

California Cottage Kitchen

Warm wood and mixed metal accents give this cottage kitchen a modern farmhouse look.

BY RYAN MORRIS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AMY BARTLAM
STYLED BY LINDSEY BROOKE

How do you keep a kitchen in a smaller home from feeling closed-off and claustrophobic? Warm tones, an open design and appreciation for space were the ticket for Lindsey Brooke of Lindsey Brooke Design. Lindsey and her team worked alongside the home's owners to create a modern farmhouse kitchen that manages to be cozy without sacrificing accessibility.

RENOVATION READY

This beach cottage in Hermosa Beach, CA underwent a complete renovation to make this kitchen happen. By the time Lindsey laid eyes on the space, it was already gutted. Her team worked directly with the homeowners to create the overall space, designing the timeless yet modern farmhouse look the homeowners wanted. "The clients wanted something very open and inviting, where they were able to entertain, and then also just to be able to live in a space that felt really nice and open despite being a smaller home," says Lindsey. "The living room is right across from the island in the kitchen, so we really needed to make sure that the kitchen wasn't closed off."

The kitchen was designed to ensure a sense of openness, as this central island was right across from the living room.



(top, left) The homeowner wanted a timeless look, so Lindsey didn't use too much brass, which is why she added polished nickel and black accents.

(top, right) Each metal used should be consistent across the design, as in the polished nickel used for the plumbing.

(bottom) Wood tones and wooden accents go a long way toward giving the design a farmhouse look and feel.



Tips for MIXING METAL FINISHES

Mixed metals can go a long way toward giving a home character and depth. Here are a few rules of thumb from Lindsey on how to mix them well.

- 1. DON'T MIX TOO MANY FINISHES.** Lindsey recommends that you don't mix more than three different finishes. "We love to mix metals," she says, "but there is a balance to how many you can mix." Sticking with two or three will still add depth while keeping the overall look of the room cohesive.
- 2. PAIR WELL.** Make sure all your chosen finishes go with one another. For example, if you're using brass, which is a warm metal, you'll want to complement it with another material that has warm tones. While chrome and polished nickel are both silver in color, polished nickel is warmer, so use that instead of chrome. Black accents can go either way. The most important element to strive for is balance, with no one finish overpowering the others.
- 3. USE LIKE ELEMENTS.** Lastly, make sure each type of metal is used for a whole element. For example, all plumbing should use the same finish, all hardware should use the same, and so on.

For the modern farmhouse look the family wanted, it was imperative that the house have a classic style.

FARM COTTAGE LOOK

For the modern farmhouse look, it was imperative that the house have a classic style; hence, the subway backsplash on the kitchen wall. The traditional cabinetry took on a modern spin with the two-tone cabinets in white and gray. But what really brings home the farmhouse look includes warm wood tones and wooden accents throughout the space, which lend it a homey, lived-in ambience.

SEE SOURCES, PAGE 128.

There are plenty of mixed metal finishes in this kitchen. All the plumbing fixtures are polished nickel, while the hardware is brass. Lindsey added black metal accents with the lighting and bar stools.

