

# HOME & DESIGN

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### Alison's Insider Tips:

- **Shop around for cabinetry.**

"There are many cabinet shops and kitchen manufacturing shops that put out a quality product that isn't too pricey," says Cahlin. "If you go to Home Depot, they carry kitchen manufacturers, like Kraft Maid, and they have an excellent product."

- **The same goes for appliances.** "If you want a Viking oven because you want something industrial-looking, then get it. But that's more for aesthetics, not for the way the food is prepared," says Cahlin. "But you can save if you buy a Kitchen Aid or a Frigidaire, which has come out with a whole line of stainless steel appliances — and that's the trend now."

- **Think practically.** Wood floors like these heart pine wide-plank floors, which are from North Carolina, are gorgeous — but expensive. "These days people are going for pre-finished floors. They're easier and cheaper."

- **Create mood lighting as well as task lighting.** "If you're doing an island, you can add a pot rack with lighting; if not, you can add under-cabinet lighting. It's more interesting to do a kitchen with a variety of lighting."

- **Accessories give it personality.** "There's so much unique material out there at every price point," Cahlin points out. "You can do almost anything in the kitchen now."

## BUDGET: \$100,000+

"This is a farmhouse kitchen," says Alison Cahlin, who designed the space. "There's no dining room in the home, so this room serves both purposes." Cavernous and cozy at the same time, the décor mixes elements of various styles: old painted Windsor chairs tuck beneath a 10-foot antique pine table imported from Europe; barn-style pantry doors are outfitted with antique screen to let spices show through; French doors usher in natural light. Two unlikely components are the crystal chandelier,

installed for its ambient light ("It adds a sense of whimsy," says Cahlin) and the bar ledge of stained-green scored concrete. Add a Viking range, Thermador ovens, double porcelain sinks with wall-mounted faucets and white marble countertops, and you've got a space that's as fun to spend time in as it is functional. And that's the point. "This kitchen cost upward of \$100,000, but there are ways to achieve the look you want even if you don't have unlimited funds to spend."

CREDITS: Bar ledge with bar stools is made of stained-green concrete scored with a pattern • Carrera marble countertops in white with gray veining • French doors • Butler pantry off to left • 10-foot antique pine table imported from Europe with bench on one side and old painted Windsor chairs on other • banquette on far side of kitchen with pine table seats four • Subzero refrigerator and freezer (side by side) • White porcelain double sink with wall mounted faucets • Crystal chandelier above table for ambient lighting • Thermador double ovens, Viking range