

Kitchen Designs That Deliver Big on Form and Function

Kitchens are the hub of every home, but these designs up the ante in features and practical function

By Larry W. Garnett, FAIBD, House Review Lead Designer | September 24, 2019



Designed for Legacy DCS by DTJ Design, this kitchen features an island, walk-in pantry, and wine room. See below for more details.

Builders and designers know how important kitchens are to their clients. They are where most of us really live, and so must be carefully designed to function on many fronts, from storage to food preparation to providing a gathering place. Meanwhile, separate “back kitchens” and [wine storage areas](#) are high on the lists of homebuyers serious about entertaining. Large walk-in pantries are often spacious enough to provide a place for small appliance storage and use. And while traditional cabinetry with raised-panel doors and crown molding are still popular, sleek, minimalist materials and finishes are showing up in both contemporary and traditionally styled homes.

Take a look at these kitchens created by our design team, including some [stunning outdoor areas](#), and feel free to reach out with any questions or comments.

THE MAGNOLIA

DESIGNER: [DTJ Design](#), Seth Hart, shart@dtjdesign.com, 303.443.7533

PLAN SIZE: Width: 65 feet; Depth: 75 feet; Living area: 2,540 sf

Designed for [Legacy DCS](#), [The Magnolia at Westside Landing](#) is an age-targeted, single-level-living community overlooking Lake Travis in Austin, Texas. Vaulted ceilings throughout the living room and kitchen add drama to the spaces, while enhanced wall treatments and transom windows maintain a comfortable sense of scale.

In the Magnolia's kitchen, accented upper cabinets provide unique design appeal that works well with the [modern but rustic style](#). The kitchen also has direct access from the owner's entry and is connected to the walk-in pantry and the laundry/tech room, with options that include additional freezer storage for enhanced versatility.





- A** The "L" living configuration puts the kitchen in the heart of the home, well-connected to both the dining and living rooms
- B** A large island with feature end-caps blends style with functionality and creates a focal point
- C** A walk-in pantry tucked off to the side of the owner's entry provides ample storage but isn't visible from living spaces
- D** A large wine room between the foyer and great room adds interest to the hall and expands the kitchen's functionality

THE EASTWOOD

DESIGNERS: [GMD Design Group](#), Scott Gardner, scott@gmddesigngroup.com, 919.320.3022

Donnie McGrath, donnie@gmddesigngroup.com, 770.375.7351

PLAN SIZE: Width: 68 feet; Depth: 80 feet; Living area: 3,567 sf

This kitchen [takes indoor-outdoor living to the next level](#). It's actually two kitchens: The main one features a huge island that connects to the breakfast and great room areas, and the second functions as a scullery with a direct link to an outdoor dining area and the pool beyond via a 12-foot-wide door. The second kitchen doubles as a preparation area for the main kitchen and also as an entertaining area that extends into the outdoors while keeping the main home separate. The large pantry is located between both kitchens for ease of access.





- A** Main kitchen with large island
- B** Breakfast area, open to the kitchen and great room
- C** Scullery; indoor-outdoor kitchen
- D** Centrally located walk-in pantry
- E** 12-foot glass door opening
- F** Butler's pantry
- G** Service entry from garage to kitchen
- H** Screened porch

OLGIATA AT ROLLING HILLS C.C.

ARCHITECT: [Robert Hidey Architects](#), ahidey@roberthidey.com, 949.655.1550

PLAN SIZE: Kitchen: Width: 21 feet, 6 inches; Depth: 17 feet, 10 inches

AREA: 383 sf

BACK KITCHEN (INCLUDING PANTRY): Width: 21 feet, 1 inch, Depth: 6 feet; Area: 132 sf

For [Toll Brothers](#)' Rolling Hills Country Club, the Olgiata model is designed in a European ranch style to suit an affluent family that entertains frequently. It celebrates the [indoor-outdoor experience](#) from the grand foyer, with views of the city in the distance and opportunities to [enjoy the outdoors](#).

The kitchen, between the great room and the dining room, is the home's focal point and hub, with unimpeded access to the outdoor living areas through [expansive sliding glass doors](#).





