husband's sculptor friends said it would be difficult to maintain, but we chose a honed surface, and it's been really beautiful." Hexagon Carrara marble tiles on the backsplash complement the Calacatta bianco marble of the counters.

The star of the kitchen is the center island. "We wanted the island to resemble furniture and bring the look of age in to the room," said Ball. Built from oak sustainably harvested in Amity, Oregon, the island was subjected to sandblasting and a wire brush technique to give the wood grain and depth before being sealed with a clear coat. "The natural wood color also brings an organic dimension to the room, which speaks for itself against the dark floor," Ball added.

Metal stools from Design Within Reach contrast with other design elements. "The modern stools and traditional cabinets create a little bit of conflict which adds interest to the design," said Ball. Use of metal is repeated in the cabinet hardware and faucet and in the lighting fixtures from Visual Comfort above the island and the farmhouse sink.

Finishing touches were brought into the room by a rug and kitchen linens from Stuart's boyhood home. "I found the tea towels when we were closing my mother-in-law's house," said Peggy, "and asked Jason to include them in the kitchen." Ball responded by piecing the linens in a chevron pattern to create the fabric used in the valance above the sink.

"It makes the whole kitchen feel personal and brings their history into the room," said Ball.

#### PROJECT SOURCES

DESIGNER Jason Ball Interiors  
[www.jasonballinteriors.com](http://www.jasonballinteriors.com)

CONTRACTOR Cellar Ridge Construction  
[www.cellaridge.com](http://www.cellaridge.com)

HARDWARE  
Chown Hardware [www.chown.com](http://www.chown.com)  
Wolfe, Electrolux, Sharp  
Ferguson [www.ferguson.com](http://www.ferguson.com)

# Cuisine Française

A welcome daydream for Francophiles: a modern French bistro-inspired kitchen! Large or small, French inspired kitchens have so much going for them — from the white marble tiles and countertops, to herbaceous soaps, imported linens and of course a well-worn work table (ready for prepping your next galette)! This interplay of pattern and texture against clean, white surfaces, plus all the smaller details and genial touches of color create a dream kitchen!



*Axor Montreux kitchen faucet with lever handles, bridge model with sidespray by Hansgrohe. Available through [chowhardware.com](http://chowhardware.com)*

Viking's new French-Door Double Wall Oven. Available at [BASCO www.bascoappliances.com](http://BASCO.com) Le Jacquard Français Marche aux Legumes Towel is 100% cotton woven damask. This towel pays homage to the farmer's markets of France. At [www.pleasebeseatedpdx.com](http://www.pleasebeseatedpdx.com) Spring's Eden Cucumber Water bar soap: fresh cucumber is infused with bergamot, mimosa leaves, blackcurrant and water lily. Available at [www.anthropologie.com](http://www.anthropologie.com) An incredibly rare blue background with dramatic white, grey and black veining, Blue Dolomite is a rare and lovely stone that provides a depth of color and character that is both singular and striking. Available at [www.annsacks.com](http://www.annsacks.com) Currey and Company Sullivan's work table has a contemporary galvanized top paired with a more traditional base with soft wood tones. Six drawers and underneath storage provide plenty of space for kitchen items. Available through [www.bedfordbrown.com](http://www.bedfordbrown.com)

