



# 10 things to love about this kitchen

Two-way design elements and an open floor plan help a California couple create a tropical indoor-outdoor kitchen paradise.

## 1. Outdoor Oriented

By expanding a 900-square-foot cottage to 1,800 square feet, Dawn and Bruno Büchler created a kitchen made for their casual California lifestyle. The kitchen features a stainless-steel hood to help anchor the kitchen and its position above the cooktop allows for a view of the lavish garden out back. "When I'm cooking on the island, I'm always looking outside," Dawn says.





## 4. *Ample Storage*

For her dream kitchen, Dawn wanted an efficient appliance layout and generous storage. Solid doors on the base units of the maple cabinetry keep cookware out of sight, while glass doors on the upper cabinets create nice display areas for dishes, glassware, and containers. "We used top-notch hardware and flat-front cabinet doors to create a more contemporary look," Bruno says. The sleek materials and clean lines flow with the architectural styling of the rest of the house. Additional storage was created by adding a walk-in pantry off one side of the room.

## 2. *Carefree Concrete*

The Büchlers installed concrete floors for easy maintenance and an indoor-outdoor feel. Concrete can be cold underfoot, but thanks to its location, the floor absorbs sunlight by day and retains the warmth overnight to keep feet toasty.

## 3. *Light Effects*

When sunlight isn't pouring into the kitchen, dozens of accent lights help illuminate the space. "All the lights are really necessary," Bruno says. "Even if I only use some once in a while, I'd notice if I didn't have them. You can set different moods because they are on dimmer switches."







## 5. *Disappearing Doors*

Glass sliders and custom-made mahogany-frame bifold windows push aside to connect the kitchen with the patio outside. The blurring of boundaries between inside and out helps the kitchen feel more spacious.

## 6. *Island Flair*

Lovers of the informal Southern California lifestyle, Dawn and Bruno wanted a space that flowed for entertaining. When they place additional stools around their 8x3-foot island, it seats six to eight people for dining or conversation.

## 7. *Caribbean Bar*

The bar offers seating on two sides for informal dining in the kitchen and on the patio. It also serves as a convenient place to set up a buffet for the couple's larger gatherings.





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## 8. Hot Zone

Even with San Diego's balmy climate, evenings can get chilly, so the couple built a 25-foot-tall stone fireplace to warm the outdoor portions of the space. "The fireplace was the most monumental thing we did," project architect Dan Martorana says. Visible from the kitchen and the patio, the fireplace is surrounded by a two-story tube of glass illuminated from above.

## 9. Bartered Beauty

Palms, ferns, birds-of-paradise, and other tropical plants grow in the Büchlers' garden outside the kitchen. The green and red colors in the plants blend with the mahogany trim on the doors and windows and the rust-color concrete on the kitchen floor. Bruno, who is a contractor by trade, taught his landscape designer how to build grills and outside kitchen areas in exchange for advice on which plants to use in his tropical garden.



