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**COOL KITCHENS
8 LOOKS THAT COOK**

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Mediterranean Meets Modern

A KITCHEN SPACE GOES CONTEMPORARY WITH AN OPEN LAYOUT AND LOTS OF LIGHT

Text by Catherine Hobbs • Photography by Alex Vertikoff

Just because a house looks Mediterranean on the outside doesn't mean it has to be that way on the inside. That's what one couple thought when remodeling an Ahwatukee home. For an entirely different feel, the two decided to go modern. The result is open, airy and full of light.

"The contemporary kitchen is an interesting juxtaposition to the house," recalls Richard Doria of Doria Architecture. "You

don't expect to find this kitchen inside this home. The homeowners really wanted to jazz it up and give it some impact."

All of the interior walls near the kitchen were removed to restructure the space and open it up to the dining and living rooms. Contemporary ideas were incorporated into the Mediterranean-style base to suit the homeowners' desire to change the overall flow of the kitchen. More light was brought in by adding





walls of windows, and supplementary lighting was integrated into new ceiling soffits of fiddleback maple veneer.

With the room's flow changed, Doria was able to enlarge the kitchen's small work island. The goal was to "create a major piece of architecture or furniture that would become an all-in-one work zone with the cooktop and vegetable sink," explains Doria. "It links all the perimeter cabinets together." The island houses a range, vegetable sink, storage for pots and pans, warming drawers, and also conceals the new pipes and wiring.

MAIN INGREDIENTS

- **Cabinetry:** Two-tone cabinets are in a "Contemporary Shaker" style, according to Doria. To achieve the look, some of the maple is coated in clear lacquer, while other pieces are stained a dark cherry color. Some cabinets also feature sandblasted glass insets.
- **Veneer work:** The fiddleback maple veneer on wall panels and ceiling soffits also takes the form of shelves for added storage.
- **Countertops and flooring:** Baltic Brown granite was used for the countertops and backsplash. Flooring is of limestone.
- **Appliances:** A flat electric cooktop and built-in stainless steel appliances contribute to the sleek, streamlined look. 🍴

See Resource Guide.