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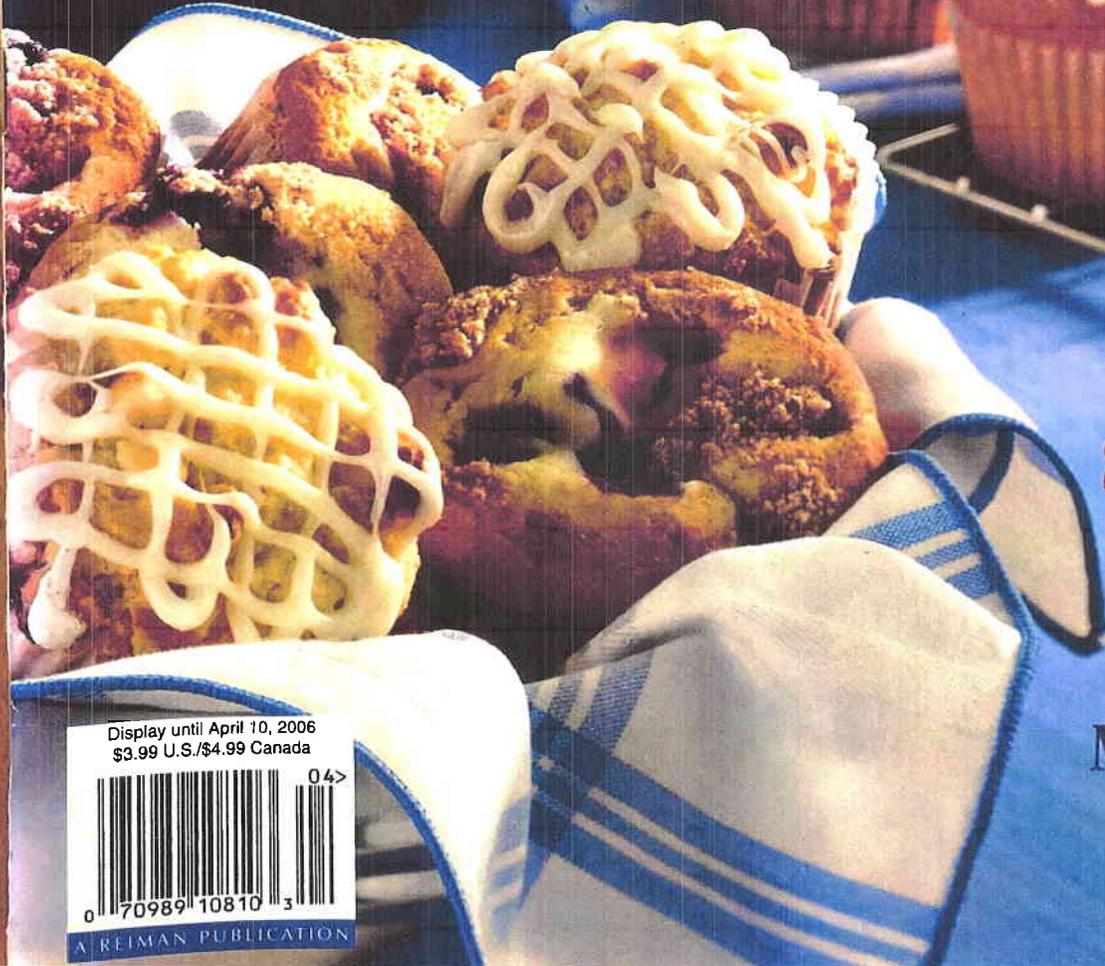
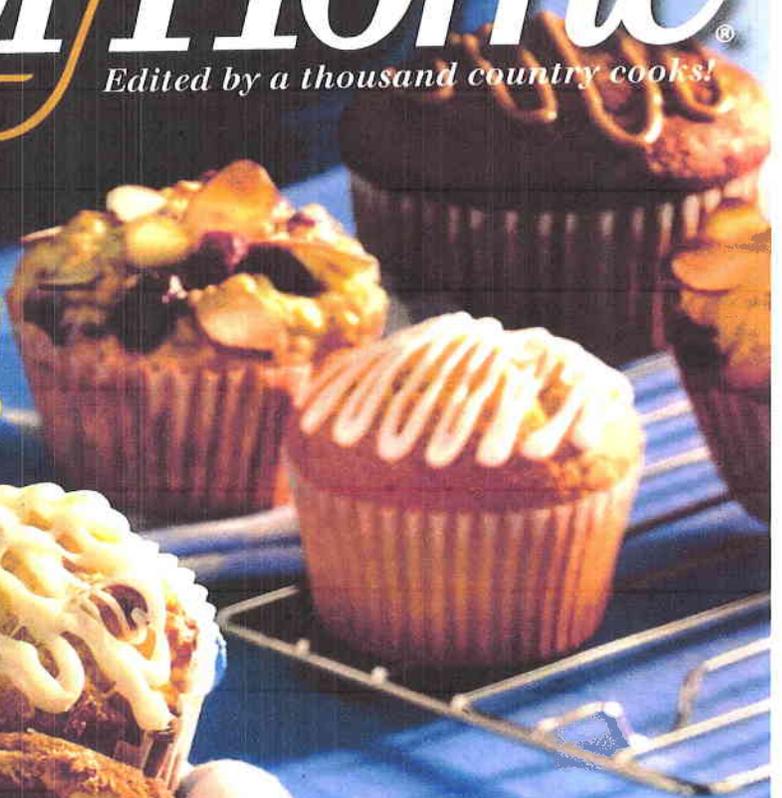
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A REIMAN PUBLICATION