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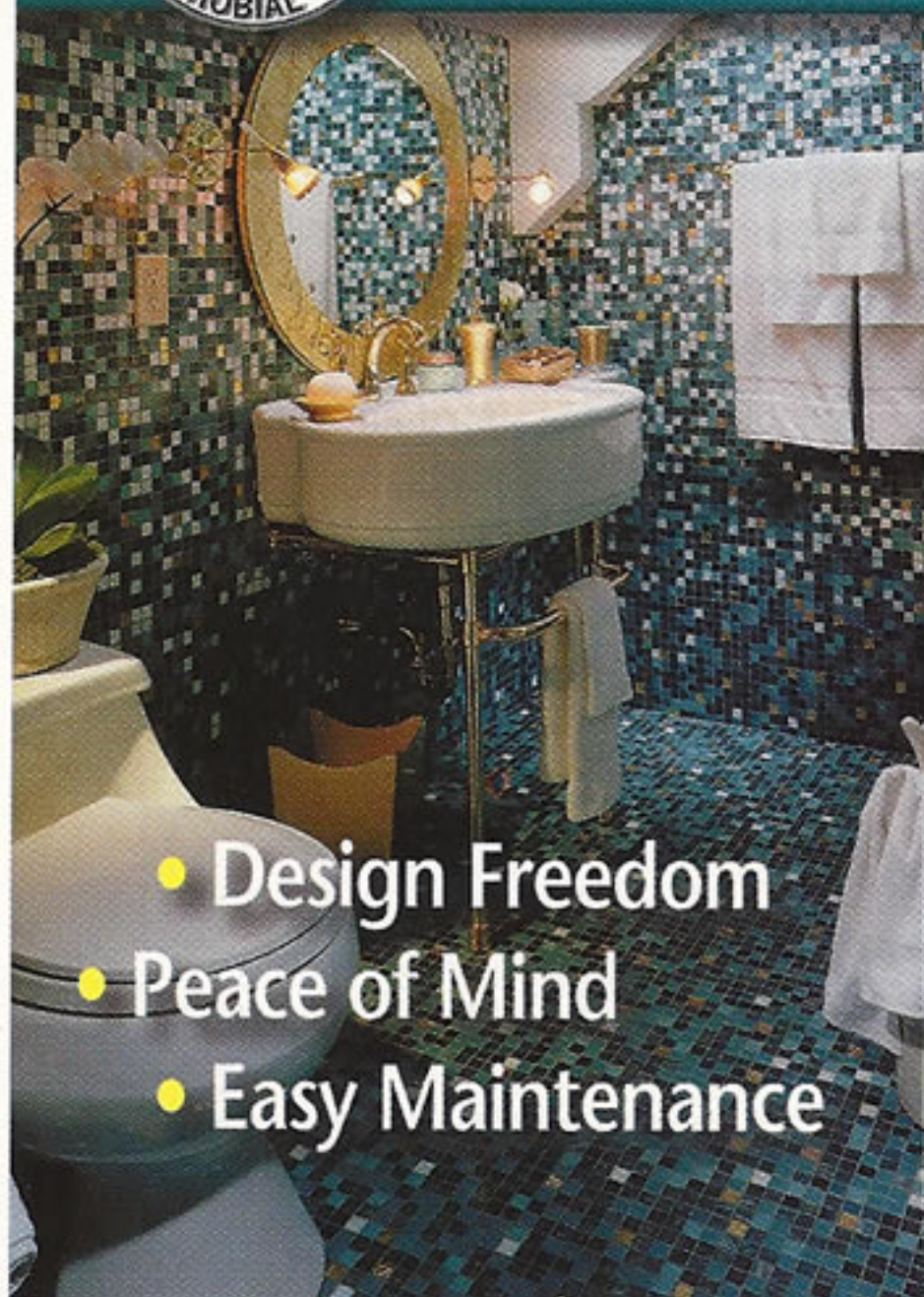
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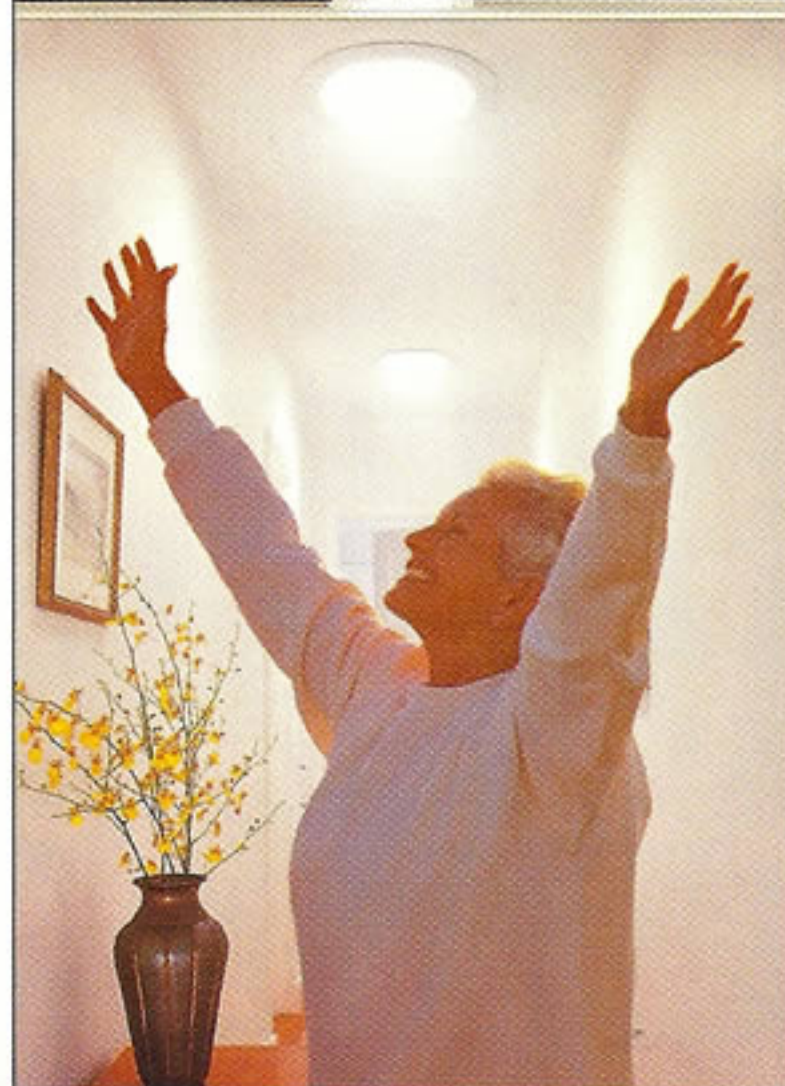
# 10.

## Quiet Time

When the Büchlers dine on the patio adjacent to the kitchen, they can hear the gurgling of two waterfalls that were installed in the garden. The natural sound effects help drown out the noise from nearby traffic. **KBI**

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