



Taste of Provence

French flair meets California living in a graceful Santa Monica kitchen

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a bit of Provence lives in Mary Glowacki's heart, so it's no surprise that she invited the beauty of the region into her Santa Monica home.

"I've always had a love for France," Mary says. "I've been there many times since I was a student. Now it's my middle-school son who's studying French, and we visit as a family. I love the lightness, the freshness, everything that is Provence."

To bring that vibe into her family's California home, Mary turned to designer Caren Rideau, another confirmed Francophile.

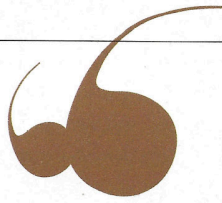
"I was excited to be part of Mary's dream of building a Provence-inspired house," Rideau says. "We didn't want to go

over the top, though. It's about creating a feeling, borrowing from Provence, rather than being too literal and doing some-

thing that doesn't fit in California."

Instead, Rideau's interior architecture gently nods to Provençal style: limestone and French oak flooring, a barrel ceiling in the butler's pantry with timeworn brick placed on edge, aged wood ▶

Kitchen A large space used for both family cooking and entertaining required a well-considered layout. Roomy workstations let the chef and her helpers move easily from task to task. "I never feel like I'm running around from one area to another," homeowner Mary Glowacki says. Cabinetry painted Benjamin Moore's "Smoke Embers" cloaks a Sub-Zero refrigerator. Wall ovens are from Miele; brass pendants are by Circa Lighting.



I WANTED TO
UPDATE FRENCH
STYLE FOR
TODAY'S WAY
OF LIVING."

—designer Caren Rideau



Island "I love a white kitchen, but I wanted to break out of that here," Mary says. "The mix of soft gray and natural-wood cabinetry is beautiful." Rift-sawn oak echoes the warmth of brass accents as it contrasts white marble, including a Walker Zanger tile backsplash. **Range** A custom vent hood crowns the showpiece La Cornue "Château" range. **Sink area** Open shelving and glass-front cabinets enhance the kitchen's open, airy vibe.

beams spanning the dining room. Only in the heart of the cooking zone does France make an unequivocal statement—on a La Cornue range, shimmering in stainless steel with polished-brass accents.

The range anchors one of three separate "stations"—for meal prep, cooking, and cleanup—that Rideau created to give the kitchen optimal functionality and effortless flow.

A pair of wall ovens—one a speed oven that's a boon for a couple with two young boys—work in tandem with the range while a large island offers plenty of space for prep. It's handy to a deep apron-front sink, the center of a cleanup zone surrounded by cabinets rich with tableware storage.

Gray tones on base cabinets form the heart of a livable palette that also includes plenty of white—on the backsplash, countertops, and display shelves crafted of elegant marble. Warm natural wood



Banquette Louis XV-style armchairs bring a French accent to the sunny breakfast nook. “Mary had the chairs for years,” designer Caren Rideau says. “They were just waiting for this house.” **Butler’s pantry** In addition to providing storage, including a graceful built-in for Mary’s plate collection, the pantry serves as a staging area for both formal meals in the dining room and casual gatherings in the kitchen.

tones on upper cabinets and the island—accented by gleaming European brass hardware—punctuate the scheme. “I wanted to do something more organic with the island,” Rideau says. “It softens the palette, yet still feels timeless.”

Enduring good looks continue through the butler’s pantry, a hardworking link between the kitchen, breakfast area, and formal dining room. An arch of weathered bricks caps a space packed with modern-day utility—must-haves like Mary’s coffee station and a beverage fridge stocked with juice for the kids.

“I love how all of the areas work well together,” Mary says. “Everything is functional, and at the same time, it’s so pretty—sophisticated but also comfortable. Every day it makes me smile.”

Interior designer: Caren Rideau **Architect:** Philip Vertoch

For more information, see sources on page 110

