

HOUSTON house & home

THE COMPLETE RESOURCE MAGAZINE FOR YOUR HOME

JUNE 2004

The Look of Limestone

Quartz
countertops
in rich,
natural
colors for
a kitchen,
bath and
more

**COOL TOOLS FOR
FATHER'S DAY**

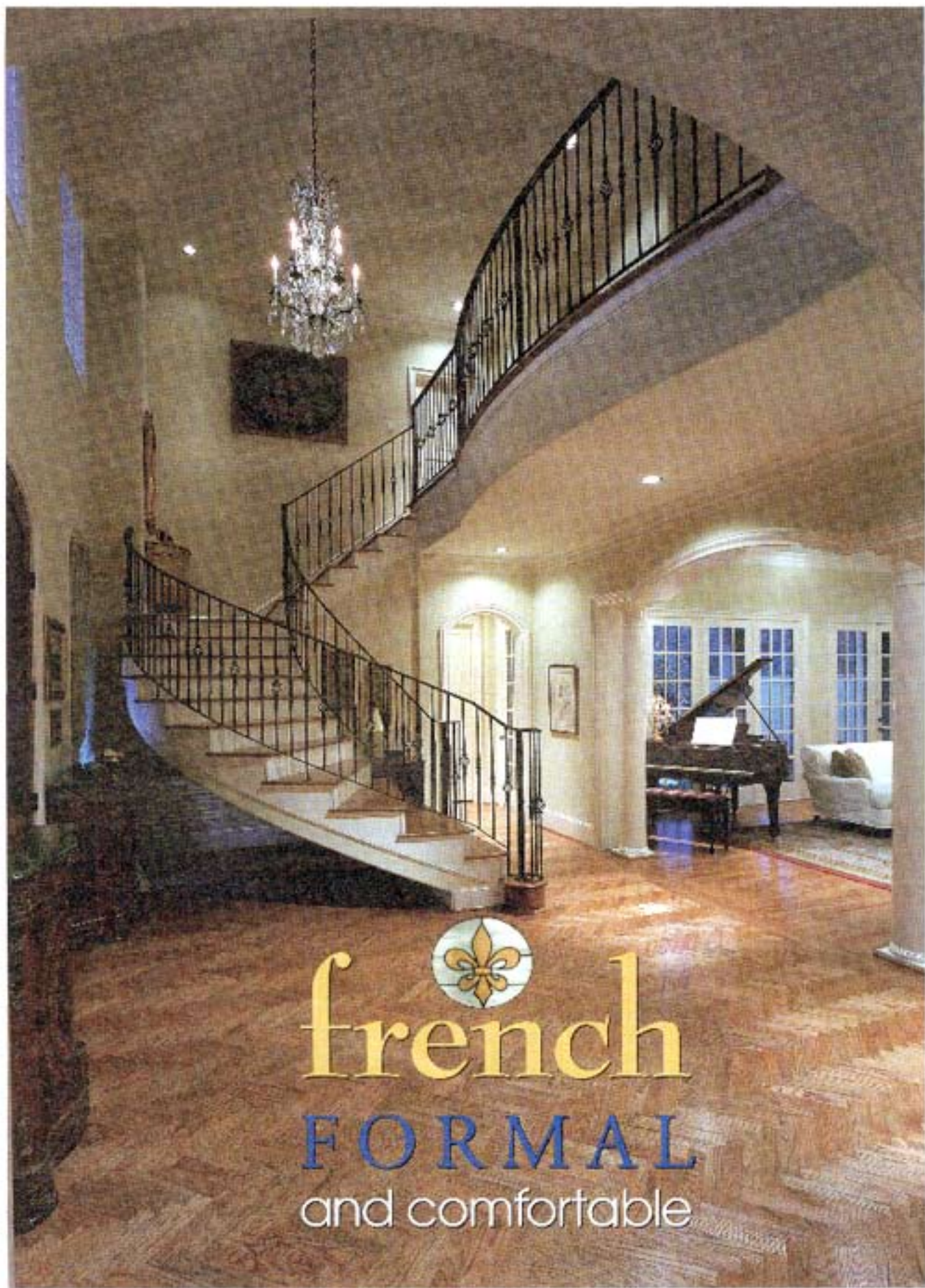
**FRENCH
COUNTRY STYLE**

**INNOVATIVE AND EARTH-
FRIENDLY IN BELLAIRE**

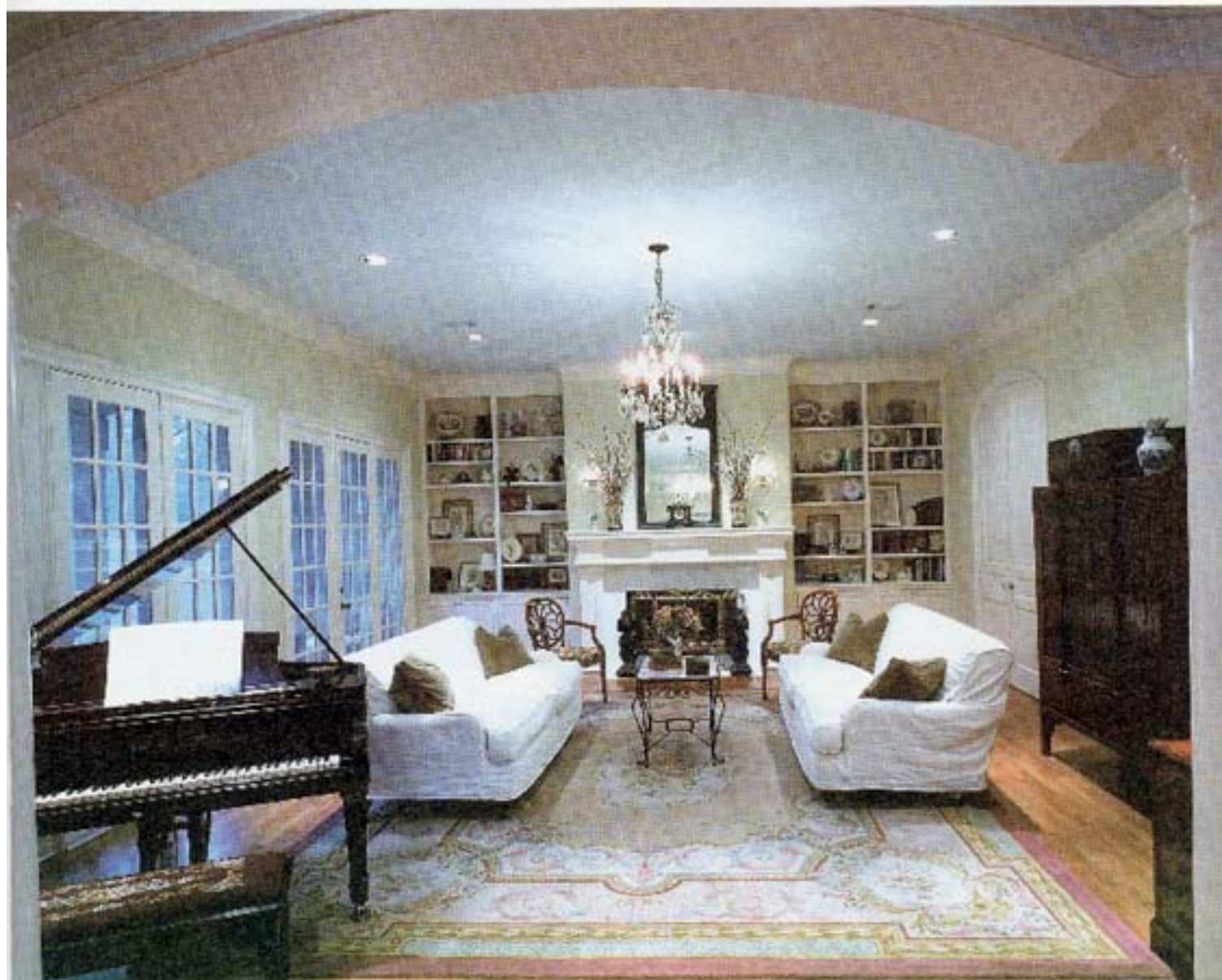
**COMFORT MEETS
ELEGANCE IN THE
WOODLANDS**

NEW FOOD FEATURE:

**Chef Monica Pope shares
garden-fresh recipes for
picnic or patio**




french
FORMAL
and comfortable



Above: The antique barometer tag is Kay Hamrick's favorite treasure. "I designed everything in my home around this tag—a blend of pastels blues, greens, yellows and pinks." Topping the rug are a pair of Rachel Ashwell Design slipcovered sofas. Left: A striking staircase descending to a horseshoe paragon floor helps create a graceful entrance to the home.

a houston doctor builds her perfect woodlands retreat

by mary chavouste

photography by carl mayfield
detail photos by sarah heenan

Saying focused and getting the job done is difficult, for some. Not for Kay Hamrick. By day, she's an interventional radiologist, one of two at Houston's Hermann Hospital, going from discussing

angioplasties to cardiac catheterizations. By night, she's a single mom, content to curl up with an old medical book, skimming in the house she helped furnish and design. Her hardiwork, both on the clock and off, shows an accomplished, multi-talented professional.

