

not a consumerist clarion call, but a reminder to savor life's true pleasures. Being a wife to banker Lauro and a mother to grade schoolers Emilio and Andres and toddler Alessi is her full-time occupation. She sees her blog as a growing enterprise, especially now that her children are getting older and she has "more time to explore my passions."

With her unabashed passion for food, it is no surprise that Grace relishes her time in her kitchen.

### Who designed and conceptualized your kitchen?

Every room in this house was done in collaboration with my husband Lauro, but the kitchen was all me and, of course, with the help of our architect *Tito Ramon Antonio*. It's a clean design that is structured and functional. I wanted it to be modern and different, and that's why I went with the striped walls.

It's not a look that is usually associated with kitchens. Even before the house was built, I could visualize hosting casual dinners in the kitchen itself, and so I was sure that I wanted a big island where I could do prep work and also gather with my friends.

I also love buying things for my kitchen, such as plates, cake stands and, of course, I make it a point to buy cookbooks of the chefs of the restaurants where Lauro and I have shared special meals. I keep the menus, and other mementoes so that I can remember those great times.

### What goes on in your kitchen?

My oldest child is into cooking, so we cook together, or he observes me when I cook. I make sure that I cook at least three

Grace loves buying stuff for the kitchen, such as cookbooks, and keeps them in a very orderly manner.



times during the week. I love sweets but I can't bake, so we don't bake. I love to meet my friends over casual dinners, and I'm glad I have managed to do that.

### If there is one thing you could add to your kitchen, what would it be?

I want more space! And much as I love my striped walls, I am considering changing them. ☹

## Design Smarts

1. As you cook, don't let the mess add up. Make sure that everything gets cleaned up right away.

2. Have flowers in the kitchen so that this utilitarian space feels special and cozy.

3. Don't just store your collections. I love to see my pretty teacups and cake trays out on display.



## STALKING THE LOOK

1. Cirro vase by LSA P5890, Dimensione. 2. Wooden chopping boards, Oliver and Maude. 3. Cupcake plates, Gourdos. 4. Tiered pastry dish in grey marble. 5. Gastro pepper mill, P5996, Dimensione.