

# KITCHEN + BATH PERSONAL TOUCH

IN THE HOME'S BUSIEST SPACES, LUXURY MEANS DITCHING COOKIE-CUTTER STYLE FOR HIGHLY CUSTOM LOOKS THAT ARE BRIMMING WITH ONE-OF-A-KIND PANACHE.

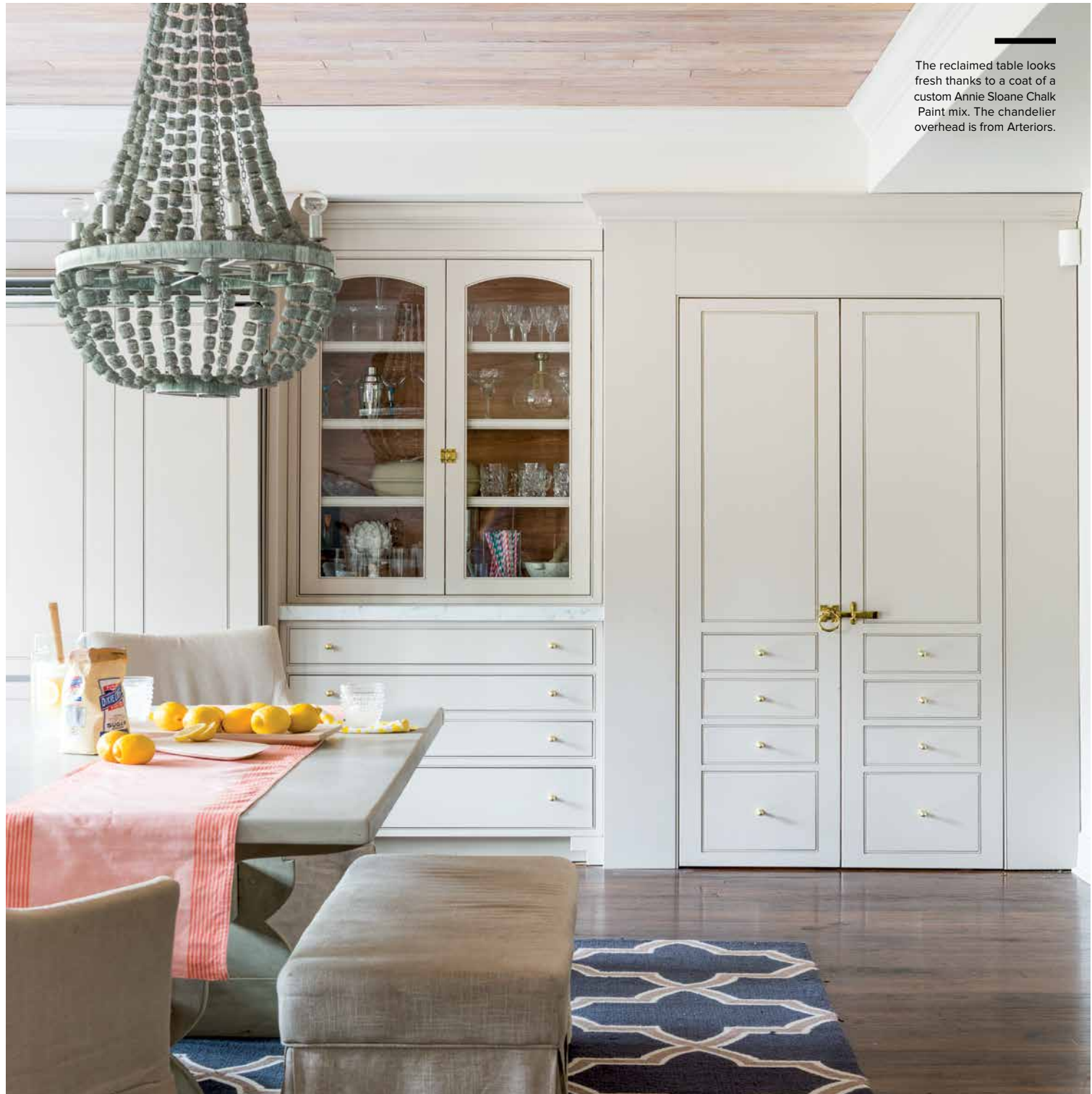
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There is no staple recipe for the perfect kitchen or bath. And while a few tried-and-true formulas can get you pretty close (think one-part design inspiration from your favorite shelter magazine, one-part your preferred color and material palettes and two-parts whatever works for your family and lifestyle), the time it takes to cook up all the elements varies widely from person to person and project to project. Only one thing remains consistent: The most successful rooms in the home are those you fill with the things you love. The secret to design bliss is knowing when to break the rules in favor of additions—like an elegant chandelier over a freestanding tub or a bold rug in the kitchen—that make you uniquely happy. On the following pages, we convince some of *Luxe's* favorite designers to spill the secrets behind their most-coveted—and therefore inherently covetable—spaces.