Touring Country Kitchens

A Real *Taste of Home* Kitchen

By Lynn Kracht, Marysville, Kansas

Three years ago, my husband, Scott, and I concluded that our house was just too small for our family of six. We love our neighborhood and our location on the edge of this small Kansas town, so instead of moving, we decided that building an addition to the house was the best solution.

The first place where we turned was *Taste of Home*. We cut out every "Touring Country Kitchens" article published

over the past 5 years, and I made a notebook of all the details we liked from the various kitchens. I gave the notebook to our cabinetmaker and builder, along with the floor plan Scott and I designed on our computer.

Construction on the great room, housing a roomy kitchen and dining area divided by a large island, began in June 2002 and was completed 6 months later, on December 24.



Scott and Lynn Kracht split up the duties of designing, organizing and decorating when they added their roomy kitchen to their home.

Comfy and Cozy

We couldn't be happier with the result. Although the room is spacious, it has a cozy, country feel, thanks to features such as the bay window, the braided rug under the table and the red fruit-patterned wallpaper with rooster border.

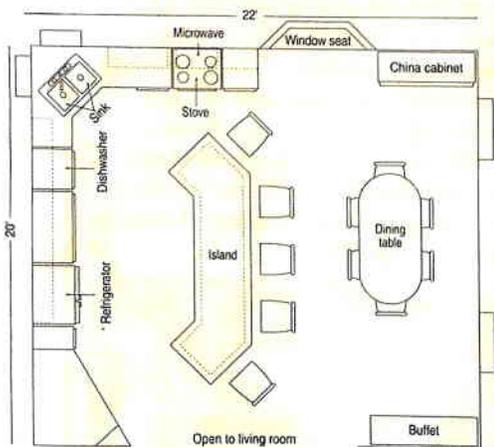
We made sure there was space for all the things we love, from our fun rooster collection (we both love roosters!) to family heirlooms like my grandmother's china and Scott's grandmother's cookie jar and buffet.

