

TRIP THE WHITE FANTASTIC

FOUR KITCHENS CARVE OUT DIFFERENT LOOKS WITH THE SAME COLOR

BY EVA DITLER

Crisp and clean, white opens up a kitchen with fresh, bright character. Used as a background canvas, it provides boundless design possibilities. Here are four of them.

CAPE COD CONNECTION

PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICK MARQUEZ

TO HELP NAVIGATE a Poway homeowner's kitchen toward a Cape Cod style with a nautical vibe, designer Brittney Nielsen brought in modified shaker-style cabinets with bead detailing, a paneled ceiling, elm flooring and masses of white.

"The house is classic, so we wanted to go with a traditional look in the kitchen with lots of paneling," Brittney says. "We added interest with finer finishes of marble."

The backsplash animates the space with a mosaic of marble and limestone that dials up the volume while

tying in the whites and grays of the honed-marble countertop.

"My client fell in love with the slabs of marble, which wasn't very practical to use as countertops. But her dad took leftover pieces of black walnut from the island and made her six cutting boards," Brittney says. "She uses them all over."

The island's wood offsets the white and warms up the kitchen, but the homeowner was wary about using wood for the floor.

"She was worried that a wood floor would be damaged

Window-backed cabinets on either side of the sink provide storage space without blocking natural light and an outside view.



when visitors came over after church all dressed up in their heels, so she wanted something durable,” Brittney says. “I pulled samples for her and she would jump on them with her high heels. We ended up going with elm because it didn’t damage. It wears like iron and has a walnut look.”

Thicker baseboards and cabinets capped with crown molding offer that heavier, richer feel often found in East Coast homes. Brushed-nickel pulls and knobs also are in keeping with a Cape Code aesthetic.

“The homeowner had a concept photo of an East Coast kitchen with a giant window and glass cabinets that went all the way to the ceiling,” Brittney says. “We weren’t able to do that for her, because we had a big header problem. What we were able to do, though, was increase the space’s natural light by installing backless cabinets with glass doors over a custom window. That solution allowed light to shine through the cabinets and helped create a bright and light-filled kitchen.”

From the adjoining breakfast nook and family room, the refrigerator was prominently on view. Designer Brittney Nielsen solved the problem by giving the appliance the look of an armoire. The arch atop it repeats in a hallway niche and in cabinetry over the sink (shown in previous spread).

