

If the space available isn't right for what you want, you'll either have to compromise or consider changes to the building. Maybe you can knock down a wall into the adjacent mudroom or butler's pantry to increase the amount of space or light available? Or remove part of it to create a half wall? Can you afford to build an addition? If not, don't despair: the smallest kitchens can look great and function well. It's all down to the planning. Consult your style file (see pages 14–15) and visit showrooms specifically looking for ideas rather than for what to buy. This can give you a different perspective when viewing, as sometimes styles and colors that don't appeal to you can put you off an excellent design that meets your needs. Finally, remember that symmetry is always pleasing to the eye, and having a focal point (such as the range) with shapes and contours balanced on either side of it, is likely to create a "feel good" kitchen.

Another important thing you must consider before furthering the plan is the amount and sources of natural light in the kitchen. Direct sunlight is particularly welcome over the breakfast table, guaranteed to bring cheer to even the sleepiest start to the day, and ideally kitchens should have plenty of access to the outdoors, for views, light, and ventilation. This is likely to influence the whole layout—the overall shape, placement of appliances, and the location of cabinets. Information on lighting is included on pages 100–107.

NATURAL LIGHT BRINGS A ROOM TO LIFE. WHAT COULD BE A STERN AND UNWELCOMING BLACK AND WHITE COLOR SCHEME BATHES IN THE WARM GLOW OF SUNLIGHT STREAMING THROUGH THE MANY WINDOWS. BY NIGHT, ITS MANY CEILING LIGHTS ENSURE THE KITCHEN REMAINS BRIGHT AND CHEERFUL.

