



Bring sculpture—and a little asymmetry—to the kitchen island.

When designer Stephanie Brown met with her North Vancouver clients, they chatted about that all-important question: Just how many stools does a family of three need? While the answer is obvious (four, since a spare is great), there can sometimes be a temptation to max out seating space on a large island such as this one (the counter is more than 12 feet long). Instead, Brown kept the visual clutter down with a trim number of stools and an asymmetric design that introduces a sculptural niche to the front of the island—great for the display of a few pretty pieces of pottery.



Use dark cabinetry to draw in the outdoors. “The homeowners wanted the inside and the outside of the home to be one room,” says Tina Marogna, principal of Aya Kitchens of Vancouver and the designer of this West Vancouver space. Using flat-panelled wenge cabinets in a rich rye shade, with minimal pull-tab hardware and similarly dark quartz stone for both the countertops and backsplash, allows the kitchen to recede, bringing the landscaping to the fore. Major design elements, including the red-cedar ceiling and the tile flooring, run continuously to the outside, further blurring the lines. A clever indoor-outdoor countertop on the perimeter wall makes playing bartender a breeze.