

COLORADO HOMES

& LIFESTYLES

SEPT. OCT 2018

The Kitchen Issue

+ 47 PAGES OF KITCHENS,
APPLIANCES, TIPS,
GADGETS & GOODS

kitchens

A DIVINE MIX



Higher Ground

IN A SOARING, two-story Steamboat Springs kitchen, "every surface is oriented to the view, so no matter where you're working, you can look out," architect Sarah Tiedeken O'Brien of Vertical Arts Architecture says. Although the national forest and ski-mountain vistas are certainly awe-inspiring, the kitchen itself is an architectural work of art. "The massive custom hood and timber columns—all suspended from the beam above and coupled with the chic and tailored mixture of materials—create a space that is stunning and functional but in no way ordinary," kitchen designer Scott Grandis of Exquisite Kitchen Design says.

The kitchen's floor plan consists of two islands topped in Caesarstone Calacatta Nuvo—one with the cooktop situated beneath the hood, with sight lines to the dining room's stone fireplace, and a second island with the sink and a perpendicular countertop table that is live-edge ash. "Instead of the typical natural finish, a durable black paint was used, letting the natural grain pattern and texture make a unique statement," Grandis says.

Another unique element of the kitchen is a floating bank of tall cabinets and appliances. "With the space being so open, the kitchen itself did not have walls to accept the appliances," Grandis says. "The solution was to design a multifunctional free-standing piece to house the ovens and refrigeration."

"The wood floors—hickory with a custom rich-gray stain—dictated the cabinet materials," interior designer Michele McCarthy of Vertical Arts Architecture says. The free-standing wall is dressed in a dark, striated melamine, similar in tone to the flooring and the blackened, cold-rolled steel hood, Douglas fir timbers and the industrial I-beam spanning the space. Alternatively, the islands' textured melamine mimics the vertical-grain hemlock ceiling. The collection of woods and finishes, O'Brien says, offers just the right mix. "They are not all identical in color but fit in the same family. The mix pulls out what's happening with the stone walls without being matchy."

ARCHITECT: Sarah Tiedeken O'Brien, project architect, and Brandt Vanderbosch, principal, Vertical Arts Architecture, vertical-arts.com

INTERIOR DESIGNER: Michele McCarthy, Vertical Arts Architecture, vertical-arts.com

KITCHEN DESIGNER: Scott Grandis, Exquisite Kitchen Design, myekdesign.com

PRO TIP

"Duplicating materials from the kitchen to other places in the house makes the **WHOLE THING SYMBIOTIC.**"

— ARCHITECT SARAH TIEDEKEN O'BRIEN