

# New England HOME

CT

Celebrating Fine Design, Architecture, and Building



## Summer Cheer

All the gorgeous spaces  
that bring us together



**SPECIAL FOCUS:**  
**Kitchen & Bath**  
**Design**

**LOCATION,**  
**LOCATION**

A kitchen with a “sense of place” evokes a specific location; a designer with a sense of place ensures that the kitchen has a dedicated spot for every necessary item. And so when Greenwich designer Sarah Blank’s clients downsized, she made sure their new kitchen not only transported them to the Normandy countryside they loved, but packed along every necessary accoutrement. Exposed brick, aged beams, and a zinc-topped island set a rustic stage upon which curtained cabinet doors and an iron fireback—brought from France by the owner and set in a niche above the cooktop—add a Gallic touch. Unseen are the rollouts, custom dividers, and dedicated storage areas Blank worked

into the mix. “I inventory everything; that way we can lay out every drawer and every cabinet,” she explains. Stored prettily in plain sight are the homeowner’s majolica collection and her supply of gourmet olive oils arranged wine-bottle fashion in the adjoining pantry. The cabbage-green of the majolica is reflected in the hand-painted tile backsplash that Blank assembled from an assortment of samples at Solar Antique Tiles in New York. “We had about ten of them on the table, and I just started pulling out colors. It was like playing checkers.” In this case, a win-win.

**CREDITS**

**Kitchen design:** Sarah Blank,  
 Sarah Blank Design Studio

**Architectural design:** Elizabeth Rhogami,  
 Douglas VanderHorn Architects

**Interior design:** Susan Thorn,  
 Susan Thorn Interiors

**Builder:** Significant Homes

**Photography:** Neil A. Landino, Jr.

