



# Character Marks

As the heart of Nicole and Stephen Gorman's new home, the kitchen carries high expectations. Here are 10 ways the couple packed it with function and farmhouse charm.

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## 1. ORGANIZED DESIGN

Base cabinets contain conventional closed-door storage for pots and pans, but most upper cabinets were left open for easy access to everyday dishes.

## 2. GATHERING SPOT

Stools pulled up to the island give family and friends a chance to chat with Nicole Gorman, *above*, while she's preparing dinner.



### 3. PLACE FOR DISPLAY

Simple stacked boards crown the cabinets, creating a perch for Nicole's collection of antique blue jars. "Sometimes things as simple as canning jars can be the most beautiful."

### 4. DISHES AT THE READY

Beaded board painted the same gray-green as the rest of the cabinetry brings subtle character to the backs of the open dishware shelves. The design means cereal bowls, plates, and mugs—many made by local potters—play beautiful as well as useful roles. The plate rack was created using dowels installed vertically.

### 5. SIMPLE HARDWARE

Bin pulls and knobs with a pewter-look finish are true to the kitchen's low-key farmhouse style.

### 6. CRISP DOOR DESIGN

Cabinet doors in a recessed-panel design are reminiscent of Shaker cupboards. Most of the kitchen's drawers, however, feature flat fronts. The resulting mix isn't immediately noticeable, but it has a practical character Nicole enjoys. "The look is clean," she says, "but it still has interesting detail."



### 7. CLEAN FINISH

Multiple coats of polyurethane give the island's maple countertop a durable, marine-grade finish that's easy to wipe clean.


### 8. COMFORTABLE STYLE

The island's furniturelike lines provide a polished view from more formal parts of the house.

### 9. SHELF ACCESS

Shallow corner shelves (8 inches on the left side, 6 on the right) near the sink keep glasses within reach for daughter Sophia, 8.

### 10. NEEDED BOOST

An inexpensive step stool painted to match the cabinets allows the children to pitch in with cooking. 

For buying information see page 150.