



The symmetrical space gets one pleasant interruption from a window seat invented to preserve an original window. "It's turned out to be such a well-loved nook," homeowner Maria DeLuca says. Shaker-style cabinets are painted in Sherwin-Williams Artichoke.

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*colorful*  
**ATTITUDE**

*Cabinets slathered in a delightful organic green set the tone for a kitchen that blends Craftsman style with modern taste.*

THIS PHOTO: "That stove is not for show," Maria says. "I really, really use this kitchen." Subway tile for the backsplash was chosen for its imperfect look—it fits the Craftsman mold with a hand-hewn attitude.



“WHEN YOU SAY ‘GREEN KITCHEN,’ most people look at you funny,” Maria DeLuca says. “They picture 1970s avocado, and it’s a little frightening. No one wants those flashbacks.” Maria’s brother—architect and builder Rosario Mannino—however, doesn’t scare easily. “When she said ‘green,’ I thought, *This is awesome*,” Mannino says. “Nothing plain-Jane for Maria!”

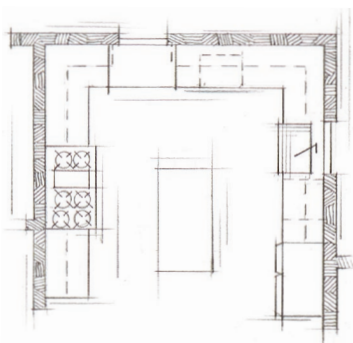
The two teamed up to envision a colorful, high-function kitchen for the New Jersey home that Maria shares with husband Mike and their three children. They worked in the footprint of the former dining room—a space left available after the family added on to the 100-year-old home.

For cabinets in the new cooking space and former kitchen, now home to a wet bar and gathering area, brother and sister agreed on an earthy, muted artichoke hue plucked from the home’s exterior columns, where it was used as an accent color. “The house has a 1920s Craftsman feel,” Maria says. “We wanted to bring that vibe into the kitchen.”

Mannino balanced the green cabinetry with period-appropriate white beaded board on the ceiling, a white subway-tile backsplash, black countertops, and swaths of natural wood—quartersawn white oak beams, crown molding, floors, and a furniture-style island.

“Green paired with warm wood and black elements speaks to the Craftsman era,” Maria says. “But we also included some modern elements—stainless steel and fresh blues and greens on the Roman shade and cushion fabric. It’s old meets new.”

## *the plan*



The U-shape layout with separate prep, cleanup, and cooking zones grants every wish of a serious cook and her helpers. A working island—sans stools—anchors the symmetrical design, providing additional prep space just a heel turn from the range. A cozy window seat, designed to preserve the home’s existing exterior architecture, has become a favorite family hangout.



TOP: A pot-filler faucet serves the range, which includes a griddle—a great feature for encouraging kids to learn to cook, Maria says, without the dangers of an open flame. ABOVE: Maria’s cookbooks are always at hand in glass-front cabinets that reduce the visual weight of cabinetry. An undercounter microwave lends modern function and a sleek finish that juxtaposes Craftsman-style door fronts.

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**TOP RIGHT:** An apron-front sink paired with a pull-down faucet provides both charm and function. Mannino added the window as part of the renovation, giving the kitchen more natural light and views to the backyard. **ABOVE:** Details on the island legs usher in a touch of the home's Craftsman feel. Barstools of any sort, however, are banned. "This is a work space," Maria says. "I love being able to move easily around the island while I'm cooking."



The kitchen's good looks combine with a hardworking attitude. "My biggest goal was function," Maria says. "When I say I cook and I entertain, I mean it—on a large scale. I host all the family birthday parties; I invite my whole Girl Scout troop in. When I have people over to eat, it's 20, 30, 40 people at a time."

Mannino was prepared for the challenge. "I always have a conversation with my clients about how they live—design has to fit the lifestyle," he says. "But here, I already knew my sister and how she wanted to live in her kitchen."

Expansive personalized storage, pro-style appliances, and smooth traffic flow tick off every need on Maria's list. "I love how this kitchen works," she says.

For her brother, the best thing about the project is a rarity in his business: Mannino gets to savor the space he shaped. "I get a lot of compliments from my family at get-togethers, and that makes me proud," he says. "It's really special to be able to enjoy something that I created."

*Resources begin on page 100.*



LEFT: A sink in the bar area helps keep guests out of the cooking zone. Mannino used black grout on the white subway tile for contrast and to tie in with the black countertops.

## DESIGNER INSIGHTS: TAKING RISKS WITH COLOR

Choosing a hue other than old-reliable white to star in your kitchen can intimidate even the most intrepid homeowner. But architect Rosario Mannino says a few smart moves can help you go bold with confidence.

- *Follow your home's lead.* Take cues from the style, era, and architecture of your home as you let potential statement colors bubble up.
- *Think long-term relationship.* When you're perusing paint swatches, lean toward a muted hue that you'll love for years, not a trendy color that captures hearts today but will feel dated and disappointing tomorrow.
- *Make one big statement.* Go bold in a focused way—with crisp green cabinets, a navy blue island, or a race-car red range—and let other colors recede, playing a backup role in a thoughtful, balanced palette.