



OPPOSITE AND ABOVE Highly polished finishes and hot-yellow cabinetry set a theatrical tone in this open kitchen designed by architects Will Ruhl and Brad Walker. But the real drama of the floor plan lies just beyond the sleek granite surface of the slender island, on the wall that opposes the galley. Here, an illuminated floor-to-ceiling translucent “window wall” pivots wide-open to reveal an unexpected secret: a fully equipped home office. When needed, the island and dining table are transformed into desks and the kitchen gets down to business.
 Design: Ruhl Walker Architects

Final Thoughts

Every design needs room for real life. No kitchen design is truly complete until it is tested and retested by the life you live in it. No matter how well you may have solved the problems of your old kitchen with a new and improved floor plan, or how clearly you may have visualized yourself working in this reordered space, be prepared for some period of adjustment as you and your new kitchen get acquainted. This is a breaking-in period, a time for some experimentation and small changes to gain a sense of mastery in your new room.

Only after you’ve served fifty breakfasts, made tea for two at least twice, and had the whole family over for a big holiday dinner will you know the “ins and outs” of your new kitchen. Only after those inevitable first scratches and stains, and the first time the oatmeal boils over onto the cooktop, will you begin to really settle down into the reality of life in your new kitchen. And actually, that’s when the fun really begins.