



KITCHEN CONFIDENTIAL

It's the place where everyone ultimately winds up, fishing for a cool drink or a quick bite. It's the spot where homework is done and stories are told, where some recipes are botched and others are born. Here, a peek into five fabulous Philadelphia kitchens—packed with inspiration, ideas and tips to suit any taste (or tastings).



The Bold

A Mount Airy kitchen delights with splashes of color and whimsy.

You wouldn't guess that this room, brimming with loud colors and bold shapes, is situated in a formerly dark, neocolonial home. But with the help of architect Alan Metcalfe and Manayunk-based interior designer Val Nehez, homeowners Michael and Amy Cohen infused the 1920s house with their bold Memphis-modern aesthetic. In the kitchen, bright white walls add contrast to the punches of color—all variations of lively primaries. A herringbone slate floor grounds the space (and is equipped with radiant heating); the countertops are a warm figured maple. "Everyone is uptight about counters—stainless scratches, Formica scratches," Metcalfe says. "But wood is a forgiving material. It can take a cut; if you oil it, the cuts disappear into the patina." The pièce de résistance: a colorful wall that separates the kitchen from the dining area. The art installation, commissioned from Drexel professor and artist Paul Schultz, features assorted plastic bread tags suspended between acrylic panes—a kitchen-perfect masterpiece.



Pops of color in unexpected places bring life to the space. The underside of the custom flared hood is painted lipstick red.



Each plastic tag has the bread's expiration date on it; Schultz found tags featuring important family dates, like birthdays, and included these in the piece for a truly personal feel.