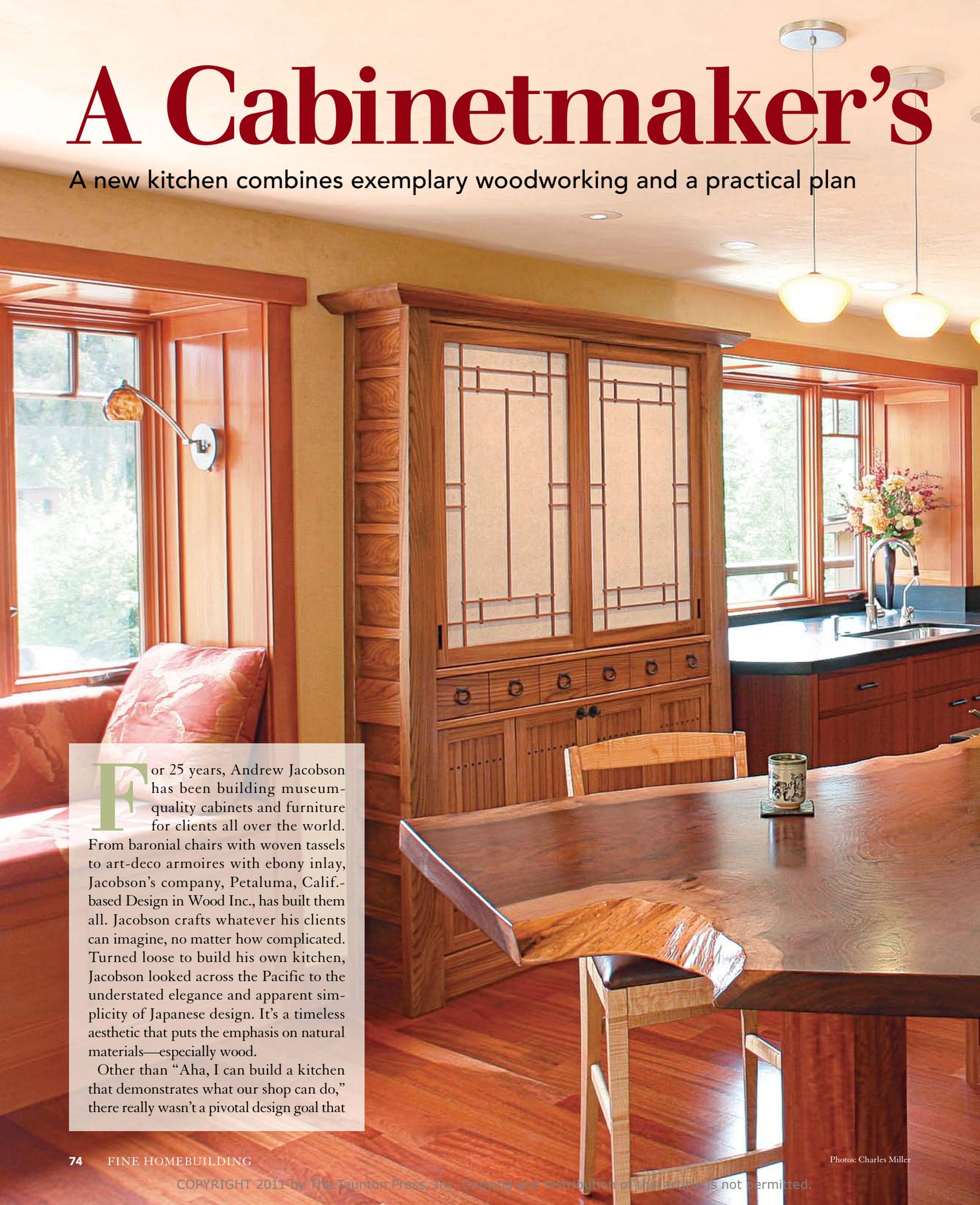


# A Cabinetmaker's

A new kitchen combines exemplary woodworking and a practical plan



**F**or 25 years, Andrew Jacobson has been building museum-quality cabinets and furniture for clients all over the world. From baronial chairs with woven tassels to art-deco armoires with ebony inlay, Jacobson's company, Petaluma, Calif.-based Design in Wood Inc., has built them all. Jacobson crafts whatever his clients can imagine, no matter how complicated. Turned loose to build his own kitchen, Jacobson looked across the Pacific to the understated elegance and apparent simplicity of Japanese design. It's a timeless aesthetic that puts the emphasis on natural materials—especially wood.

