**BEFORE**

The main seating arrangement includes a quartet of Barbara Barry chairs in beige-and-black chenille and a leather banquette. Cindy Smith designed the oval table. ABOVE: Originally designed for a guesthouse, the old kitchen was strictly serviceable and lacking in light and style.

**AFTER**

# Kitchen Craft

Architects **Paul Bates** and **Jeremy Corkern,** with the aid of designer **Cindy Smith,** transform a cramped, service-style kitchen into a finely furnished, functional space

WHEN DICK AND SALLIE KLINGMAN BOUGHT THEIR Charlotte house in 1993, the tiny, service-style kitchen posed a few challenges: It was separated from the main flow of the house, and space-hogging wall cabinets narrowed the kitchen and limited the flow of natural light to what seeped through a single window over the sink. "The kitchen felt like a small enclosed box," says architect Jeremy Corkern of Birmingham-based Thomas Paul Bates Architects, who, along with Paul Bates, helped the Klingmans transform their kitchen.

One of the architects' primary objectives was to open up the kitchen to the adjoining dining room, art gallery, and other spaces. Because the house has radiant heat and no basement, they were forced to work around existing pipes, remove walls and doors, and annex small spaces, such as an old laundry room and service area. Bates and Corkern decided to replace the row of hanging wall cabinets with a bank of leaded restoration-glass windows to let in much-needed light. They also added a graphic beamed ceiling using a geometric crossbeam pattern. Now the expanded kitchen stands at the center of the house and is visible from one end to the other.

While Dick prefers contemporary styles, Sallie has a more traditional eye, so the architects sought to create a blended environment, juxtaposing mahogany tambour-front cabinets and concrete-paver flooring with period materials, such as subway tiles and leaded-glass windows. Dick, who has a bachelor's degree in interior design,
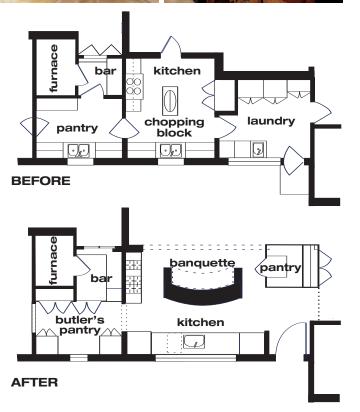
**BY GRACE COLLINS HODGES    PHOTOGRAPHED BY LISA ADAMS**

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: **A round leaded-glass window in the butler's pantry sits above an antique butcher block (from the Klingmans' original kitchen) bearing a slab of the same white statuary marble as the new countertops. Modular storage in pullout drawers with built-in drawer dividers protects fragile stemware. Leaded-glass windows, marble countertops, tambour-front mahogany cabinets, concrete-paver floors, and a crossbeam ceiling are skillfully blended. A wall of shiny subway tile offsets a Wolf range and the blued-steel hood designed by architects Jeremy Corkern and Paul Bates.**



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**

specified that the cabinetry should be constructed like fine furniture. North Carolina–based master craftsmen Josh and Marcus Burch meticulously applied each reed to the drawer fronts using tiny brass brads. In lieu of handles, the craftsmen installed pressure-activated mechanisms to release the drawers. Special modular drawers safely store fragile stemware.

Charlotte designer Cindy Smith created an interior plan that provided a natural palette for the kitchen, using soft fabrics and varying textures, such as 2-inch-thick white statuary marble countertops. "The thicker surface gives a more finished, grounded look, and the countertops don't look like they are floating," Smith says.

The 48-inch dual-fuel range boosts the functionality of the kitchen, while two new storage pantries keep counters clutter-free. Two stainless steel refrigerators, ideal for entertaining, stand at either end of the marble-topped counters. The center-piece of the room is a custom-made leather banquette tucked into the back of the kitchen island. Smith paired the banquette with an oval English oak table of her own design, which rests on a metal pedestal. "It is meant to be strictly utilitarian," she says. "A pedestal doesn't crowd space the way table legs can." The seating arrangement serves as a buffer between the kitchen's two faces—one that works and the other that entertains. A chandelier with an oversize silk shade adds the culminating note of drama to this richly executed space.