"When I began to design my house in The Woodlands, I thought of the things I love the most, what I wanted to be part of my home when I walked into the rooms. I know I loved French. I wanted a warm effect, but elegant, and with kids and dogs, it had to be livable." Kay called on architect John Sullivan of Sullivan/Sivens & Henry Associates and award-winning builder Hubertfield Winner Davis (HWD) to

help create the home of her dreams.

First on her list of choices was Rachel Ashwell's Shabby Chic. One of her inspirations, Kay teamed with Helen Sorensen, longtime friend and owner of OfVine, to find the simple but stylish look she wanted to achieve. "I love the fact you can just toss the slipcovers into the wash whenever you want and as often as you want, let them dry, then just slip them back onto your furniture. It's great," she says. Boxes of all-mendham and toy poodles Cici and Baby are constant companions, on the sofa and off, but they're never a bother with the versatility of washable coverings.

"Another feature I wanted to incorporate was to be able to see what was going on in the kitchen



An arched entry doorway and stone balustrade are classic elements of formal French style.



The dining room's window treatment, one of many provided by Millenium Window Application's Carol Stevens, is silk cotton. "We mixed matching drapes and formal top light," says Stevens. "The silk reflects and reflects and plays wonderfully off the chandelier and the window." The French chandelier is from Olivine; the woven ribbon pendant is from Round Top.



"I wanted something light and airy," Kay says of her bedroom, "but I wanted a look plainer. Most of all, I wanted this to be my room—a special place just to relax and unwind." The Stella Nova bedcoverings are all machine washable.



—LARRY FLECK

A charcoal gray bed is Baby's domain.

their friends. My boys are my joy. I did not relax here and they do, too. What more can I say?" ■

ECCLECTIC DINING

Asian, American and Southern charm provide a delightful mix in the family's formal dining room. A cascading antique mirrored screen, purchased in Round Top and originally destined for the foyer, creatively fills a corner of the room. "I can just imagine a Southern belle standing in front of this mirror right before a big dance," smiles Kay. "I picture her wearing her long dress with material much like these curtains."

A Chinese green-wood bench adds to the dining room accented by a round table and chairs arranged in a round arrangement. "I've thought about changing the chair cushions to something more stylish for me," she

overflows. "But then I think 'No, I really like these just the way they are, so why change?'"

The antique bench is just one of many pieces Kay acquired from one of her favorite antique shops, Andrea Currie's Red Treasures Mallards in Birmingham, Alabama. Currie could not since closed her retail store but continues to provide design consultations for clients.

Crystal chandeliers are the ridges throughout the home hanging from their own every ceiling, and originating from a variety of sources. One in particular is from France, an antique obtained through Olivine. "I remember the crystals were so covered with grime, it took a toothbrush and five days of work in the bathtub to finally remove the ages of dirt" recalls the storeowner. Stroud. Today, the fixture is a centerpiece of the formal dining room, brilliantly illuminating the room. Another collaborative effort of both friends hangs in the kitchen. Made of crystal prisms and pearls, the chandelier is a companion to the matching sconces in the den.

Imagine a room filled with natural light and you have Kay's den. Floor-to-ceiling windows ensure one wall highlighting Kay's more formal furnishings — an antique Sevottanitic rug.

COOL COOKING

"A kitchen is always hot," Kay says, "so I designed mine to be cool from the start." A great way to begin was to include a marble-top island work area. "I always liked the counter tops at Middle Sub for Creameries," she smiled. "You know, the ones that have the terraces and pulled bread lines so much more?" HWD Builders incorporated her wishes, complete with the slightly used but not abused top-polished oak.

APPROPRIATELY PINK

"The main is called 'Pecan Bowler,'" Kay smiles wryly. "It's just appropriate for a room like this!" The capable master bedroom combines the beauty of basic ivory linens with the lustrous use of yet one more crystal chandelier and a French marble fireplace.

