

**THIS PHOTO** Over the years, homeowner Peggy Salvino collected the trio of French prints that now hang on the kitchen wall. Other European touches include the backsplash's irregular glazed terra-cotta tiles and the French-made pendant lights. **OPPOSITE** Designer Alessia Zanchi Loffredo found the breakfast area's antique table, which is large enough to seat the whole family, on a buying trip to Europe.



# *the* FRENCH EFFECT

European influences and a striking floor make an Illinois kitchen a worldly classic.

Writer Paula M. Bodah Photographer Ryan McDonald Field Editor Andrea Caughey

**THIS PHOTO** All the cabinetry, including the panels hiding the fridge, wears Sherwin-Williams Agreeable Gray paint, while walls and ceiling are Benjamin Moore Simply White. Floating wood shelves add a warm touch to the white tiles.



**EVEN THE CLOSEST OF FAMILIES NEED A LITTLE ELBOW ROOM.**

Although Peggy and Mike Salvino's Burr Ridge, Illinois, home had enough square footage to accommodate them and their six children, the family felt cramped when everyone gathered in the kitchen. A U-shape layout, 8-foot ceilings, and dark cabinetry made the room look small. Last-century accents, including stenciling above the cabinets and backsplash tiles depicting fruits and vegetables, felt dated. The kitchen needed a top-to-bottom makeover.

Peggy, who has a background in design, and Mike, the cook of the family, had individual needs for the space and their own ideas for its look. They sought direction from Alessia Zanchi Loffredo of reDesign Home, whose contemporary freshness and European style masterfully blended their visions.

First, though, Loffredo and architect Patrick Plunkett had to make some structural changes. The team flipped the mudroom and kitchen, pushed back a wall 18 inches into the garage to create a walk-in pantry, and cut into the attic to create a cathedral ceiling. "Switching the layout gave us two large exterior walls where we could add big windows to bring in natural light," Loffredo says. She introduced an island and a spacious breakfast area with a wall of windows to further usher in the light.

A photo from Loffredo's travels to the South of France inspired the kitchen's style. Pale gray cabinets contrast subtly with the white ceiling and walls, while unlacquered-brass hardware provides an old-world touch. "We put together a combo of finishes that feel timeless but current," Loffredo says.



**ABOVE** Inspired by restaurant kitchens, Mike Salvino suggested swinging doors for easy access to the pantry—a space created by taking a bite out of the garage. The half-doors also allow the family's dog, PJ, to access the kitchen when he needs.

"I knew the kitchen needed to feel traditional, but they're a young family so I wanted it to be bright and user-friendly."

Loffredo also gave the couple the courage to make some bold choices, including selecting the kitchen's standout feature: a striking limestone-and-marble floor. The black-and-white tiling adds a little something extra to a kitchen that continues to delight its homeowners. "We're both traditionalists when it comes to style," Peggy says. "We're drawn to a classic European look, but we love that Alessia added a fresh, contemporary touch."

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Alessia Zanchi Loffredo, interior designer

**ABOVE** The new mudroom sports an equally agreeable mix of contemporary and classic, with its floor of unglazed terracotta, a deep porcelain sink, lots of storage, and twin washers and dryers. The mudroom sink, deep enough to bathe the family dog, was inspired by a fountain Loffredo saw in the plaza of a small town in France. Brass fixtures enhance the old-world look. **ABOVE RIGHT** While Mike is doing the cooking, guests can keep him company over appetizers in the breakfast area. **RIGHT** “I had thought of a black-and-white check floor in the pantry,” Peggy says of the kitchen and breakfast nook’s flooring. “but I wasn’t sure if I was brave enough to do it in a larger space like this.”



**THIS PHOTO** The Penelope chandelier from Made Goods adds a touch of country style with its antler-shape arms. Wall-to-ceiling windows on perpendicular walls flood the space with light.