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Pro Tip

"Some things I always advise: Never transition flooring from the kitchen to an eating area. Less is more on backsplashes. A kitchen's perimeter should be white and clean." — INTERIOR

DESIGNER BRENDA SPEEDY

« Islands of Blue

Interior designer Brenda Speedy had selected a steely-blue color for her longtime clients' kitchen islands before the family was even ready to update their 320-square-foot Bow Mar cook space. Kitchen designer Elisabeth Aiello teamed up with Speedy to incorporate that prechosen hue and re-create the room. "This active family with teenage children and two large dogs pretty much lives in the kitchen," Aiello says. The custom-designed islands—one near the range, with a sink, disposal and dishwasher, and one dividing the kitchen from the adjacent living area, with linen-upholstered swivel seating by Acquisitions—give the family plenty of space while providing copious storage. Wood-Mode inset and full overlay cabinets in maple with a Nordic White-painted finish wrap the perimeter. Sea-pearl quartzite countertops and backsplash link the two cabinet hues. The quartzite creates a striking focal point where it connects a timeless hood to a BlueStar range. The husband, a former restaurateur and the family's main cook, chose a long list of high-end, commercial-grade appliances from Sub-Zero and Miele, including steam and speed ovens. Ashley Norton cabinet hardware, Waterstone traditional faucets and Visual Comfort lights tone down the industrial feel, adding timeless warmth and tireless welcome.

INTERIOR DESIGNER: B Design, Brenda Speedy, ASID; bdesigninterior.com

KITCHEN DESIGNER: Kitchen Distributors,
Elisabeth Aiello, CKD; kitchendistributors.com

CUSTOM CABINETS: Kitchen Distributors,
kitchendistributors.com)