

home

1 EKED-OUT FUNCTION

The breakfast nook is a hardworking hub in Chelsea and Greg Shukov's kitchen. The daily playlist includes bowls of cereal, games, crafts, and telecommuting. The six-seater table handles the grind.

10 THINGS TO LOVE ABOUT *a live-in kitchen*

Life happens in the kitchen. So this couple made the most of their space, treating it like a great-room where dining, lounging, and cooking all happily coexist.

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PHOTOS DAVID TSAY | STYLING SCOTT HORNE

“This room is our **PRIMARY LIVING SPACE**. There’s a print on the wall that says ‘Love to love you.’ That sums it up quite nicely.”

Chelsea Shukov



TWO SIMPLE DESIRES

drove the design of Chelsea and Greg Shukov’s Brentwood, California, cottage: The couple wanted a lot of function and a lot of soul. They focused on the kitchen, treating it as a mini great-room by adding a sectional for lounging. White paint took care of the mint green sponge-painted walls, making the space seem more youthful and bigger. Chelsea then enlivened all the white with the same happy colors, patterns, and imagery that have made her stationery business, Sugar Paper, a success. “With Sugar Paper, we say we’re timeless and classic, chic, and a bit playful,” Chelsea says. “I guess I approach my house the same way I approach my business. It’s a collection of things I love.”



2 COZY COMFORT

Rather than line the island with stools, the Shukovs placed a sectional against it, carving out a sitting area and place to watch TV. An ottoman doubles as a coffee table—topped with a tray that provides a safe spot for snacks.

3 FRESH COLORS AND PATTERN

Playful pink and blue accents put a happy face on the tan and cream base. Bold patterns do, too. “I took a chance on pattern and it worked,” Chelsea says of the chic chevron rug in the sitting area.

4 LOTS OF LIGHT

Glass doors and curtain-free windows usher in light, making the room seem bigger. Windows above the sitting area built-in (page 34) are a bonus. “From the sink, I see blue sky and the tops of old oak trees,” Chelsea says.

5 HIDDEN TECH

Greg, who owns a home-automation company, installed all the latest gizmos in the 1933 cottage. A sensor turns off lights and TVs in empty rooms, and a system shuts down the AC and water heater during vacations.

6 OUTDOOR CONNECTIONS

The kitchen opens to a spacious deck, extending the family’s hangout space. Black stain on the decking boards and railings is the game-changer, making the basic deck look more stylish.



LOOK UP
String lights in the tree set the mood for after-dusk gatherings.

7 STREAMLINED STORAGE

In the sitting area, a wall-spanning built-in is media center, display space, and storage in one. Drawers on the bottom are a quick stash-it spot for toys. “Each drawer has a theme—cars, trains, musical instruments,” Chelsea says.

