

# IKEA as You've Never Seen It

There's a reason the Swedish stalwart has become a kitchen mainstay. *By Kaitlin Menza*

**A** **N UNDERSTANDABLE ASSUMPTION** is that any and every kitchen renovation requires multiple contractors and a sky-high budget. Meanwhile, there's IKEA, whose kitchen cabinets are reliably affordable, sure, but also endlessly customizable—even by a layperson. If you'd still like a bit of professional assistance, take some hints from these designer spaces, which are guaranteed to help you think outside the (delivery) box.



## Lean into a Palette

"What I loved about the wood-grain fronts is that they gave an organic vibe to the kitchen and could be styled to be anything from modern to bohemian," says designer Beth Diana Smith, who let the soothing driftwood hue of her Sofielund cabinets inspire the rug and Roman shade in her New Jersey home.



## Work with the Wood

At the vacation rental Riverside House in Normandy, France, the ash tone of the cabinets (try Torhamn for a similar look) was extended to peninsula shelving and a frame that separate the rooms of an open floor plan.



## Fake Architecture

For a sleek kitchen in New York, Kevin Greenberg of Space Exploration paired custom emerald cabinets with matte white Ringhult uppers. "If you want to go the extra mile to make your IKEA kitchen seem fully built-in, we recommend creating a soffit at the ceiling to enframe the top cabinets," Greenberg suggests. "It amplifies the bespoke feeling."



## Imitate Detailing

Designers and bloggers Chris and Julia Marcum outfitted their Idaho kitchen with black Shaker-style Laxarby cabinets (since discontinued—check out Lerhyttan for a similar style), then mimicked the traditional trim and color in an oversize island they built for a free-spirited, warm family space.

## Little Lifesavers

Designers share the IKEA kitchen items they pick up for clients again and again. Find them at [ikea.com](http://ikea.com).



"They're easy to keep clean since there's nowhere for mess to hide!" says Anne Sage of her pantry. **Maximera drawers**, starting at \$24.



"It gives such a custom feel, and really keeps my utensils well organized," says Taryn Bone of Bone Collective Studio. **Variera knife tray**, \$15.

Clients are clamoring for this affordable farmhouse look, says Gina Gutierrez of Gina Rachelle Design. **Havsens sink**, \$167.



"There's nothing more satisfying" than these rubber-and-plastic dividers for spice jars, says Whitney Meneff. **Variera spice inserts**, \$4.



MIKE VAN TASSELL (SMITH INTERIOR); HERVÉ GOUZA (RIVERSIDE HOUSE INTERIOR); NICOLE FRANZEN (GREENBERG INTERIOR); CHRIS LOVES JULIA (CHRIS LOVES JULIA INTERIOR); MONICA WANG (SAGE INTERIOR)