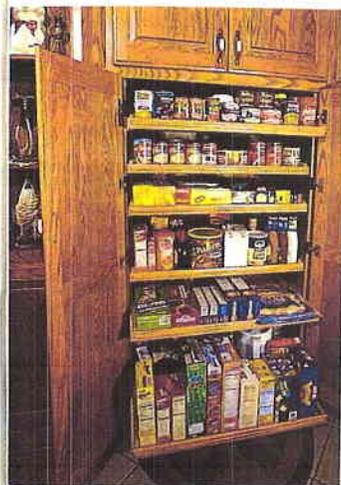
Scott, who's a sales rep for an ink cartridge company, has a knack for decorat-

ing and did it all himself. I'm a computer teacher at the local high school, so I was in charge of designing and organizing the project.

A large part of the design is the oak cabinetry. The custom-made cupboards we chose have a warm, light brown hue. They're also durable, as is the neutral-toned ceramic tile floor. With four children, a dog and a hot tub, it was an obvious choice.

Natural light is abundant, thanks to the





patio doors and several good-sized windows. From this room, we can see our deck, patio and landscaped backyard, which is lit up at night. The bay window and corner windows over the sink overlook our inviting neighborhood.

Our four children—Bryan, 19; Alyssa, 17; Madison, 11; and McKenzie, 10—are always hav-

ing friends over, so we wanted an island that could seat five people comfortably. Here, the kids can visit, enjoy a snack and even watch television.

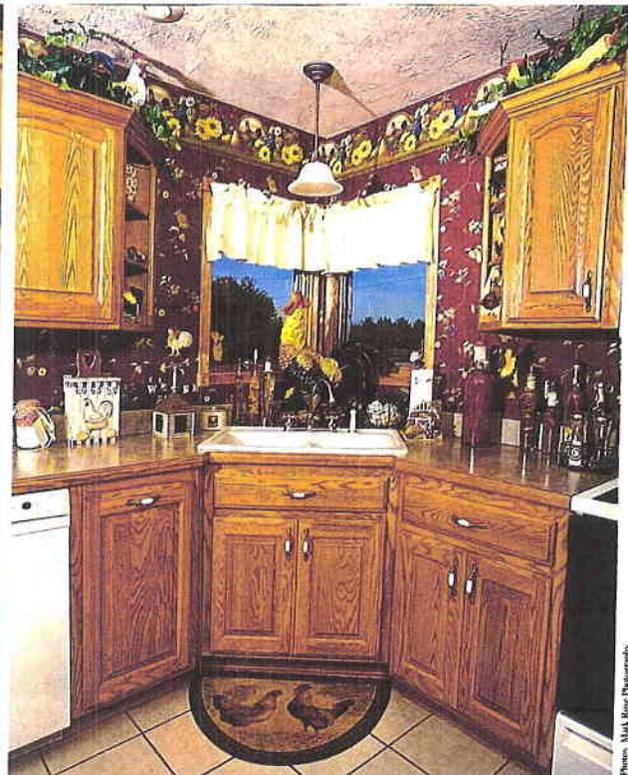
The island also makes a convenient work area. Large drawers store my pots and pans, and there's ample overhead lighting. The island is just steps away from the refrigerator, stove and dishwasher, too. Scott and I often rely on the microwave to speed up meal preparation, since we both work full-time and help run the Marysville Country Club. Our slow cooker gets a lot of use as well.

Other efficiencies include an appliance cupboard, a large pantry and roll-out shelves in every cabinet.

Room for More

Our old kitchen was cramped, and the dining area could accommodate only a table for six. Now we have seating for up to 17 people, plus plenty of space for mingling when we entertain. Our family spends more time here than in any other room of the house.

I feel as though *Taste of Home* readers had a hand in helping us design this beautiful kitchen. So we're very happy that we could share it with you!



Photos: Mark Rose Photography



The Kracht family, below, enjoys the comfort and room found in their cheery kitchen and dining area. The large island (top center) provides extra seating and ample work space, while the convenient pantry (above left) has handy roll-out shelves. Fun collectible roosters rule the roost on the countertop and even in the wallpaper border.

