





## LOW-COUNTRY CHARM

DESIGNER: **DON DINOVI, CKD, ULRICH, INC., RIDGEWOOD**  
 PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF **PETER RYMWID**

**A**dding a dose of Southern contemporary charm to a new Alpine kitchen was the goal of Don DiNovi of Ulrich, whose clients have a second home in South Carolina. "For the new residence of a young, active family who entertain a lot and love to cook, I felt this kitchen needed to have lots of warm woods and a refined atmosphere that, although not rustic, had a certain Southern-style comfort to it," he explains.

Inspired by a color palette popular in coastal South Carolina, DiNovi installed maple Wood-Mode cabinets, using two different stains to create warmth and interest, juxtaposed with generous expanses of stainless steel. The kitchen's most unique feature is the freestanding wall unit, which accommodates a Sub-Zero refrigerator and freezer, Wolf wall oven and microwave. "It sits lower than the other cabinetry to give the kitchen an 'unfitted' feeling characteristic of an Old-World style," notes DiNovi, who is currently president of the Builders and Remodelers Association of Northern New Jersey.

On the marble countertops, the designer chose the simplicity of a straight edge, which complements the crisp, clean lines of the glass and marble mosaic backsplash in shades of white and gray. Bits of glass give it just a touch of shine. The neutral materials contrast beautifully with the home's lightly distressed prefinished rustic wood floors.

In the center of the kitchen, DiNovi set a large walnut-stained island with seating for three. An ultra-functional piece, it features a prep sink, under-counter Wolf microwave and several compartments for storage. Just beyond the kitchen, a light-filled octagonal dining nook features a striking tray ceiling accented by a LaForge chandelier. A great space for enjoying informal meals and tackling homework, it has its own breakfast bar with built-in under-counter Sub-Zero refrigerator drawers. ■