IN THE NAVY

While a simmering pot is usually best kept out of sight from guests, you might want to make an exception for the new collaboration between venerable French cookware company Staub and Food 52. Sporting the on-trend combination of midnight blue with brass accents, the collection is a stylish addition to your stovetop repertoire. food52.com



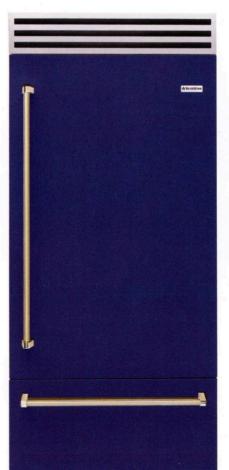
splash ZONE

In recent years, the wall space behind the stove has become the de rigueur place to make an artistic statement in the kitchen. Take the chevron backsplash from Nashville designer April Tomlin, for example, who created the Navajo-inspired design shown here out of MDF covered with fire-safe paint. "I was bored with traditionally used tile," she says. Open shelves and a snowy white quartz countertop ensure all eyes are on her handiwork. apriltomlin.com



DUTCH treat

For this sophisticated kitchen, San Francisco-based designer Nicole Hollis found her muse in an unusual place: a Flemish still-life painting. A moody mix of materials, including steel-framed glass upper cabinets and a gray island topped with Belgian blue limestone, stand in stark contrast with white lower cabinets and a Calacatta Gold marble backsplash. Low-lighting creates ambience and intrigue—the perfect dinner party guests. **nicolehollis.com**



COOL RUNNINGS

Ask any chef or caterer: An oversize refrigerator is the unsung hero of effortless entertaining. And with a tray that slides out to accommodate commercial-size sheet pans, the latest built-in model from Blue Star is both workhorse and eye candy—available in 750 customizable colors, including this deep indigo. Its interior is just as attractive as its exterior, thanks to a sleek stainless-steel lining, which makes it not only good-looking, but better at insulating cold air, as well. bluestarcooking.com