



KITCHENS + BATHS

HOUSE & HOME
SPECIAL ISSUE
FALL/WINTER 2026

The Complete GUIDE

THE NEW
DECORATED
KITCHEN

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KEY COSTS
3 KITCHENS
3 BUDGETS

PLUS: DRAMATIC
POWDER ROOMS &
HOW TO GET ONE!

100+

PAGES OF COLOURFUL KITCHENS,
BOLD BATHROOMS AND THE LATEST IN
APPLIANCES, FAUCETS AND MORE



Design **ALLISON WILLSON**
and **HALEY DERMENJIAN**
Photography **PATRICK BILLER**
Text **WENDY JACOB**

ISLAND TIME

Designers Haley Dermenjian
(left) and Allison Willson.

A VACATION HOME KITCHEN EMBRACES
ITS TROPICAL LOCALE IN A TIMELESS WAY.

FAST FACTS

THE VISION:
An elegant kitchen
with custom details
that reflect the
climate and setting

TIMELINE:
6 MONTHS

LOCATION:
NAPLES, FLA.



THROW A CURVE

Rounded detailing is repeated on the island supports and crown mouldings. “We added a number of radius corners on the millwork itself, and the fridge has rounded gables, which adds such softness,” says designer Allison Willson. **Pendants, sconces, The Urban Electric Co.; blind, sconce shade and stool upholstery fabrics, Kravet; barstools, Shoppe Amber Interiors.**

“We wanted it to feel coastal, but not nautical or all-white... just bright” — ALLISON WILLSON

KEY COSTS*

KITCHEN MILLWORK:

\$80,000

BANQUETTE:

\$14,000

ISLAND PENDANTS:

\$6,804/pair

BREAKFAST NOOK PENDANT:

\$5,308

BREAKFAST TABLE:

\$4,465

UPHOLSTERED STOOLS:

\$4,275/set of 4

FAUCET:

\$3,500

HARDWARE:

\$3,500

SCONCES:

\$3,362/pair

DINING CHAIRS:

\$3,339/set of 3

WALLPAPER FOR CABINET PANELS:

\$843

KEEP IT POLISHED

The owners chose a polished finish for the Arctic White marble counters, which makes the eight-foot-long island sparkle. “We often suggest a honed matte finish to clients, but there’s something so nice about the reflection in this space — it grabs the light,” says Allison. **Backsplash tile**, Clé; **range**, Ilve.



BRING THE OUTDOORS IN

A wicker pedestal planter and lush fern echo the tropical greenery outside. “The woven chair is actually an outdoor piece,” says Allison. “I never mind bringing the outdoors in when it comes to furniture. And it’s lightweight, so it’s easy to move around.” **Planter, stand**, Memoire Design by Mainly Baskets Home; **throw pillow fabric** by Carolina Irving, Memo Showroom.

DESIGNING A KITCHEN in a Florida vacation home is a balancing act between celebrating the area’s tropical beauty and not doddering into *The Golden Girls* territory. Toronto designers Allison Willson and Haley Dermenjian had already worked with these clients for 11 years in Canada. Avid golfers and tennis players, the couple asked them to renovate their 29-year-old home set on a golf course in Naples, Fla. “We focused on doing a thoughtful, intentional renovation that nods to the location and its climate,

but doesn’t feel at all thematic or cheesy,” says Allison. The former kitchen was fully gutted, with the designers sweeping out ’90s-era staples such as espresso-coloured floors, yawning potlights and flimsy cabinets. Most problematic were the kitchen’s two islands: a tiny one in the middle of the space and a larger, two-tier one that was awkwardly angled. “The islands were really dated, and their layout was inefficient and didn’t use the space well,” says Allison. “The kitchen now feels twice as big just because of where we situated the new island.”

The renovation changed everything about the kitchen except its footprint and perimeter. The windows were enlarged to introduce as much natural light as possible. The drywall, flooring, plumbing and ceilings were replaced, as was the electrical layout. Natural materials headline the new aesthetic. A tongue-and-groove white oak ceiling injects warmth while a sisal runner and woven armchair add texture. Wipeable grasscloth is applied to the custom millwork for a tropical touch. Decorative accents such as a coral-look pendant, arrangements of wall-mounted plates and raffia

trim on the blinds and chairs give this home a sense of place, *sans* kitsch. “We wanted it to feel coastal, but not nautical or all-white... just bright,” says Allison. “It needed to be refreshing but also comforting. It feels appropriate, and still sophisticated and refined.” When it comes to redoing a kitchen in a vacation destination, Allison shares these words of wisdom: “Be patient and work with people you trust — not only in terms of designers, but also builders and contractors. Half of the success of a renovation is actually enjoying the process, not just the end result.”