8 PERSONAL TOUCHES

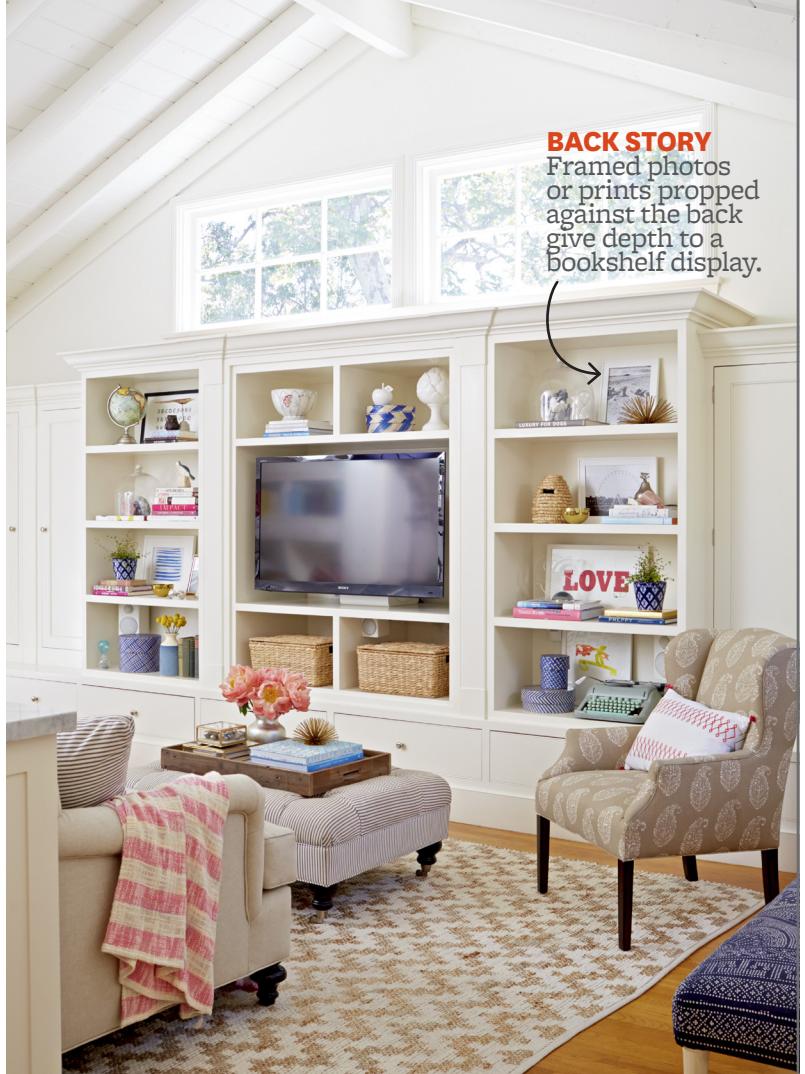
Chelsea believes people want to linger in rooms that have heart. She decorated the built-in shelves with items that have meaning: photos of her kids, a vintage typewriter, and framed letterpress prints—typography being an affordable way to get art.

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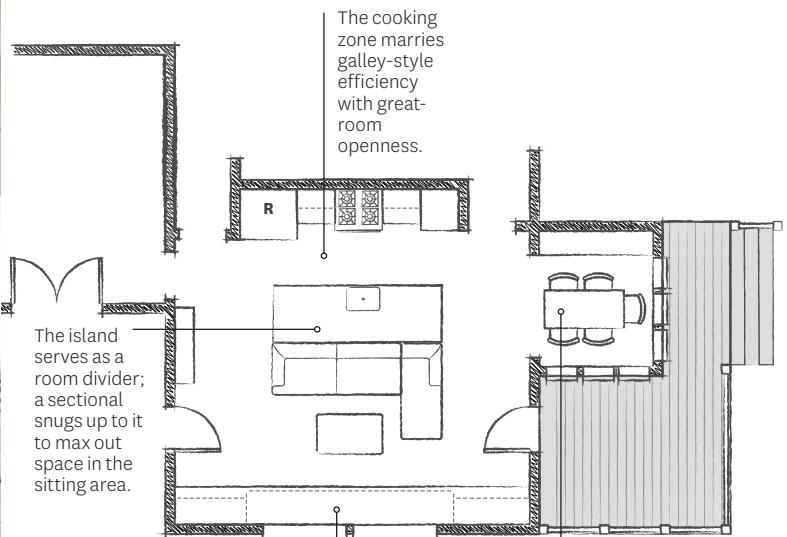
BACK STORY

Framed photos or prints propped against the back give depth to a bookshelf display.



WHITE WASHED

Painted beams blend in yet still accentuate the pitched ceiling.



The cooking zone marries galley-style efficiency with great-room openness.

The island serves as a room divider; a sectional snugs up to it to max out space in the sitting area.

The built-in hits a storage trifecta with cabinets, drawers, and open shelves.

With windows on two sides, the breakfast nook basks in sunlight.

“The day starts and ends in this room.
COOKING, THE KIDS PLAYING—those
are the best moments.” **Chelsea Shukov**



Sugar Paper stationery and notebooks reflect Chelsea's bold, playful aesthetic. Notebooks, \$10–\$26; sugarpaper.com



9 SMART UPDATES
Three simple upgrades took the nice-but-a-little-tired “before” to high-style “after”: white paint (good-bye, dingy cabinets!), marble counters, and personality-boosting metal pendants.

10 TEXTURAL ELEMENTS
Chelsea played with tones and textures to offset all the white. Rattan chairs and bouquets of flowering branches (her fave alternative to flowers) have an earthy quality that warms. ■