

# COOKINGLIGHT

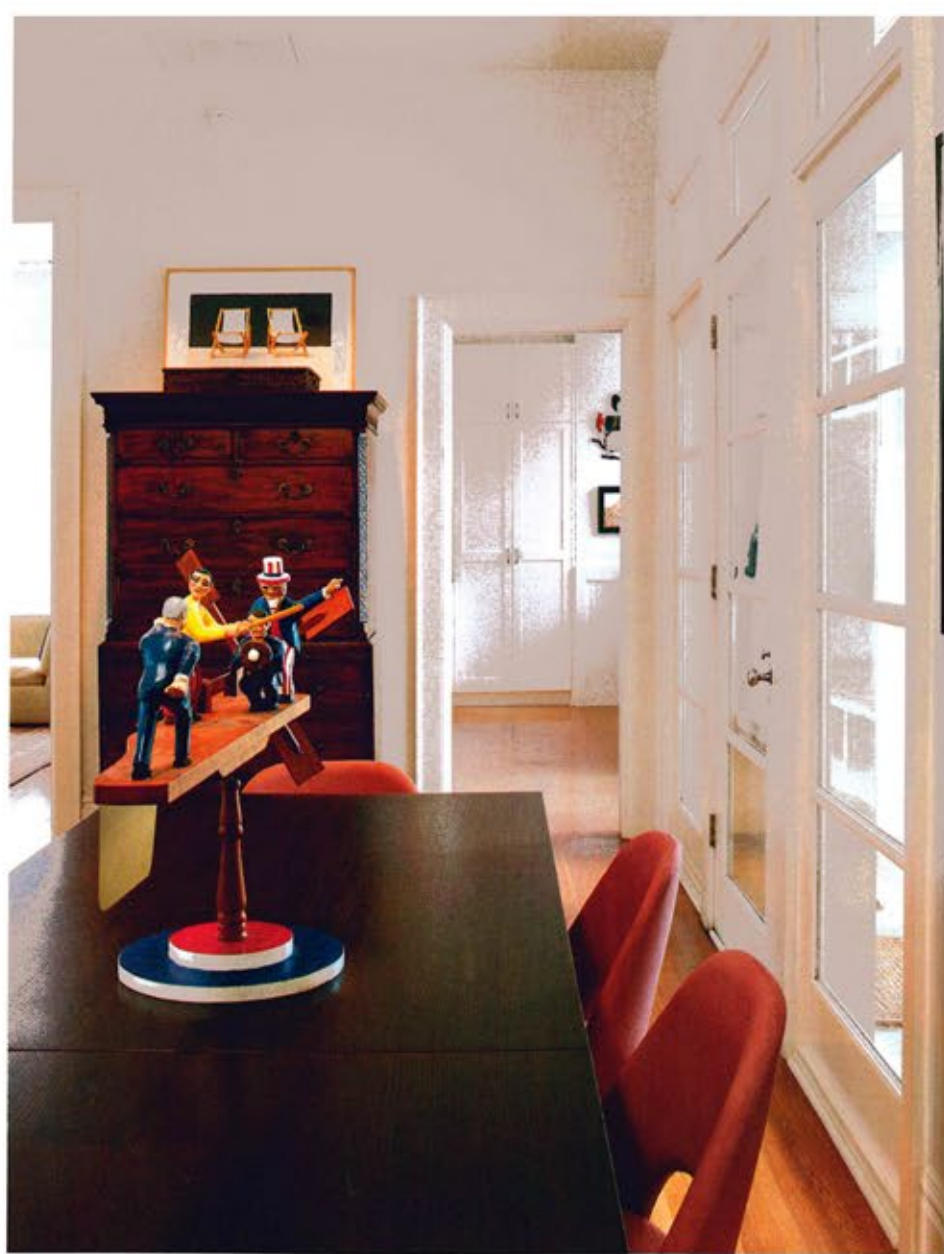
The Artemide Omega lamps, a reissue from the 1960s, strike a modern note over the 13-foot-long island topped with polished Calacatta Gold marble. The cabinets were all custom made. A Dacor microwave is tucked above the Thermador oven. The LEM barstools are available at the Conran Shop.

A 1920s Southern house finally gets the kitchen it deserves—a bright and airy family space that hints at the old while embracing the new



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Photographer: John M. Hall

**T**HE GRACIOUS 1920s HOUSE in Charlotte, North Carolina, had been expanded so many times that the kitchen was a wreck; all chopped up, with the refrigerator standing in the former service porch. The new owners, a family with three children, wanted a big, open space where they could easily entertain and asked Mil Bodron and Svend Fruit of Bodron+Fruit to reorganize the back of the house. The wife had one non-negotiable demand: she envisioned a huge white marble island, the kind you might see in a venerable English country house. "I'm drawn to the cleaner lines of modernism, yet I feel a connection to the old," she says. The old-fashioned glass-paned upper cabinets are actually very clean and simple, with plain metal handles. Sleek, contemporary barstools are drawn up to the marble island while her mother's dark wood chest-on-chest stands against one wall. "The kitchen subtly reflects the age of the house without feeling frumpy," says Bodron. His client concurs. "It's light and airy and functional. Everything happens on that island. I chop vegetables, wrap presents, the children do their homework and eat breakfast there." Her designers even tucked in a warming drawer to keep the pancakes and bacon warm on Sunday morning. ●



Above: Vintage Saarinen chairs surround the expandable Ponte table from Casa Milano. North Carolina artist Anders Lundy made the whirligig. Far left: The Thermador range includes a griddle, and the client paired it with a wall oven, which doesn't require bending down. Left: A pull-out pantry is set into the wall just to the left of the Sub-Zero refrigerator. Opposite: A swinging door and handsome bullet hinges from P. E. Guerin on the cabinets contribute to the old-fashioned look of the butler's pantry. For more details, see Resources.

