



DEEDS & DON'TS

INSIDE STORIES BEHIND AREA REAL ESTATE DEALS

Midcentury Marvel The circa-1961 DeSilver House was designed by architects John Lee Black and Harrison DeSilver. It lists for \$1.7 million with homeowner Natalie Louw of Made for Modern, natalie@madeformodern.co.

What's Cooking

From morning coffee to the evening meal, the kitchen is the most trafficked room in the house. And the happiest: It's where kids hang out, pies are baked and party guests gather. That's why today's fully loaded kitchen comes with so much more than yesteryear's configuration of appliances and a broom closet. Ideally, it's equipped with an expansive island for food prep and dining, a butler's pantry and an easy flow to both a family room with an entertainment center and a more formal dining space. Here are five picks for kitchens offering those amenities in spades—and across a range of styles from sleekly modern to farmhouse rustic.

MODERNS & MORE

MIDCENTURY HOMES OFTEN FEATURE SMALLER, GALLEY-STYLE kitchens—although prescient in so many ways, that era's architects couldn't have imagined today's preference for the kitchen-as-command-

center. A stunning exception is the DeSilver House built in 1961 by architect John Black Lee and Harrison DeSilver. We'll stop ourselves from swooning all over the glamorous exteriors and picture-perfect furnishings to focus on the kitchen, now offering Miele appliances, Poggenpohl cabinetry, bamboo flooring, the original pantry and a modern-art-museum-worthy wall of sculptural tiles. Glass doors open onto a dining patio, which connects to the landscaped terraces that surround the house. Listed for \$1.7 million with Natalie Louw of Made for Modern, it has four bedrooms, including a master suite with a private balcony, sitting area and fireplace. And John Black Lee fans take note: There's a second for-sale home designed by the architect sometimes referred to the sixth of the Harvard Five, also in New Canaan. Listed with Christine Williams of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty, the circa-1952 Lee House I, as it's called, is a pristine white structure with loads of glass walls (but a small, galley kitchen). Asking price: \$1,350,000.

Also in New Canaan is a newly constructed Colonial with a pair of



Classic Colonial This New Canaan Colonial has a modern vibe, especially in the kitchen. It lists for \$5,995,000 with Bonnie Sztam of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty in New Canaan. 917-825-8109.

These listings will have you dreaming about a new kitchen filled with all the bells and whistles

famously modern neighbors. The nearly 10,000-square-foot home has on one side the diminutive Alice Ball house, built by architect Philip Johnson in 1953. On the other side is the Celanese House constructed in 1958 by Edward Durrell Stone, distinguished by its striking diamond-pattern exterior paneling. When designing the for-sale home, architect Michele Rudolph of Riverside Design infused the interiors with a modern vibe, including millwork and cabinetry reflecting Durrell Stone's geometric patterning and, as a nod to Johnson, a two-story glass curtain wall with views over a modern pool house and infinity-edged pool. The all-white modern kitchen, designed in collaboration with Veronica Campbell by Deane, Inc., features two marble-topped custom islands, a butler's pantry, a mother-of-pearl backsplash, a Gaggenau wine refrigerator and a built-in Miele coffee maker. It flows to two dining areas, the mudroom and a family room that opens onto a terrace, overlooking the pool. The property lists for \$5,995,000 with Bonnie Sztam of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty.

THE HEART-OF-THE-HOME KITCHEN

TODAY'S MOST-SOUGHT-AFTER KITCHEN/GREAT ROOMS can accommodate virtually every home-based activity except sleeping—and even that exception is broken by an indulgent catnap in front of the fire in the sitting area. One handsome example is in the Old Hill neighborhood of Westport. Most of the ground floor spaces connect through

the kitchen, starting with the lofty great room with a double-height stone hearth on one side and a breakfast room on the other. You can pass through the butler's pantry (cabinetry, a bar sink and a built-in coffee center) to reach a formal dining room. And in case that's not enough, glass doors open onto a handsome outdoor kitchen built into the bluestone pool terrace. The six-bedroom home also offers a lower-level family room with a fireplace, a wine cellar and a media room. It lists for \$3,975,000 with Leslie Clarke of William Raveis.



Pretty Perfect The kitchen in this Westport home is as stylish as it is hardworking. The Old Hill neighborhood property lists for \$3,975,000 with Leslie Clarke of William Raveis. 203-984-1856.

CHEERS!

The Connecticut housing market ended 2017 in a celebratory mood, thanks to a surge in high-end sales, some of them attached to notable names. The celebrity sell-off started with a Westport home owned by Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein, listed for \$2.25 million, closing at \$1,650,000. Actor and producer Denis Leary and his wife, novelist Anne Leary, sold their Roxbury home, a bucolic 50-acre spread, listed for \$4.5 million. On the buy side, and just in time for the holidays, actress Anne Hathaway and husband Adam Shulman spent \$2.79 million on a circa-1920s cottage near Compo Beach in Westport. And although invested with less starry stories, even bigger ticket home closings made the holidays happy for Realtors all over the state, including the sale of an 80-acre Greenwich equestrian compound, which made the news in 2016 when it was our state's most expensive listing at \$65 million. It sold for \$21 million in November.

Beau Chateau This chateau-like estate in Deep River offers a classic French Country kitchen. Tim Boyd of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty in Essex has the \$4,895,000 listing. 860-304-5524.



COUNTRY KITCHENS: FRENCH VS. AMERICAN

FRENCH COUNTRY IS FANCIER—AND altogether more decorative—than its Yankee country counterpart. As proof, check out the *cuisine* at the heart of the Deep River estate called Windsong, itself designed to resemble

an 18th-century chateau. The kitchen features an ornately tiled range hood carved with fleur-de-lys—*naturellement!*—a marble-topped island and wooden cabinetry, including doors that hide the refrigerator. A breakfast table is set alongside a fireplace with a carved stone surround and two sets of French doors opening onto formal gardens that feature an allée of flowering pear trees and a *terrain* for playing pétanque, the French version of Italian bocce. Story goes that the home was built in the late 1940s for the *bon vivant* Jerome Zerbe—whose swell CV includes his roles as America's first paparazzo, the society editor of *Town & Country* and the inventor of the vodka martini—who entertained movie stars and other celebrities *chez lui*. The current owners undertook extensive renovations, including the addition of a full second story, a two-bedroom carriage house, a heated pool and a deep-water dock. Tim Boyd of William Pitt Sotheby's International Realty has the \$4,895,000 listing.

The best for-sale American farm-style kitchen is in a timber-framed guesthouse, part of a larger Greenwich estate that's listed for \$4,995,000. The guesthouse started life in Vermont as a Gunstock barn that was moved and reassembled on the 10-acre Greenwich property. The kitchen is framed by rustic exposed beams with access to the great room



Be Our Guest This Greenwich Craftsman-style house with a guesthouse is listed with Joanne Mancuso of Houlihan Lawrence in Greenwich for \$4,995,000. 203-667-3887.

and its two-story stone hearth that opens onto a dining terrace with an outdoor kitchen via sliding, barn-style doors. There are two bedrooms in the guesthouse and an additional five bedrooms in the circa-1905 main house. The property is offered by Joanne Mancuso of Houlihan Lawrence.

—Diane di Costanza