PHOTO: JAMES MERRELL

Interior designer Laura Burleson's own Tallahassee, Florida, kitchen is as unique as she is, with an unconventional floor plan, furniture-inspired cabinetry and a handsome La Cornue range. The host chairs are from Lee Industries.



The reclaimed table looks fresh thanks to a coat of a custom Annie Sloane Chalk Paint mix. The chandelier overhead is from Arteriors.

PHOTO: JAMES MERRELL

# HIDDEN AGENDA

LAURA BURLESON

Interior designer Laura Burleson didn't overlook a single detail in designing her casual yet sophisticated workhorse space but still managed to have plenty of fun, playing with texture and color and introducing unexpected elements throughout. [lauraburleson.com](http://lauraburleson.com)

**Share the vision for your kitchen.** I wanted the space to feel like a dining room that happens to have a kitchen on the periphery, rather than a kitchen with a table in the middle; so, I eliminated traditional upper cabinets and designed the cabinetry to look more like furniture.

**Favorite element in the space?** The campaign-style sink base. I fell in love with a giant vintage chest in London during the remodel, but its dimensions were off; instead, I had a cabinetmaker build a replica out of walnut and brass hardware.

**How did you master the mix?** In this space, the walnut sink base and cypress ceilings dictated the palette, so I used Farrow & Ball's Elephant's Breath on the cabinetry, hood and walls to unite the wooden undertones—thereby drawing the eye to the more dominant elements.

## SAME *vein*

While marble has long been considered a luxury staple in the kitchen, technology is quickly upping the ante with new engineered materials with all of the original's good looks, plus enhanced performance and durability. One of Cambria's newer entries, a quartz named Brittanicca, is a current favorite with striking gray and silver veining on a brilliant white backdrop. [cambriausa.com](http://cambriausa.com)



## UP THE SPOUT

A universal fixture base like Axor's U-Base is more than just an easy solution for renovations and remodeling; it's an invitation to uncharted creative expression in two of the home's most oft-predictable spaces. This year, Axor invited top design talents, like David Adjaye, Werner Aisslinger, GamFratesi and Jean-Marie Massaud, to create one-of-a-kind spouts using the U-Base system, and the result is a series of five fine-crafted and sculptural masterpieces, like the Water Steps faucet by Front shown here, that are sure to add individualized, artistic flair to any space they inhabit. [axor-design.com](http://axor-design.com)



## MIDAS TOUCH

Everything but the kitchen sink: It's hard to believe the idiom would have gained any traction if its author had gotten a look at this Summit, New Jersey, kitchen by designer Heidi Piron. After all, there's no way this brass beauty would ever get left behind. When paired with warm wooden countertops and a subtle marble herringbone backsplash, it's a total scene-stealer. [heidipiron.com](http://heidipiron.com)



A study in contrasts, this bathroom's warm brass faucets from Waterworks pop against a palette of whites and grays established by floor tiles from New Ravenna. The washstand is from Palmer, and the sconces are from Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co.

## BRASS TACTICS

When interior designer Marianne Simon decided she wanted to capture a bit of coastal elegance in a Seattle bathroom, she could think of only one material that would bring her vision to life: brass. Used sparingly throughout—on the cool nautical-style mirrored medicine cabinets from RH, the seafaring sconces overhead, and the pretty-as-a-picture washstand and matching faucets—the brass both pops against the clean subway tiles and reins in the dizzying intrigue of the abstract tiles underfoot. “Brass, especially the unlacquered brass I used here, is really hot right now,” Simon says. “It patinas beautifully and adds warmth. It’s a great alternative to other finishes, especially in spaces you don’t want to feel too sweet. It truly just gets better and better with time.” [mariannesimondesign.com](http://mariannesimondesign.com)

PHOTO: JOHN GRANEN



“I’ve grown to appreciate scale, but half the fun of design is the unexpected. I played with scale in an unconventional way here with the mirror, and it just works.”

-KRISTINE HAMMONS



HAMMONS PHOTO: COURTESY KRISTINE HAMMONS. WOLLACK PHOTO: DIANA REITH. LOWRY PHOTO: COURTESY BYRON BEACH BODIES.

“I LOVE MIXING THINGS UP. CONTRASTING TEXTURES AND TONES OR OLD AND NEW PIECES GLAMS UP AN ORDINARY SPACE.

-TALIAH LOWRY, [byronbeachabodes.com.au](http://byronbeachabodes.com.au)



*“THE BATHROOM SHOULD BE SERENE YET POWERFUL AT THE SAME TIME; IT’S IMPORTANT TO TRY AND CREATE BALANCE IN DESIGN.”*

-SHANNON WOLLACK, [lifestyle-la.com](http://lifestyle-la.com)

**Clockwise from top left:** In this bathroom by Kristine Hammons, a bold Stone Textile wallpaper and Kohler faucet set the tone. A chandelier from RH hangs over a tub from Signature Hardware, a tub filler from Newport Brass and tile flooring from Cement Tile Shop in this bathroom from Shannon Wollack. A Triple Seven Home sconce presides over a Taliah Lowry-designed bathroom with a sink and faucet from Reece.