- A** High ceilings throughout the public spaces lend a grand aspect to the kitchen, whose 10-foot-high cabinetry provides ample storage for seasonal-use items
- B** Designed to accommodate messy prep and cleanup work, the back kitchen, which includes a walk-in pantry with copious additional storage, can be customized with additional cooktops and a second sink
- C** At the nexus of the kitchen and foyer, the formal dining room beckons, with views of the Los Angeles skyline
- D** While waiting for dinner to be served from the outdoor grill, guests seated at the outdoor bar can watch a game or the latest series on the television
- E** The L-shaped outdoor living area is the perfect spot to take in the views, enjoy before- and after-dinner drinks, or shoot a game of pool

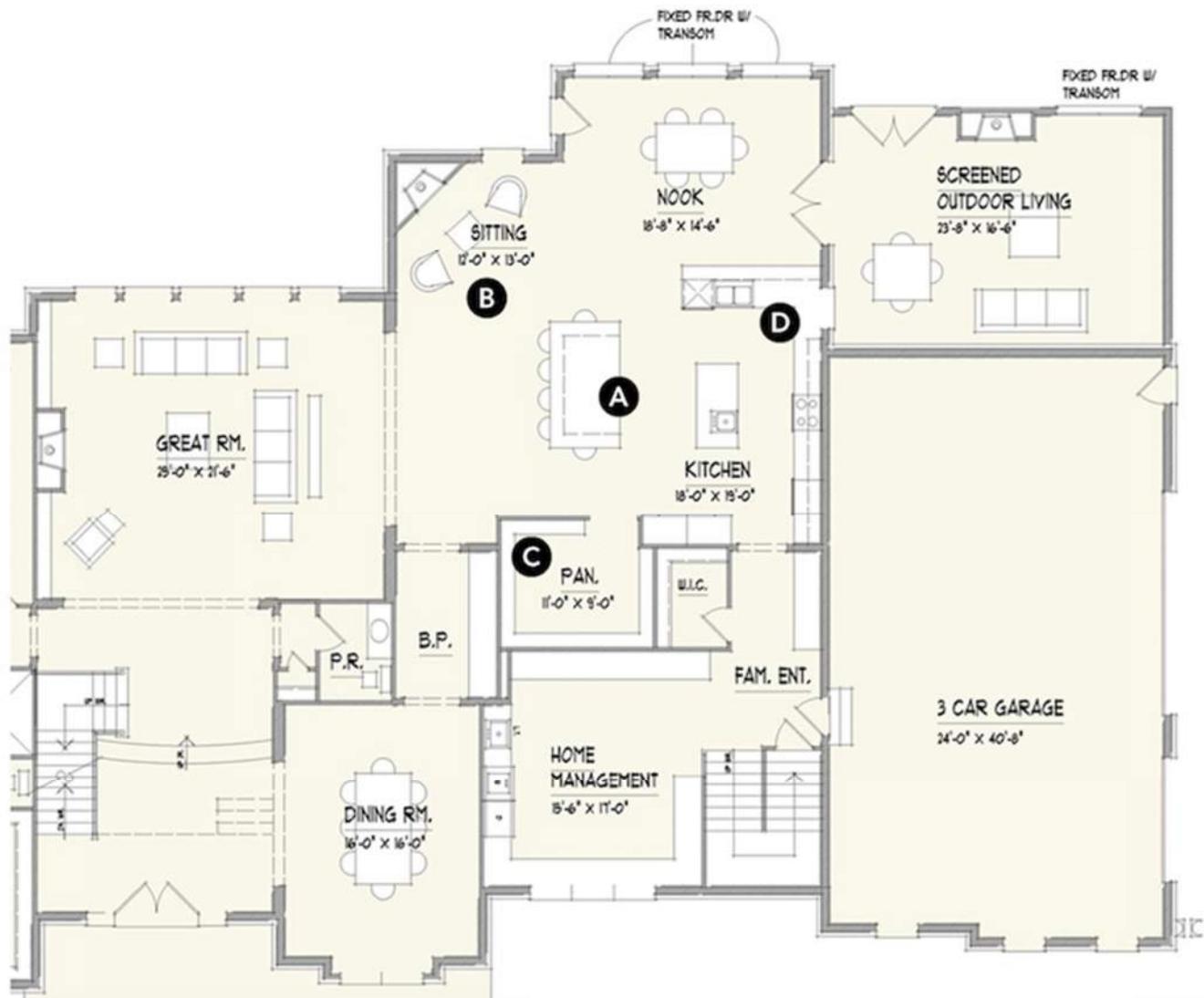
JENNIFER

ARCHITECT: [TK Design & Associates](#), Todd Hallett, AIA, CAPS, 248.446.1960

PLAN SIZE: Width: 180 feet, 4 inches, Depth: 71 feet, 4 inches, Living area: 6,171 sf

As house design has become increasingly casual, the kitchen has become more and more open to other spaces. It serves as the core of the home, a place to gather, eat, entertain, and connect, while large pantries provide true working spaces.





