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tip • ONE

A door from the kitchen to the deck allows for easy flow between the indoor and outdoor spaces when homeowners Alice Savage and Geoff Willis entertain or eat alfresco (which is often). Just inside the door is an area that can be set up as an ersatz bar. Attractive accessories like the metal bottle caddy make sure things are in order on the quartz countertop.

tip • TWO

Designer Margot Jagger made the most of an awkward corner with open L-shaped shelves. "Alice was hesitant for fear they'd look messy. Nothing screams 'requires organization' more than open shelving," she says. "But with all-white dishware stacked there, they're easy to keep tidy."

tip • THREE

Serving coffee or tea to guests - invited or impromptu - is almost effortless when all the necessary supplies are corralled neatly together on a white dish.



**THE
OUTDOOR
LOVERS**



After living with a dark and dysfunctional kitchen for several years, homeowners Alice Savage and Geoff Willis were more than ready for a change in the Vancouver home they share with their three grown children. Enter designer Margot Jagger of Margot Jagger Design, who helped bring the couple's minimalist cottage style to life. "They wanted something casual, comfortable and, most of all, functional," says Margot. "Alice and Geoff are homebodies who love to entertain, and they barbecue virtually 12 months of the year, thanks to Vancouver's mild

climate." So the designer completely reworked the petite space, adding in much-needed storage, installing new windows and relocating the sink so that it would overlook Alice's prized English-inspired garden, while making sure the door to the back deck stayed in place. With the functionality improved, Margot brought in a custom-cut porcelain tile backsplash to complement the smoky quartz countertops. Now, the kitchen is packed with personality - the ultimate spot for Alice and Geoff to entertain their friends and family, indoors and out.



tip • FOUR

With only two full-height upper cabinets in the kitchen, the below-the-counter spaces need to work especially hard. So Margot installed extra-deep drawers, roll-out racks and a Magic Corner cabinet storage unit, which pulls out to make items in the back accessible.

tip • FIVE

Upper cabinetry with traditional Shaker-style doors and no crown moulding feels unexpectedly clean and modern, in keeping with the kitchen's streamlined style. The natural wood tones of the island countertop and floors link the look with the outdoors.

tip • SIX

Previously, the kitchen featured a peninsula with no seating space. Margot's design incorporates an island that accommodates three stools and a hidden built-in microwave.

tip • SEVEN

To-do lists get supersized with a large-scale chalkboard that allows the homeowners to leave notes and reminders without cluttering up the kitchen with scraps of paper. Painted-out trim gives it a custom, built-in look.

tip • EIGHT

An old and unsightly chimney stack in the corner of the kitchen could not be removed. Instead of simply closing it in, Margot made the most of the space left and designed a four-inch-deep cabinet to provide additional storage for small items.

tip • NINE

A faux-bamboo ladder fills an otherwise empty wall, adding texture and scale – not to mention a fun place to display tea towels and tablecloths. Its tone ties in nicely with the vintage oak flooring, which bears a clear matte finish.



tip • TEN

On the countertop, storage doubles as decor in the form of pretty canisters and bowls. A mix of textures and materials, including ceramic and glass, makes the pieces feel unique and collected over time.

