

Remodeling

How Smart Companies Grow

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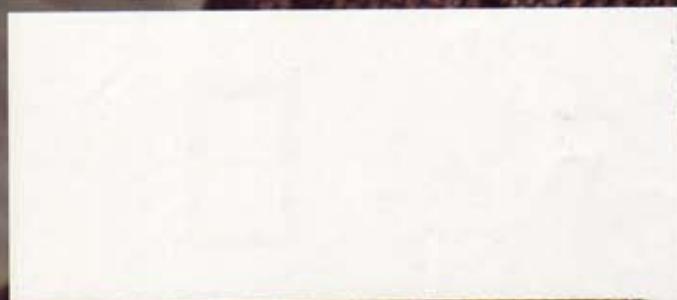
**train
to gain**

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A beach bungalow rises
from a footprint in the sand page 35

Kitchen islands take
center stage page 44

DAN BETTS
Deck America



An island is an ideal place for using
CONTRASTING colors or materials.



PHOTO: PAUL BARDAJLY

Stuart Davis designed this urban kitchen renovation with two islands—one as part of the cooking area and the other for guests. The line of pendants provides a visual divider between the work triangle and entertainment area. The cantilevered countertop on the island echoes the counter of the peninsula. The homeowner's artist friends created the metal bracings that hold up the granite.

says. Gregg says when clients choose a range hood, he recommends quiet remote blowers.

Have a seat

Seating around an island is popular, especially for younger families. Whyrick says it provides a convenient place to eat, especially when only a few family members are present. Though the recommendation for seating is 24 linear inches per person, designer Nadia Subaran of The Kitchen Guild, Washington, D.C., often shrinks it down to between 18 and 21 inches. "We push the limits in seating because people don't use it formally," she says.

If the family includes children, the island should have a low counter for seating. Multi-level island counters are good not only for children but for creating visual interest and providing guest seating while blocking the view of a messy sink or stove. The exception is smaller islands, for which most designers recommend a single counter height. "If you change levels when you don't have a large counter, it makes the space less useful," Gregg says.

Style stage

An island is an ideal place for using contrasting colors or materials. "Islands offer something dramatic and focal in a limited space," says Subaran. "You can keep the same style of cabinetry, just change color, or