

# A Simple Kitchen Bay Window

This site-built box bay bumps out the countertop to bring the outdoors in



**O**ur company remodels a lot of kitchens, and one of our signature designs is a box-bay window that's placed at countertop height, making it possible to run a stone or

Corian countertop into the bay, which is typically 12 to 18 inches deep. Except for

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the insulated glass units, it uses all stock materials. The design shown here is field proven for an opening size of up to 5 by 4 feet with a 12-inch extension; anything larger than that should probably be cleared with an engineer first.

## Layout and Framing

The top of the opening will be dictated by the counter height, but it's important to plan the depth of the base so that the window base will begin with a full course of siding rather than an ugly-looking partial strip. Once we've opened the wall and headed off the opening, we frame the "floor" of the bay with short framing members that are glued and bolted to the studs. After nailing on a rim joist, we insulate the cavities in the framing, sheathe the top and bottom with plywood, and fasten the drip-cap assembly around the outside edge.

## Top Options

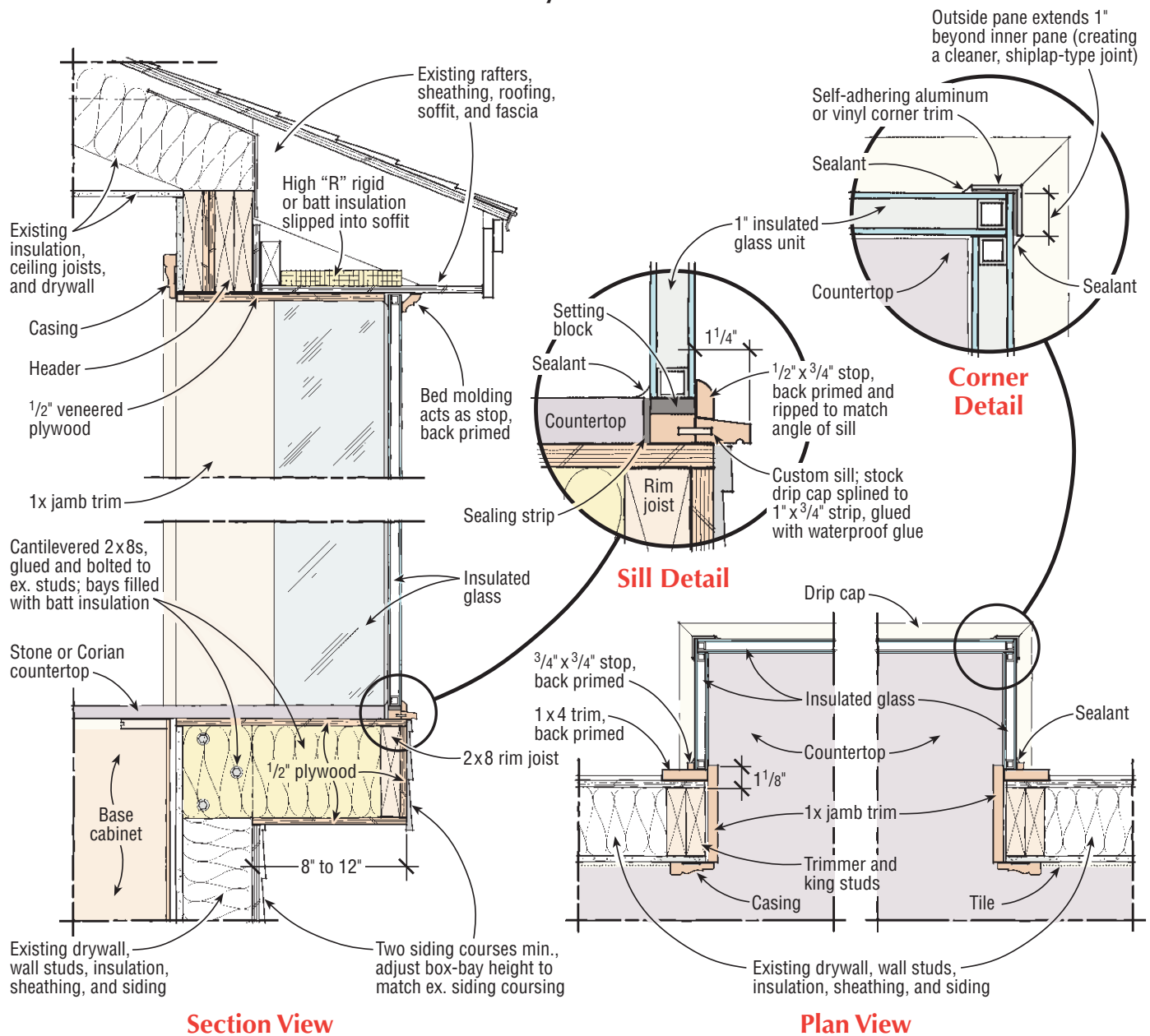
In the example photographed here, where the opening came nearly to the level of the exterior soffit, we simply screwed a piece of 1/2-inch birch plywood to the soffit to support the top edge of the glazing and serve as the head jamb of the bay. Where there's more space between the soffit and the head of the opening, we box in the space and trim it out to match the frieze board, if there is one. On a gable-end wall or two-story house, you could just build a little roof over it.

## Finish and Glazing

At this point, we have the glass contractor come and take measurements. (That prevents us from having to eat the mistake if the dimensions are off.) The glass for a typical bay costs about \$850 and takes about two weeks to arrive. In the meantime, we hang drywall, install the cabinets and stone countertop, and trim the opening.

When the glass guy comes back, he installs the glazing

# Box-Bay Window



The insulated glazing units in this box-bay window are installed from the outside and held in place by site-installed wooden stops. Although proportions can vary, the cantilevered framing should be deep enough to provide a solid-looking base. Depending on the counter plan, the section of stone that extends into the bay can be an extension of the main countertop or a separate piece. Condensation rarely forms on the inside of the insulated glass, but a bead of sealant between the glass and countertop prevents any moisture that does run down the glass from soaking into the structure beneath.

units with silicone sealant, rubber setting blocks, and self-adhesive outside corner trim. As shown in the drawing above, we use one slightly unusual detail at the outside corners where the glazing units come together: Instead of simply butting them together, we order the narrow side units with outside panes that extend an inch beyond the inner panes, resulting in a shiplap-type joint that has a neater appearance than a butt joint.

Once the glazing is in place, we cut and nail the stops

that hold it in place at sides, top, and bottom. The painters later apply a thin bead of silicone or acrylic caulk where the trim meets the glass. We've never had to replace a failed or broken glazing unit, but if that is ever necessary, the stops could easily be removed so the new glass could be inserted.



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