

design ideas



**LINE IT UP.** With just 540 total square feet, this island cottage has very little space to spare. The kitchen lines one wall, accented with barnwood paneling. Using floor cabinets only – and avoiding wall-hung cabinetry – allows for storage while keeping the kitchen from overpowering the dining area and the rest of the open living space.

**Designer:** Jessica Helgerson Interior Design, [jhinteriordesign.com](http://jhinteriordesign.com)

# SMALL BUT MIGHTY

## INSPIRATION FOR MODEST CABIN & COTTAGE KITCHENS

BY JANICE BREWSTER

**S**ome of your fondest memories at the cabin probably include food – family meals at holidays, s'mores around the fire pit or drinks and appetizers on the deck. But cabin kitchens often need to be small. So how do you get the most function out of a little kitchen? Good design and a careful eye on clutter help.

If you're planning a new kitchen or a remodel, work with a kitchen designer to take advantage of the space you have. A wide range of cabinets is available to help you fit storage into narrow spaces and around appliances.

If you already have a small kitchen that could use some breathing room, take time to inventory your kitchen wares and jettison any duplicates or things that are rarely used. Painting your walls, cabinets or ceiling might also help your kitchen appear larger.

Photo by Lincoln Barbour



**BELLS AND WHISTLES** (left). With a smaller kitchen project, your budget might allow for cabinetry extras like glass doors, a range hood or furniture-style "feet." A small table in the kitchen is a new, old-fashioned idea that can be used to serve meals and as another work surface during food prep.

**Cabinetry:** Yorktowne, yorktowne.cabinetry.com

Photo courtesy Yorktowne Cabinetry

### INTO THE WOODS

(right). Narrow wood planks lining the dropped ceiling and a classic farmhouse sink give this kitchen authentic vintage charm. Plate racks above the sink and open shelves pair with cabinets to provide additional storage. Hanging a curtain below the sink is an attractive way to cover up hidden storage.

**Designer:**  
Our Town Plans,  
ourtownplans.com



Left: Photo by Richard Leo Johnson/Atlantic Archives; Right: Photo by Alek Lisefski



**NO BIGGER THAN A BREADBOX** (above). In a truly tiny kitchen, it's crucial to put every square inch to work. Shelves hung on the wall, in the corner and over the window make room for spices, utensils and dishes. A wall-mounted magnetic strip keeps knives close at hand. A mirror on the door reflects the light coming from the kitchen area's windows.

**Designer/Builder:** The Tiny Project, tiny-project.com

Photo courtesy Aristokraft Cabinetry



**COMFY AND COZY.** Steal light from adjacent spaces to make it feel more open. Here, windows in the breakfast nook provide a pleasant view from the sink. Storage surrounds the nook table and window seat. This layout puts the cook in the center of family life.

**Cabinetry:**  
Aristokraft  
Cabinetry,  
aristokraft.com



**COTTAGE RE-DO.** Dark floors and ceiling beams contrast with the white paneling and cabinetry in this cottage kitchen. Storage space is expanded outside the kitchen with shallow wall shelves for drinking glasses and a side table that can easily be used as a bar or buffet. The dark base of the island keeps it from looming large.

**Designer:** Designs by Dawn; lakestreetdesignstudio.com

Left: photo courtesy Designs by Dawn; Below: Photo courtesy Elmira Stove Works

# THE SMALL KITCHEN BLUES.

When you have a small space, you can make it special with bright color or whimsical design. Retro robin's-egg blue appliances and range hood (and a complementary tile backsplash) make this cottage kitchen memorable. Not ready to commit to color in appliances? You could choose a bold hue for painted cabinets or bright accessories.

**Appliances:** Northstar, elmirastoveworks.com



Photo by Trent Bell

**KEEP IT SIMPLE.** When space is tight, simplicity is a virtue. Clean-lined cabinetry with limited hardware and a contemporary peninsula make this compact kitchen look cool, calm and collected. Oversized windows fill the space with light and a view that can be enjoyed from a seat at the counter. **ca**

**Design/builder:** Whitten Architects, whittenarchitects.com