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# PRAIRIE update

Distinctly American in its origins but timeless in appeal, the Prairie Style provides inspiration for the elegantly simple kitchen of a new Chicago-area home.







OPPOSITE: The clean, simple cabinet doors are dressed up with burgundy-stained accents. The island shape mimics the stepped-out sink wall, anchored by stainless steel appliances.

Most often associated with architect Frank Lloyd Wright, the Prairie Style of the early 1900s promoted simple, honest designs that integrated beauty with function and favored the plentiful use of natural materials.

Years later, these same ideals shaped Stewart and Lora Shiman's plans for a new home, which

The two-tiered island cooktop offers a generous prep sink and plenty of work space. The under-window cabinet near the breakfast room features an ice maker and serves as a buffet and bar area; to its right (but out of view) stand two full-height storage pantries. The cherry slat-back chairs are reminiscent of Frank Lloyd Wright designs.





At the owners request, designer David A. Heigl edged the angular island with a table-height eating bar for casual dining. Reddish-brown flecks in the Dakota Mahogany granite counters and backsplash echo the warm tones of cherry cabinets with natural and burgundy finishes and red oak flooring.





Stewart describes as “mostly Prairie, a little Oriental, quite simple.” The couple worked with David A. Heigl, CKD, of CabinetWerks in Lincolnshire, Illinois, to fashion a large comfortable kitchen with an angled, multipurpose island and ample perimeter storage. The elegant cherrywood cabinetry, custom-crafted by Wood-Mode, features a two-tone finish that quietly complements natural stone counters, red oak flooring, and brushed stainless steel appliances. The crowning touch: a cherry light box—designed by Stewart—fitted with art-glass panels to house the fluorescent ceiling bulbs.—Christina Nelson

ABOVE: The knife drawer is one of many cabinet details customized for Lora Shiman, the primary cook. Others include a drawer just for lids, horizontal and vertical dividers for large platters, and double pullout waste bins. The drawer pulls are brushed stainless steel. SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS

## Prairie Style Primer

From 1900 to 1920, the Prairie School architects influenced residential architecture across the Midwest. Rejecting Victorian and revival styles the movement created buildings that blended comfortably with the landscape. Characteristics of the style include:

- Windows with geometric patterns and stained- or art-glass panes.
- Wood trim in simple geometric shapes or wood strips used as decorative details.
- Rooms that flow into one another and are diversified in function.

