



For a Modern Farmhouse

Filled with personality, this New England kitchen is well planned—and has patina. **By Patricia Poore**

The form of this rural New England farmhouse is traditional, but otherwise it's modern and high-tech: "a state-of-the-art vehicle disguised as an old pickup truck," says architect D. Michael Collins. A cream-color AGA cooker and a green-grey soapstone double sink are the basis of the period-inspired kitchen. New work was cued by the salvaged fixtures and fittings found by the homeowners. Adding warmth and a farmhouse feel to a serene room with spare lines, the center worktable was built by Ohio-based craftsman David T. Smith. Crafted in curly maple, the 7'6" x 4' piece with deep drawers is reminiscent of an old farm table. Smith also built the lower cabinets, which have a custom finish in hand-rubbed milk paint, adding to the antique sensibility.

D. MICHAEL COLLINS, ARCHITECTS South Natick, Mass.: dmcarch.com



1. NO UPPER WALL CABINETS

Continuous, wall-hung upper cabinets belong in post-1950 kitchens. Forego them to create a historical feel, along with a sense of spaciousness and unimpeded light.

2. MIXED AND UNFITTED

Base cabinets are a matched set in design and height, but the rest of the room is pleasantly eclectic. Perimeter cabinets are painted while the table has a natural finish; unique cabinets hang on the walls.

3. CENTER WORKTABLE

Islands can do double or triple duty, but sometimes a not-too-tall center table looks better and is more flexible: it moves, and can be used for food prep or in-kitchen family dining.

4. ALL TRIED AND TRUE

Using familiar, natural materials that acquire patina is crucial to the farmhouse aesthetic. This kitchen uses plenty of wood, and has a focal-point double sink made of natural soapstone.



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This floor of white oak from Carlisle Wide Plank Floors lends warmth to a cottagey kitchen in white. From rustic to elegant, custom floors are created in a range of species, grades, widths, and finishes. wideplankflooring.com

A basic cooker to which a module may be added, the AGA Classic 39" **Total Control range** has European styling and heft, but all functions are independent and can be turned off. In 17 colors including Cream, Black, and Salcombe Blue. About \$20,000. agarangeusa.com



Iron **H and HL hinges** have been used since Colonial days. In sizes 3 to 7 inches, these from Horton Brasses are hand-forged and treated with linseed oil. Sold as a pair, the 6" hinges run \$96.75 (two hinges plus pyramid-head screws). horton-brasses.com

