



LEFT: Cleverly disguised to blend into a 1905 Queen Anne home, this kitchen island mimics a turn-of-the-century table, but it's really 1990s high-tech. The wrought-iron and steel frame supports a cherry top with drawers on both sides; open-rack shelves at the ends provide readily accessible storage.

Tucked under the island is a roll-out recycling center with three pullouts—for trash, glass, and plastic—and a drawer at the bottom specially sized for newspapers; the cart boasts a chopping-block top and locking casters, which make it a work center as well. Although designed as a multifunctional work unit, the island has space for two stools on one side for those who'd rather chat than chop.

•*Design:* Sandra Bird Custom Kitchens, Larkspur, CA (415/927-1171)



ABOVE: One island option is a prefab unit manufactured by a furniture company. This one, called Millwood Creek, by Broyhill features two drawers and two doors, an adjustable shelf, and four plate racks. Its compact dimensions (50 by 30 by 38 inches) enable it to fit into most kitchens other than narrow galleys, and its butcher-block top functions as a handy work surface. \$1,170.

•*Design:* Broyhill Furniture Industries, Lenoir, NC (800/327-6944)

5 hardworking islands

These multifunctional examples combine efficiency and style

BY ANN BERTELSEN AND DANIEL GREGORY

When the kitchen takes center stage as the principal gathering place for family and friends, the kitchen island comes under the spotlight. Designers and manufacturers have responded to the island's prominence, adapting it to serve a broad range of uses, from a simple

work surface for food preparation to a multifunctional unit with areas incorporating cooktops, sinks, buffet counters, dishwashers, recycling centers, and storage compartments. The archipelago on these four pages illustrates some of the multipurpose magic that can be worked by a kitchen island.