

# BRAVA

women + style + substance



## >WEEKEND 101

Easy-breezy fashion, don't-miss events, cocktails and BBQ

## +CATALYSTS

Change agents:  
Sara Alvarado and  
Londa Dewey

JUNE 2014 \$3.95  
BRAVAMAGAZINE.COM



# Fresh Fixes

Find home inspiration—inside and out

# A Nourishing Place

## » Healing Kitchen «

PHOTOGRAPHED BY KAIA CALHOUN

Homeowners remodel for all kinds of reasons. A need for healing inspired Shelly Weber to transform her dark, cramped Maple Bluff kitchen into a bright, welcoming place.

Weber lost her father, sister and mother in the three years before she started the remodel. And while she was assembling a scrapbook of designs, Weber was couch bound, weakened by radiation and chemotherapy treatment. Knowing that creating something anew would cheer her, Weber used her mother's inheritance gift to launch the rehab.

To keep the casual, lived-in aesthetic espoused by architect Frank Riley, who built the 1940s-era Cape Cod Colonial Revival home, Weber opened up the gloomy kitchen and adjoining dining room so she could cook and entertain family and friends as they perched comfortably nearby. Now windows and French doors open to the flow of people from kitchen to dining room to

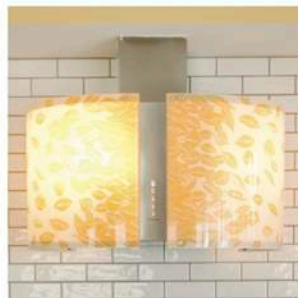
a new deck and fire pit to back inside. Distressed bamboo flooring is durable enough to handle the traffic.

Remembering how everyone bumped into her mom's square range hood, Weber made an oval Italian range hood prominent—and bump-free—feature.

Designer Bridget Ninmann of Architectural Building Arts helped Weber synthesize the contemporary hood design with the kitchen's traditional elements. A cabinet section curves into an oval. Matching yellow wall paint adds a cheerful tone, and contrasting soapstone counters and a farmhouse sink remind Weber of her grandmother's home.

Now fully recovered, Weber and her husband, Steve, find comfort in their bright remodeled spaces, especially with their large circle of friends.

"We've cooked some amazing meals and had some really great parties already," Weber says. "I think my mom would be pleased." —M.M.



**Plan for unexpected costs.** Weber padded her budget to anticipate three big surprises, but in the end had only two: asbestos floor tiles, which were removed by a mitigation team, and an uneven sunroom floor that required smoothing.

**Stock up.** The couple couldn't use their kitchen for nearly three months during remodeling. Weber says anyone doing a kitchen remodel should have a toaster oven, microwave and crockpot on hand to do all the cooking.



**Stick with your instincts.** While reviewing her scrapbook—in the days before Houzz and Pinterest—Weber realized that all the cabinets she'd included were similar, so that's what she chose. Collect designs like Weber did, and your style will emerge.