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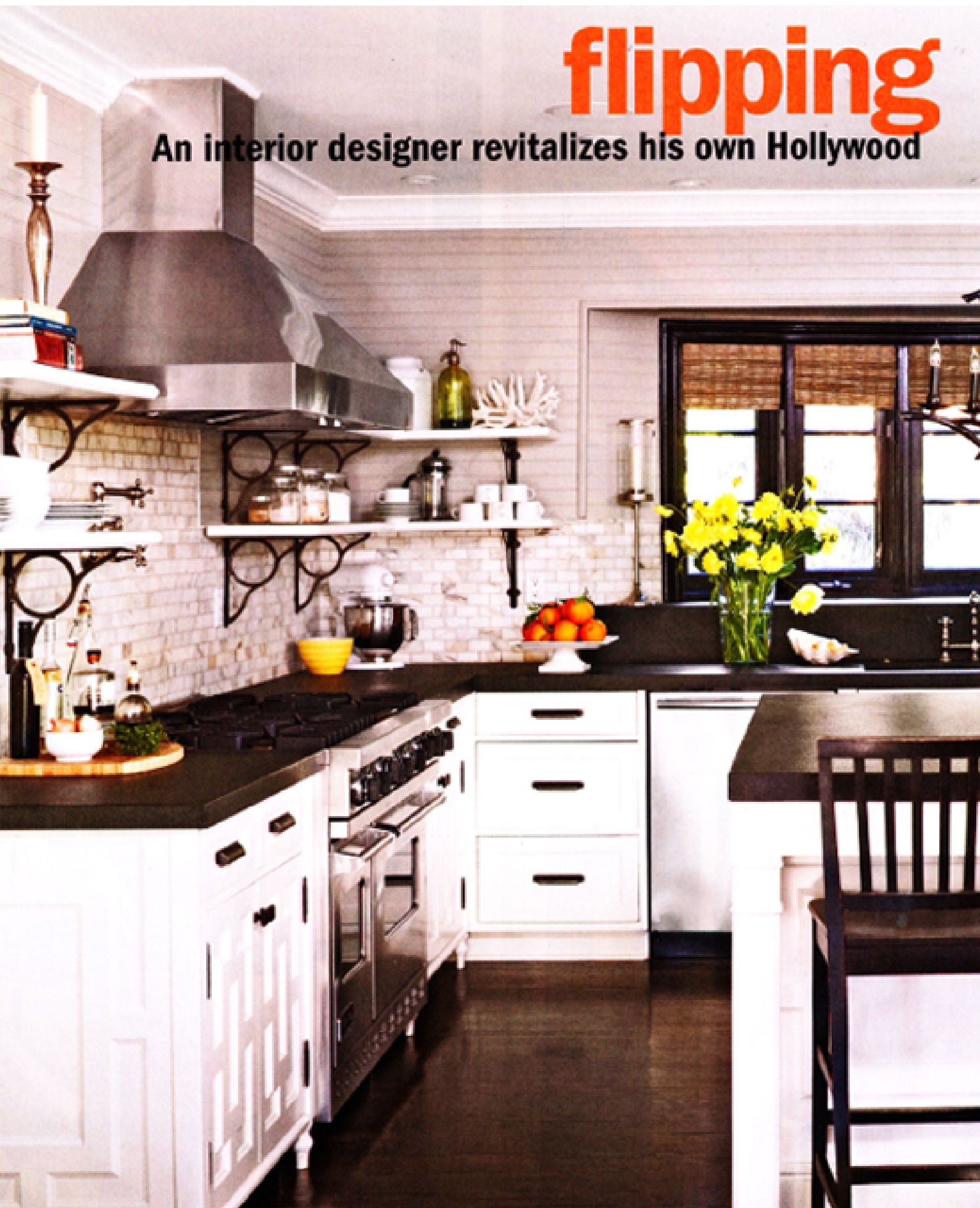


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8HG 51P Size Checkout

# flipping

An interior designer revitalizes his own Hollywood



# the script

kitchen by applying lessons learned from profitable 'flips.'

written by MINDY PANTIEL photographer EDMUND BARR field editor LAURA HULL



Absolute Black granite countertops, river-washed and unsealed for a honed look, unify the space. The Calacatta marble backsplash features subtle gold veining.



**LEFT:** A firm believer in open storage, homeowner and interior designer Ryan Brown uses shelves to keep everyday items easy to see and reach. **OPPOSITE:** A piece of fabric inspired the fretwork pattern on the cabinet doors. Curved feet reinforce the furniture feel. Two dishwashers flank a sink fashioned from the same granite as the surrounding countertops.

**B**uying, remodeling, and quickly reselling homes—a phenomenon known in the real estate business as “flipping”—inspired interior designer Ryan Brown to remodel his own kitchen. “My business exploded during the California real estate boom, and I really fine-tuned my craft turning over all those houses,” says Ryan, who worked on the Bravo TV series *Flipping Out*.

But when he found a 1940s Hollywood Regency-style place in the Hollywood Hills, instead of thinking *flip*, Ryan thought *home*. That meant a kitchen designed for people who love to cook, with an adjacent space for friends and family to hang out. But Ryan’s decision to live in the house didn’t prevent him from flipping interior spaces. “Everything was in the wrong place, so I shifted the kitchen, dining room, and den around to create a great-room concept,” he says. “My goal is always to unify the kitchen with a living area, which is how we live today.”

Another nod to modern living: a large, multifunction island with seating. “For informal, day-to-day meals, I prefer sitting at an island instead of a formal dining room,” Ryan says. The island also offers prep space, close-to-the-range storage for pots and pans, and proximity to a pullout trash and recycling center.

Ryan says the existing house lacked charm, and he was determined to infuse the kitchen with rich elements that would give it distinction. The Calacatta

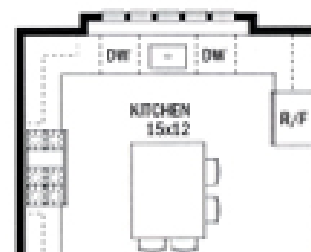
marble tile backsplash, for example, runs up the wall to meet horizontally oriented beaded-board paneling, which also appears in the adjacent family room. “I thought going with the horizontal beaded-board idea was a risk, but it worked,” Ryan says.

Inspiration for the distinctive fretwork pattern on the custom cabinetry came from a piece of fabric. “Instead of the standard flat panel or Shaker-style doors, I thought this would bring impact to the room,” Ryan says. He also replaced all the windows and doors and painted the frames black for even more drama. “It’s a sophisticated look, and at night the window frames disappear so you can really see the city lights.”

Equally chic are the original oak floors, sanded and—after several tries—stained the perfect shade of gray. “I think gray is beautiful, and it’s a very practical color for kids and dogs,” says Ryan, who has both.

The kitchen’s simple black, white, and gray color scheme also distinguishes the space from the adjacent family room, which features furnishings with an abundance of pattern. “The kitchen is sophisticated with a soothing palette,” Ryan says. **K&B**

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## TAKEAWAYS

- 1 A sink made of the same material as the countertops presents a sleek, clean look.
- 2 The island's design lets cooks and seated guests share the space without getting in each other's way.
- 3 Shapely brackets add pizzazz to simple open shelves that provide both display and storage space.
- 4 Turning beaded board sideways creates strong horizontal lines that make walls appear longer.
- 5 Convenient cookware drawers in the island store pots and pans just a quick turn from the range.