*Costs are approximate, in Canadian dollars, and do not include installation



INJECT TEXTURE

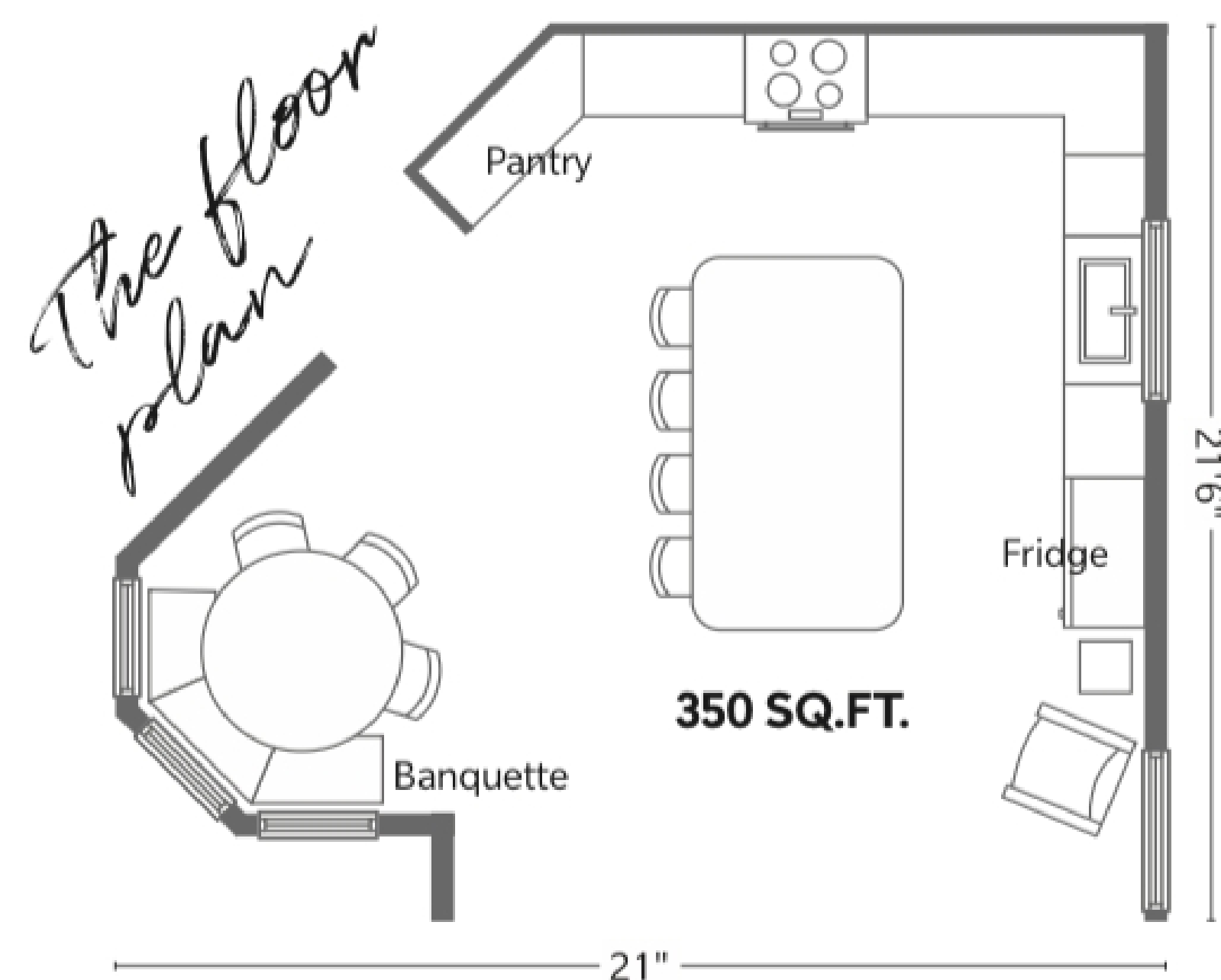
The designers filled the space with both rugged and subtle textures. The insets in the Shaker-style cabinet doors are finished in wipeable commercial-grade grasscloth while an oak tongue-and-groove ceiling, sisal runner, woven accents and a hand-formed clay tile backsplash layer in more tactile interest. “Because the tiles are uneven and don’t sit flush, the finished effect creates a lot of texture,” says Allison. **Millwork**, River & Oak Cabinets; **hardware**, Classic Brass; **grasscloth**, Phillip Jeffries.

HACK A PLATE DISPLAY

“Always lay out the plates first on a flat surface to perfect the arrangement,” says Allison, pointing out that you don’t want to have to redo it, especially if you’re drilling into the backsplash. Here, she used 3M adhesive hooks instead of screws to hang a collection of vintage cabbage plates — a clever display above a range because they’re washable. **Vintage art** (on vent hood), **cabbage plates**, Chesterdales Home & Garden.



Floor plan illustration by Zhanina Pestupaylo



HIGHLIGHT A COLLECTION

To make the array of plates displayed in the dining area look dramatic and polished, Allison installed a tall backing wrapped in raffia. “The plates wouldn’t have popped enough on the cream-coloured wall,” she says. “I’m a sucker for texture and raffia, and I use it in many projects as a frame.” **Pendant**, Palecek; **banquette**, MSCI Custom Interiors; **dining chairs**, RH.

MIX HIGH-LOW ELEMENTS

“We don’t all have collections of vintage Spanish majolica plates worth thousands of dollars,” says Allison. “As beautiful as that would’ve been, we achieved that look with a high-low approach.” She displayed a few white vintage oyster plates alongside colourful new plates. **Patterned plates**, Pottery Barn; vintage **oyster plates**, Chesterdales Home & Garden.