

# Vibrantly TRADITIONAL

**A vacation in Italy spawned the inspiration for this kitchen that celebrates the art of food preparation and fine dining.**


By Debra Steilen

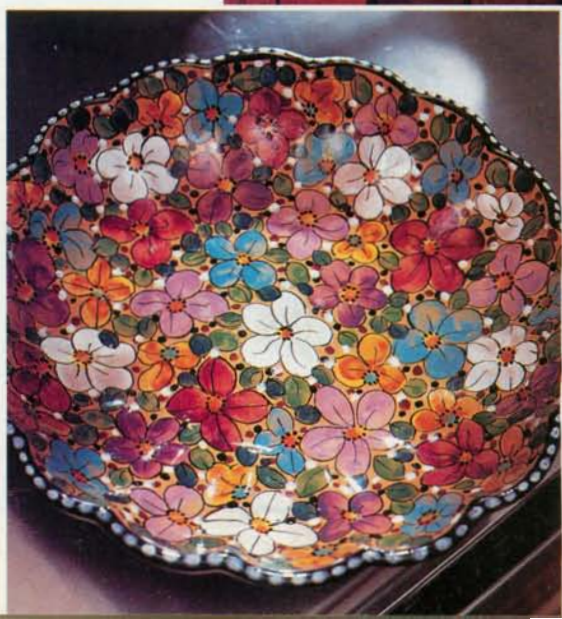
**D**esigning an entire kitchen around a single ceramic plate may seem a trifle unusual, even though the plate was purchased while vacationing in Italy. But Penny Hecktman—a jewelry designer and artist—knew exactly what she wanted.

“The kitchen was Mrs. Hecktman’s concept,” says interior designer Janet McCann, who collaborated with kitchen designer Michael De Giulio on the remodeling. “We had to interpret what she might be feeling when she saw that plate. It was vibrant. It was colorful. It was exciting.”

But before Penny’s dream kitchen could take shape, the 60-year-old room needed a facelift. De Giulio transformed a warren of small rooms—a food preparation area, a butler’s pantry, and a breakfast nook—into a large, open room with space dedicated to cooking and food preparation, cleanup, and serving.

Golden-orange-stained maple cabinets now surround the large space with a rich, warm glow. But even that didn’t come easily: Penny couldn’t settle on a style, color, or proportion that she liked in available cabinetry. So De Giulio designed a simple, classic door style with a framed, flat panel door that’s enhanced by molded details. Working with the Sematic Corporation, he refined the design, including the unusual

 *Soft-color flowers scattered over a scallop-edge ceramic plate provided the inspiration for this traditional kitchen design. Penny Hecktman fell in love with the plate while vacationing on the Amalfi coast in Italy.*







*Gleaming metal, glowing wood, glorious tiles. They all add up to a warm, gracious kitchen that celebrates food preparation, fine dining, and entertaining. The cabinet manufacturer liked the butterscotch-hue custom-designed cabinets so much, the style was added as a new line.*



◆ Sunlight streams through a purposefully unadorned window—illuminating the tile mosaic backsplash and butterscotch maple cabinetry. To dress up the window frame, the molding was marbled in a deep green to match the real marble countertop on the island.



**Traditional touches left give this area of the kitchen an air of formality. Crown moldings, dentil trim, and fluted columns add an heirloom quality to the custom-designed maple cabinetry. Other heirloom touches: a marble-top counter that can be used for buffets, and glass-front cabinets that spotlight a collection of decorative dinnerware.**

area: charcoal above, and salmon beneath a stainless-steel hood that matches the refrigerator and countertops. A strip of custom-color tile dotted with clusters of grapes decorates the back wall. De Giulio also designed a marble shelf to store Penny's cooking oils and vinegars close at hand.

"She [Penny] happens to be a gourmet cook, so I think she wanted to create the feeling of being in a little Italian restaurant," McCann says. "Not so much the look of Italy, as the way Italians celebrate food preparation. Rich and warm and vibrant."

Once the food preparation is complete, cook, family, and friends enjoy the fruits of labor at an eat-in area that feels more like a dining room than a kitchen. Glass-front cabinets and a counter topped with deep-green marble hint at heirloom quality. Colorfully cushioned, green-stained rattan chairs promote a relaxed dining atmosphere.

"I'm getting feedback that everyone who has seen the house adores the kitchen," McCann says. "Everyone wants to be in it ... to watch the food preparation and to eat. It's a very warm and inviting room."

"As designers, the thing that was most gratifying to us was that we could really reflect the personality of the client in the kitchen," De Giulio adds, referring to the collaboration between McCann and himself. "We get a warm feeling picturing the Hecktman family using it for many years." □

**For purchasing information, see the Buying Guide beginning on page 116.**

**Photographer: Jim Hedrich, Hedrich-Blessing  
Architect: Stuart Shayman  
Kitchen designer: Michael De Giulio  
Interior designer: Janet McCann  
Regional editor: Elaine Markoutsas**



**Sleek, stainless-steel double ovens share cooking duty with a professional cooktop. Upper cabinets are extra tall to maximize storage—even providing a spot for the television.**

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