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# BEAUTIFUL KITCHENS™

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ONE OF A KIND

# Lines of Descent

A kitchen island is finely crafted to nature's form.

Woodworker George Nakashima, a pioneer of the American Craft movement who worked from 1940 to 1990, believed that a tree is our most intimate contact with nature. Leah Hair wholeheartedly agrees. In her new kitchen inspired by nature's colors, patterns, and patinas, this custom island is a centerpiece. Fashioned with what's called a live edge, its red elm top bears the contours of the tree from which its planks were consecutively milled. The technique was pioneered by Nakashima. Yet Leah has made the piece her own, fitting it with a 4-foot-long trough sink, a sleek faucet, and a low rack to hang cooking gear. Both the sink and tools offer easy access to two cooks working face-to-face; after all, nature's bounty is ours to share.

PHOTOGRAPHED BY JOHN GRANEN