

OCTOBER 2009

House Beautiful

the
KITCHEN
of the
YEAR

50

*ideas for
your kitchen
from
the Barefoot
Contessa!*

ROOMS
YOU'LL NEVER
GET TIRED OF



SEND US A PICTURE OF...

"We added this fireplace to what we call the Back House, which was built in 1916 and was formerly a garage. Now it's where we hang out by the pool for long lunches or before-dinner drinks. The mantel is an old one from Virginia and still has traces of its original paint. I love it against the bead boarding. It's a casual space and things just seem to accumulate back there—shells from a trip to Florida, an 18th-century lady who migrated from our house proper, and two marvelous copper pineapples from Treillage, in New York."

SUZANNE RHEINSTEIN



"My country house in Virginia dates from the 1840s. When I renovated, I wanted to keep as much of the original fabric as possible but also give it a modern sensibility. I added a simple Parsons-table-like mantel to the hand-hewn stone facing of the dining room fireplace. Its 16-inch depth makes the fireplace monumental and provides the perfect easel for the eagle frieze, reclaimed from the facade of a Boston bank."

DARRYL CARTER



"The first thing I hung above my mantel was an antique mirror that I bought in France—I usually start with big items, then work around them. The carved, painted fish was a flea market find that I liked because my home is on the Hudson River and the color matched my walls. The green metal wall sconces have a great patina. The brown beaded basket was a gift. Its placement on my mantel has less to do with decorating and more to do with the significance of a friendship."

SHEILA BRIDGES

"When I moved into this builder's spec house, I was confronted with a really ugly living room mantel. I replaced it with this simple, bold design that feels modern. Centered on the wall is a portrait by one of my favorite artists, Chuck Close. His use of color to create kaleidoscopic pieces that are both abstract and figurative has always resonated with me. On the mantel is a set of five colored glass vases. Their simple form and bright shades were the perfect finishing touch—and the fact that they were a gift from a dear friend makes them even more perfect."

JAMIE DRAKE

