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Where the **HEARTH** Is

Let these fabulous kitchen designs inspire you to infuse a bit of magic and dreaminess into your own kitchen, getting to the heart of what makes your family's house a home.

CHRISTOPHER PEACOCK

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When Christine Standfest built her home in Greenwich, CT, she designed it entirely around the kitchen. "I really did want that space to be special for us," she says. The white cabinets stand in contrast to an ebony island (the location for which Standfest carefully planned), and the family has more than enough storage space for cooking equipment, a long built-in desk and two generous eating areas — on the island and at the table.

"The room is very clean, elegant and sophisticated," says Christopher Peacock. "It's quite stunning. There is a wonderful contrast of

dark and light here." Peacock, whose team worked hand in hand with architect James Schettino and contractor Lee Schettino to build the home around the kitchen, also notes that while the kitchen gets plenty of use, you'd never know it. Clean lines and a minimalist aesthetic blend elements both old (honed marble countertops and a marble shelf above the range) and new (polished nickel hardware from Refectory Collection). "Kitchens are not just functional spaces," says Peacock. "They're a main living area absorbing the dining and living rooms."