Kay's antique bed is piled high with ivory Bell Nore bedcoverings, linens and cushions that get even softer with each machine washing. Matching Rachel Aswell Design pillows, plump with down feathers, create a sitting area while the nearby youth bed, also covered for machine accessibility, serves as a lounging spot for Kay's dogs, Cheri and Baby.

When asked about entertaining, Kay smiles. "I entertain my husband

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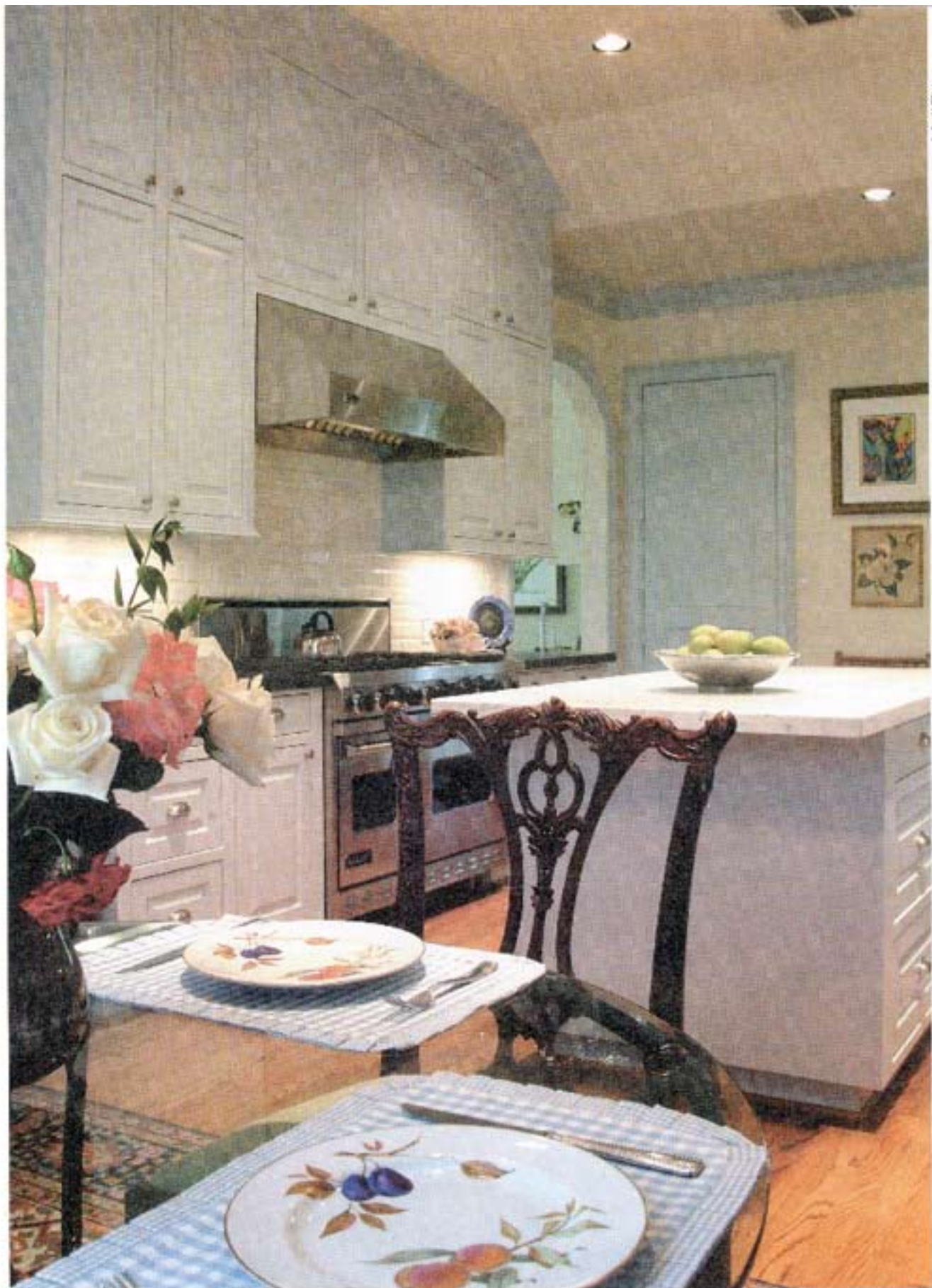
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The black and white Carrera marble top with a full front reveals the top of Marble Island for Chateau's multi-level island design. The range is by Viking.