

INCREDIBLE KITCHENS

# The Family Circus

For a couple with five pets in Nashville, this storage-obsessed designer thought of everything.

Just big enough for quick meals, a **petite island** leaves room for pets to roam.

**Cabinetry:** Studio Dearborn painted Black Horizon, Benjamin Moore. **Range:** Dacor. **Pendants and sconces:** Circa Lighting. **Fixtures:** California Faucets. **Soapstone:** Polycor. **Brick:** The Brickyard, Inc. **Stools:** vintage.

Interior Designer Studio Dearborn / Writer Carisha Swanson  
Photographer Adam Kane Macchia



#### COFFEE STATION

A waterfall countertop wrapped in oak matches upper cabinets and beams. **Tile:** Pratt + Larson. **Hardware:** The Foundryman. **Espresso machine:** Rocket Espresso.

#### FREEZER DRAWER

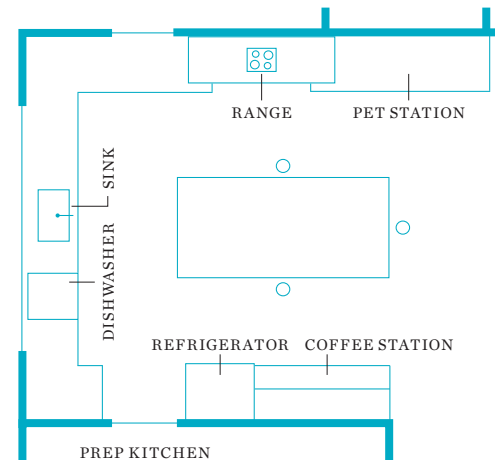
Realizing that a wall of fridge-and-freezer space would eliminate room for a coffee bar, Robertson proposed a freezer drawer instead. Contents: a lot of coffee and Jeni's ice cream.



**T**WO DOGS, THREE CATS, AND one very persuasive couple. Designer Sarah Robertson, the Westchester County, NY-based principal of Studio Dearborn was hesitant to take on a new client in Nashville. That was until she heard the brief. The client “asked for salvaged Silver Fox brick from her hometown in Wisconsin, a super-organized kitchen to make it easy to cook and entertain, and, most important, **plenty of room for the ‘Furry Five,’ as the family calls their pets, to move around,**” says Robertson. The job was hard to resist.

First came the request for orderliness. Cabinet doors and drawers now open to reveal built-in knife blocks, space for coffee pods, slots for cookware lids, vertical cutting board storage, and, of course, pet food bins (Robertson is TikTok-famous for her custom tidying solutions). Three undercounter trash and recycling cans on the sink wall, with one strategically placed under Robertson’s signature pullout paper towel holder, make cleanup an easy task.

As for that requested brick? The designer used it *only* on kitchen walls that face the outside of the house, a move that tricks the eye into seeing it as an exterior wall at first glance. Given carte blanche to choose colors and materials, she complemented the brick: soapstone on the counters and behind the range, marble on the island, and painted and oak Shaker doors. Rather than a hulking island, Robertson added one with a smaller footprint that leaves extra-wide aisles for the Furry Five to position themselves for scraps.



**STONE WORK**  
Robertson chose to use soapstone behind the range because real brick, especially in this lighter color, would have been impossible to keep pristine. **Soapstone:** Polycor. **Brick:** The Brickyard, Inc. **Lamp:** Crate & Barrel.

The custom paper towel rack pulls out to reveal drawer space for foil and Ziplocs.



### MAGIC DRAWERS

The primary prep area at the end of the island houses all the homeowners' cutting boards and knives and sits just opposite the main sink and waste bins for easy chopping and tossing.



### PET STATION

A simple feeding system was essential. Under the counter, a pot filler combined with an inset bar sink (with a drain and stopper!) serves as a water bowl that never runs dry.



### CLUTTER-FREE COUNTERS

To rid her clients' counters of dish-drying racks, Robertson custom designed the deep Steppe sink. It's extra-long, with a raised platform inside to hold a drying rack out of sight but in easy reach.



The homeowners **close the door to hide groceries** from guests.

### PREP KITCHEN

Originally conceived of as an out-of-the-way space for cooking messes, this room is just one door away from the main kitchen and is used mainly for extra storage.