

BAMBOO COUNTERTOPS

Bamboo countertops around a sink may seem like a bad idea, but designer Andrea Langford disagrees. "The caramel color blends beautifully with black cabinetry, and when it is sealed properly, including underneath the sink and around the edges, you should have no problems," she says. Bamboo is also a renewable material, making it an eco-friendly choice for countertops and floors.



THIS PHOTO: Equipped with a beverage center and prep sink, the new bar area doubles as a buffet for entertaining. Bamboo countertops are sealed to protect against water damage.

OPPOSITE, TOP LEFT: Black-painted cabinets with stainless-steel bar pulls enhance the modern aesthetic.

OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT: The kitchen's original dark paneling was planed and painted to form the wainscoting around the room.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM LEFT: Extending a cabinet to the counter creates a handy pantry.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT: A small prep sink at the new bar adds convenience and style.