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# renovator's notebook

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*designer challenge*

## can store-bought cabinets look custom?

Lured by the affordability of ready-made options (but skeptical of their limitations), we asked designers Jason Bell, duo Christina Murphy and Meg Hengerer, and Joe Serrins to create kitchens around a stock style of their choice. The outcome: three unbelievably distinctive rooms.

photographs by Annie Schlecter produced by Kate Townsend prop styling by Rebecca Omweg



the result



To preserve the monochromatic composition, Serrins faced the GE dishwasher with a Moderno appliance front. CONTACT JOE SERRINS AT (212) 675-5220.

**DISHWASHER** GE Profile about \$1,349 [geappliances.com](http://geappliances.com) for stores **LOW GLASS CYLINDER** (holding paper towels) 10" x 4" \$12 [jamaligarden.com](http://jamaligarden.com) **CUTTING BOARD** Maple \$80 [williams-sonoma.com](http://williams-sonoma.com) **COFFEEMAKER** Jasper Morrison for Rowenta \$175 [momastore.org](http://momastore.org) **TUMBLERS** "Marta" \$1.50 to \$2.50 each, [cb2.com](http://cb2.com) **WINEGLASSES** "Hampshire" \$25 each, and **CLEAR GLASS BOWL** 10" \$70 Calvin Klein Collection (212) 292-9000 **DISHES** Jasper Morrison for Rosenthal porcelain "Moon White" \$113/five-piece setting, and **TEAPOT** \$165 [michaelcina.com](http://michaelcina.com)

**BTW:** Many of the materials used in this story will have a second life, thanks to Build It Green ([BIGNYC.ORG](http://BIGNYC.ORG)). The New York nonprofit picks up surplus and salvaged building supplies (for free!) and resells them at low cost. To find a similar outlet near you, go to [REDO.ORG](http://REDO.ORG).