



**1** Utilizing a custom-mixed smoke-gray paint on both the kitchen island and the entertainment center in the family room helps to tie both spaces together.

**2** Wallpaper above the upper cabinets adds some dimension, texture and a touch of glimmer and interest.

**3** Gray and white is a timeless and beautiful pairing that complements both contemporary and traditional styles.

**4** Cherry cabinets refinished with a white stain make this kitchen appear larger than it is.

**KITCHEN DESIGN**  
**Laura Sullivan**  
*My Favorite Designs*

In 1992, Laura Sullivan purchased her first house, a 1927 Spanish-influenced Glendale, California home, complete with crystal doorknobs, wrought-iron elements and a traditional red clay roof. "All the architectural features that I'm drawn to," says Sullivan. It was the first of several homes of that era that she would buy, restore, furnish and resell; it was also the beginning of her career in interior design.

Sullivan has relocated to Las Vegas, where, for nine years, she's been catering to local clients who also prefer classic, timeless, elegant décor. As the owner of My Favorite Designs, she's tackled countless Southern Nevada decorating projects, including more than 30 kitchens.

"Budget, appliances, the layout of the kitchen." These are her initial considerations when remodeling a kitchen. "And I love designing islands," she says. "Everybody gathers around the kitchen island."

Generally a focal point, this center-stage feature can really set the tone for the rest of the room. "It's the shape of the island; the intricacies," Sullivan says, "and it doesn't necessarily have to be the same color as the rest of the room." Sullivan's

portfolio includes islands of deep red shades, blacks and grays, creating rich drama in otherwise neutral rooms.

By incorporating unique designs, exceptional materials and custom colors into her novel creations, Sullivan ensures that her kitchen projects are always special — but also classic.

"Nothing too trendy," she says, since she aspires to create rooms her clients will still be happy with a decade later. Think classic lines, refined tones.

When faced with a smaller kitchen, Sullivan has several tricks up her sleeve: "If you don't have the width to work with, you focus on height," she says. For instance, a chic white-tiled backsplash beneath white cupboards creates the illusion of a larger and grander kitchen, when every square foot counts.

Other small-kitchen solutions include knocking down walls, installing compact appliances or paneling the refrigerator to appear to be part of the cabinetry. "Glass doors on the uppers also achieves an open feel in a tight space," she says. Oh, and that whole triangle business that we're always hearing about when redoing kitchens? Sullivan says it's nothing to worry about if the kitchen is small. *Chantal Corcoran*