

rooms with a view

Open expression

Creating a kitchen graced with incredible views is about much more than taking a back seat to the scenery



Balanced menu

This kitchen connects with its environment through a close attention to tone, form, and materials

A design for a kitchen with a beautiful outlook requires a fine balance. An overly detailed response could detract from the scenery, but at the same time, you will want the interiors to hold their own.

This kitchen was created by interior designer Donna Grace McAlear. Two previous projects with the clients had seen a shift from classic, to transitional and on to this clean-lined home, says McAlear.

“The form of the living areas points towards the alpine views that surround the home – the 9.5ft kitchen ceiling steps

up to 11ft in the living area, rising to 13ft by the floor-to-ceiling windows. The dining area also has expansive glazing,” McAlear says. “I selected all interior finishes to create strong internal connections.”

The designer says choice of materials was a key factor. The stone exterior, which ties the house to its setting, has been brought inside, too – wrapping around the elevator mass and used as an edging for the wood floors. In the living area, a centrally placed column, which houses the fireplace and with the same stone finish,

punctuates the glazing, with its outside face containing a built-in barbecue.

Silvery hues were also introduced, again playing off the natural environment – these are seen in the gray-wash cabinets, hardware, the floors, and the appliances.

“We wanted to create dramatic focal points. To balance the central column and its black-framed fireplace, I chose a mosaic backsplash. The irregular shapes of the glass pick up on the pattern of the stone-work, anchoring the workspace and offering a second point of interest.”

Preceding pages: This vacation home high in the mountains has a material palette of stone, glass, wood and metal, appropriate to the colors of the environment. In the kitchen, the central island includes integrated storage, waste disposal and a dishwasher. Engineered stone countertops and the granite cantilevered bar-height counter harmonize with the stone interior formwork and the exterior.

Above: An elongated light fixture helps define the kitchen, together with the backsplash. Baseboards and handles blend with the silvery cabinets and floors. A second integrated dishwasher flanks the wall sink and another waste unit is by the range.



Top and above: A buffet cabinet directly to the right of the kitchen cabinetry provides a degree of utility for the dining area. Despite a minimalist aesthetic, subtle detailing is also employed. Metal inlays in the elevator door pick up on other stainless steel and aluminum elements, while the tufted upholstery on the couch evokes the patterns of the stone. The club chairs swivel to allow occupants to take in the views.

Above right: Microsuede covers on the Italian dining chairs provide textural interest and ensure they are easy to maintain. The sculptural wood dining table has three bronze legs.

The wall of multi-hued mosaics and glass-fronted upper cabinets both work with the decor and reflect the landscape.

However, the kitchen responds to the needs of a vacation home in the mountains in other ways, too. It is ideally suited to entertaining, with dining chairs and bar stools comfortable and refined enough to be repurposed as living area seating when the owners entertain 20 or more.

A walk-in pantry in the corner and a multitude of below- and above-counter cabinets mean surfaces remain clutter free.

This is another plus for entertaining.

Careful lighting choices are another hallmark of the design.

"We chose a horizontal chandelier for the living area, which doesn't impede the views. A custom fixture made of amber onyx pendants defines the dining area.

"All these elements draw your eye across the spaces, while augmenting the spectacular setting," says McAlear.

[View a gallery of images from the story at](#)

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Architect: Michael F Gallagher USGBC, Syntec Development Corporation (Breckenridge, CO)

Interior designer: Donna Grace McAlear, New Mood Design (Atlanta, GA)

Cabinet company: Pedini Cucine

Cabinetry: Lower, tall, and island cabinets in Integra style in Gray Oak tone; Upper cabinets are Q2 style with glass cabinet doors in Taupe; dining room buffet cabinet unit in Q2 with high gloss lacquer in Stone

Cabinet hardware: Quadra

Countertops: Kitchen, dining room buffet, and main island in engineered stone and granite; all countertops designed by New Mood Design and fabricated and installed by TouchStone Granite & Marble

Flooring: European oak with gray-silver stain from Colorado Custom Wood Floors; perimeter flagstones in Idaho Silver quartzite by New Mood Design, supplied by Telluride Stone Company

Elevator door: American white eastern birch with stainless steel inlays, designed by New Mood Design

Backsplash: Tempo random glass mosaic in Slate and Glossy solid colors from Waterworks

Kitchen sink: Mystic undermount sink; prep shelf, large lower grid and strainer all in stainless steel by Elkay; Gourmet undermount sink by Elkay on island

Oven, cooktop, microwave: Viking from Builders Appliance Center

Ventilation: Zephyr Cheng Shade with remote blower

Refrigerators, freezer: Gaggenau

Fireplace: Lux 60 by Heat & Glo

Furniture: Skipping bar stools in Bronze Capri leather and brushed chrome by Bonaldo; dining table, Homme in Koa wood and bronze by Berman Rosetti, from John Brooks; Calin dining chairs in Sun Alcantara fabric by Ligne Roset; Malhoun sofa and loveseat in gray leather by Ligne Roset; coffee table by Porada; Portofino swivel chairs by Minotti

Lighting: Custom kitchen and dining lighting designed by New Mood Design, supplied by C Lighting

Story by Charles Moxham

Photography by Darren Edwards