Other than “Aha, I can build a kitchen that demonstrates what our shop can do,” there really wasn't a pivotal design goal that

# Kitchen



**Challenge:** Create a backsplash with just enough drama  
**Solution:** A water-washed marble slab inset into a black-granite frame evokes a rippling stream.





**Challenge:** Make room for recycling and the water filter

**Solution:** Make a jog in the foundation to create a bump-out at the sink for an extradeep cabinet.

**Challenge:** Create a linen/dishware cabinet that hugs the wall

**Solution:** A tansu-style hutch looks freestanding but is actually recessed into a cavity in the wall.

**Challenge: Keep the dog out of the kitchen**

**Solution:** A custom sliding gate with hidden casters in the bottom rail reflects the cabinetry details.



**Challenge: Make access easy to upper cabinets**

**Solution:** Sliding doors open with the pull of a pinky. The door to the appliance garage lifts by way of Blum Aventos hardware.

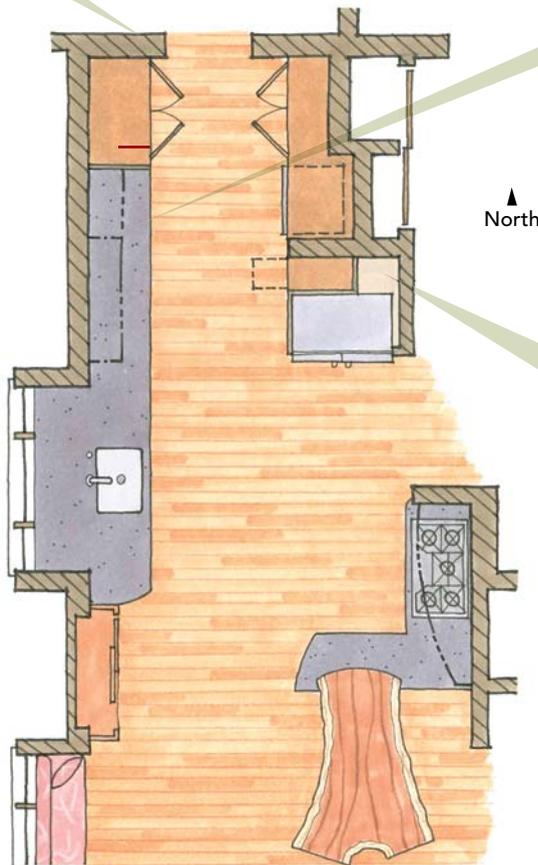


## GALLEY STYLE, ENTERED FROM THE SIDE

Turn south at the entry, and the view is through the windows over the sink, where the deep counter makes room for generous recycling drawers and a water filter mounted in the back of the sink cabinet.

**Design and construction:**  
Andrew Jacobson

0 1 2 4 ft.



unlocked the final plan. Instead, Jacobson and his wife, Peg Schafer, had the luxury of time to work on getting it right. Schafer, an authority on the cultivation of Asian medicinal plants, further strengthened the kitchen's Far East connection.

The predominant cabinet wood is quartersawn beeswing sapele, with its ribbony pinstripes arranged vertically, like delicate curtains. The Douglas-fir trim, red-elm linen cabinet, jatoba flooring, and walnut-slab countertop were, like the sapele, all

acquired from either FSC-certified forests or salvage resources.

The abundant wood, reserved in color and figure, is stopped short of being overwhelming by the other materials in the room. Hand-tooled plaster walls and ceilings bring slight imperfections to the mix. The curvy peninsula countertop, the stainless-steel range hood, and the walnut-slab table cabinets. It all adds up to a soothing space to begin and end each day.



## Cool detail

A roll-out shelf on heavy-duty drawer slides is clad with a stainless-steel appliance panel, offering a landing pad for hot pots.

## Notable elements

**Counters:** Absolute black, diamond-honed granite • **Walls and ceilings:** St. Astier hydraulic lime plaster • **Sliding-door tracks:** Häfele • **Tansu pulls:** Avigal David • **Appliance-garage lifts:** Blum Aventos • **Compost bin:** See "Feedback," p. 104 • **Stainless-hood laminate:** Chemetal #727