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DESIGN/BUILD REVIEW

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We pause to thank you and wish you a peaceful holiday season.

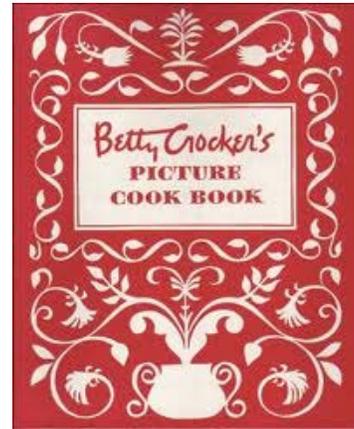
**May it be merry and bright!**



Warmly, Rocky & Gigi DiGiacomo

DREAM ABOUT IT : KITCHEN REMODEL

**Design Tips for a "Baker's Kitchen" - Inspired by Betty Crocker®**



A bright, white kitchen, designed and built by DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation, was the site chosen by **General Mills** to shoot its holiday promo for Betty Crocker®-brand cookies. The kitchen was selected for its clean aesthetics and large center island (plenty of space for rolling and decorating cookies). However, this got us thinking: **what might Betty Crocker's ideal kitchen look like?** Or better yet, since Betty remains the figment of marketing genius, we wondered what design elements a serious, real-life baker might appreciate?

We asked professional bakers and design pros about kitchen "must haves." Here's what they told us to include in a **baker's dream kitchen**:

- \* A variety of countertop surfaces:
  - Wood counters for chopping
  - Marble surfaces for rolling (marble is renowned for its ability to prevent sticking - an important property when working with pastry dough)
  - Granite surfaces for candy making (granite can handle heat like nothing else)
  
- \* A mix of countertop heights:
  - Standard counters for all-purpose work areas
  - Lowered counters (or pull-out steps) for comfortable kneading of dough (or for little helpers like kids and grandchildren!)
  - Raised counter seating so that guests can watch you work or pull up a stool to enjoy fresh baked goodies.
  
- \* Dedicated storage cabinets fitted with roll-out trays allowing easy access to large staple items such as flours and sugars as well as rolling pins, cake molds, and cookie sheets.
  
- \* Specialized cabinetry for displaying prized baking accessories, spices, and sprinkle collections.
  
- \* A customized cabinet with built-in "[appliance lift](#)" for heavy items like the ol' bakers stand-by - a 32-lb professional Kitchen Aid mixer.

\* A pull-down cookbook rack or better, an iPad holster, mounted in a well-lit space off the work surface where a baker can read recipes and order ingredients. (Did you know that there is a [Better Crocker® "app"](#) for your iPad -- allowing you to read recipes, take notes, and create a shopping list? Betty would have been proud!)

Thoughtful, timeless design (with proper placement of lighting, sinks and appliances, waste and recycling) is, of course, the most important consideration when remaking a baker's kitchen. Visit our [kitchen gallery](#) for design ideas that are sure to inspire!

Make your own holiday cookies, like Betty Crocker's® good ol' fashioned [sugar cutouts](#) or try something new: [Italian Pignolis](#) (almost as good as the ones Gigi's Nonna Gugliotti used to make!) **Happy Holidays and Happy Baking!**

#### CONTACT US

**DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation, Inc.** is an award winning, husband and wife, design-build firm that is honored to bring timeless beauty, value and sustainability to neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities. For more than 20 years we have been invited by clients to remodel existing homes and to build new in beloved neighborhoods in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Golden Valley, Minnetonka, and Excelsior. Our services include site evaluation, architectural design, interior design, energy planning, and construction. As always, [contact us](#) with questions or to begin collaborating on the home you want in a neighborhood you love!

Sincerely,  
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