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Kitchens & Baths

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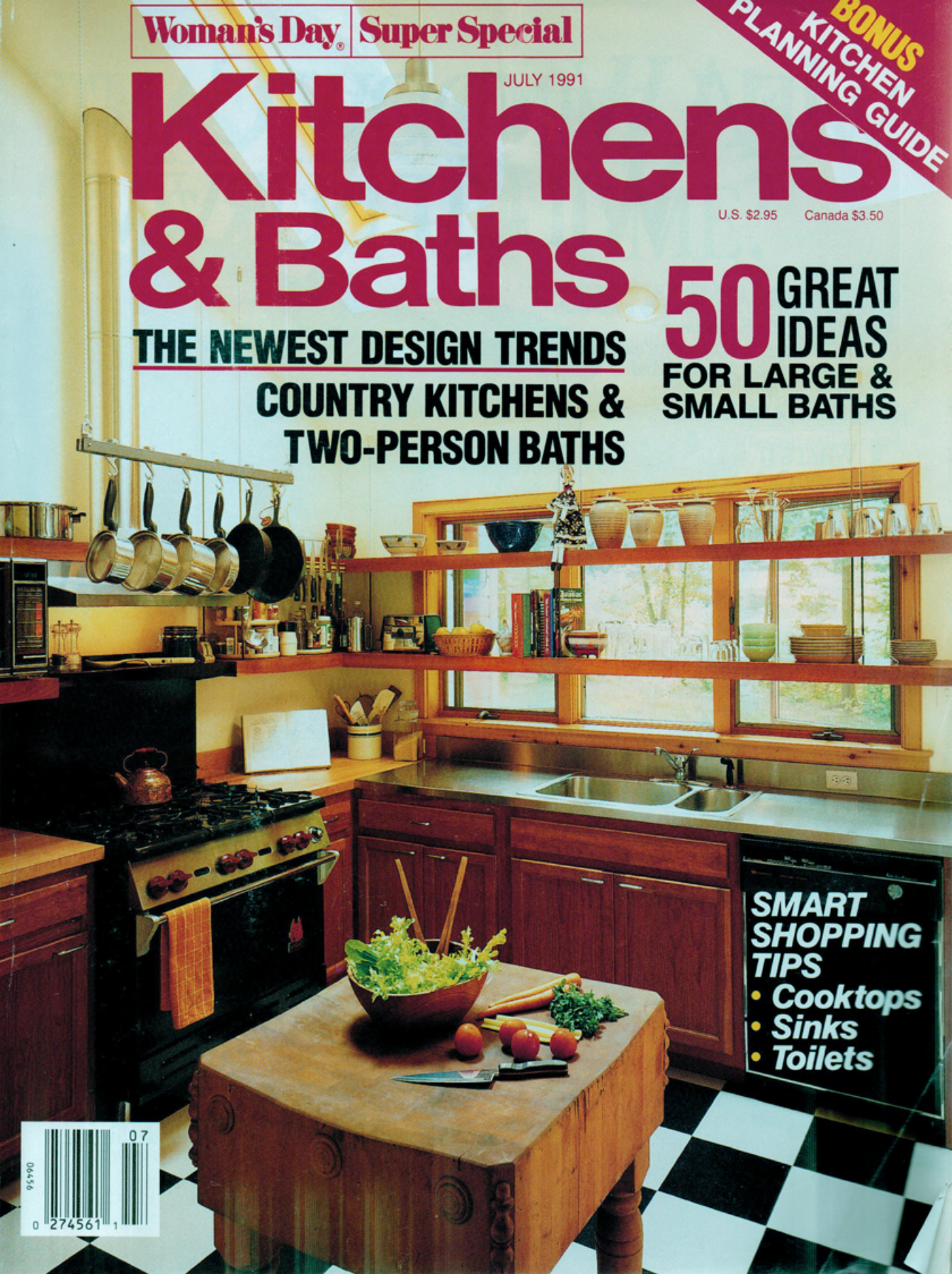
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A Tale of Two MAKE-OVERS



A charming colonial-style farmhouse, built in two stages between 1820 and 1840, was entirely renovated as a weekend house for a couple and single professional, all friends since their school days. Because the three like to cook, the kitchen became a primary focus during the reconstruction.

"We've known each other for years and our tastes were very similar, so we didn't have any problems deciding on the look we wanted," says the owner who worked most closely on the project with Ellen Cheever, an interior designer, and Joe Matta of Designs Inc., distributor of the Heritage Custom Kitchens cabinets selected for the installation.

An old wall of blue rock indigenous to this area of New York State, the original ceiling beams and floor, and an antique wood-burning stove set the color tone and feeling for the kitchen. A Du Pont Corian countertop in a blue-gray granite pattern picks up the wall's coloration. For contrast with the dark woods, the owners chose white wooden cabinets with simple styling. Another factor in their decision making, says one owner, is that the kitchen's simple lines and muted color scheme will adapt over the years to new details.

New windows really work wonders, above. Double-hungs were too small to let in much light and positioned too high—shorter cooks couldn't see out. Two new casements that reach all the way to the counter solve both problems.

Pieces from the past are departure points for the present. Once painted yellow, the original beams, right, have been restored. The wide plank floor was also retained and was stained a deep mahogany. Heritage Custom Kitchens cabinets have plain recessed panels for timeless appeal. Frameless construction ensures clean, structural lines.



One is hidden away in the woods, the other rises high above Manhattan, yet both these kitchens demonstrate that, whether urban-smart or country-sophisticated, good design means owners live happily ever after.





“Although we wanted to hold onto its early 19th-century feeling, we also wanted to make the kitchen modern and functional. When we cook, there are three chiefs and no Indians, so we needed a layout where we could work simultaneously without bumping into one another,” says an owner. To that end, sinks were placed on opposite walls, and the cooktop

was kept separate from the oven.

One sacrifice the owners wouldn't make even for efficiency's sake was including an island in the layout. “We felt it would make the space look too ‘done’.

 Using the old table also allowed us to have another rustic touch.” Lighting was not overlooked: Under-cabinet fluorescents have dimmers. The valance over the sink is made from drawer fronts.

Two full sinks cut cleanup time in half in this country house. Basin, above, is used for pots and pans that won't fit in the dishwasher. The counter is the perfect spot for fixing predinner drinks.

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To avoid a busy look, the homeowners chose Du Pont Corian for the backsplash, right, as well as the counter. The matching shelves visually break up the expanse and create a place for decorative pieces and spices. Even the switchplates get the solid-surface treatment.



With its controls situated in the center, this KitchenAid cooktop, right, makes working together simple. Staggered burners are space savers. The oven is under a far counter for a separate baking area.