- A** A dual island is a great place for serving and provides additional seating
- B** A charming sitting area with fireplace adds a cozy spot for conversation
- C** A working pantry is open to the kitchen for convenience and display purposes
- D** Although this layout is extremely open, it still boasts an impressive amount of cabinetry

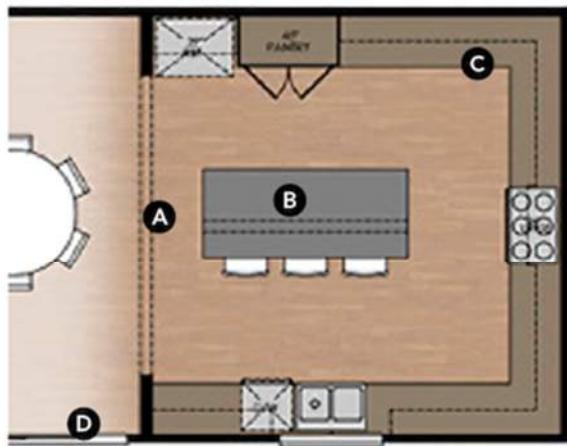
LAGUNA NIGUEL REMODEL

ARCHITECT: [Kevin L. Crook, klcarch.com](mailto:Kevin.L.Crook@klcarch.com), 949.660.1587

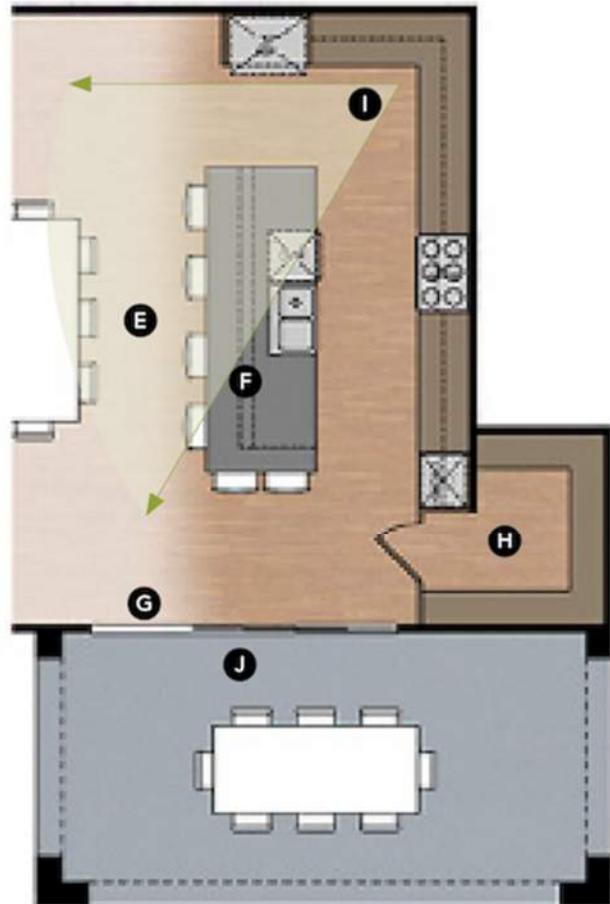
PLAN SIZE (KITCHEN): Width: 15 feet; Depth: 24 feet; Total area (including pantry): 360 sf

The kitchen is a space where form and function are measured by their ability to support both entertaining and cooking. Compared to the original kitchen, the overall layout of this redesigned space is less compartmentalized and more of an extension of the great room. While the old kitchen had an island, it cut off the everyday need to easily access both sides of the kitchen, and the extensive upper and lower cabinets and countertops of the U-shaped kitchen were costly and inefficient. The new kitchen offers a large entertainment island open to the great room and a minimalist aesthetic through clean cabinetry lines and a refrigerator integrated into the paneling system, blending entertainment with utility. It also engages the outdoors and brings in natural light and ventilation. The new pantry offers more storage capacity in a cleverly concealed space.





OLD PLAN



NEW PLAN

- Ⓐ U-shaped kitchen creates a fractured relationship with the great room
- Ⓑ Standard island not optimal for entertaining and breaks the work triangle
- Ⓒ Excessive cabinets and counter-tops are costly and inefficient
- Ⓓ No relationship to the outdoors
- Ⓔ Open connection to the great room
- Ⓕ Large, multifunctional island
- Ⓖ Ample natural light and ventilation
- Ⓗ Walk-in pantry for occasional, lower-cost storage; concealed from view
- Ⓘ Wider view of indoor and outdoor spaces
- Ⓙ Seamless indoor-outdoor relationship