



Gleaming butternut-wood cabinetry (a type of walnut) gives this polished kitchen natural beauty. Homeowner Laura Abramson-Pritchard says the cabinetry has a majestic, grounded appearance she describes as “mountain sophisticated bohemian.”

A rustic kitchen with extensive wood paneling on the walls and ceiling. The ceiling features a coffered design with recessed lighting. The kitchen includes wooden cabinets, a mosaic tile backsplash, and a wooden island with two modern chairs. The island has a dark countertop and a wooden base. The floor is made of wide-plank wood. The overall aesthetic is warm and rustic.

rustic elegance

SPECTACULAR MOUNTAIN
VIEWS PROMPT AN
OVERHAUL OF A
COLORADO KITCHEN.

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THIS PHOTO: Now centrally located, the range stands within steps of refrigerator drawers (to the left) and the primary sink across the aisle on the island.

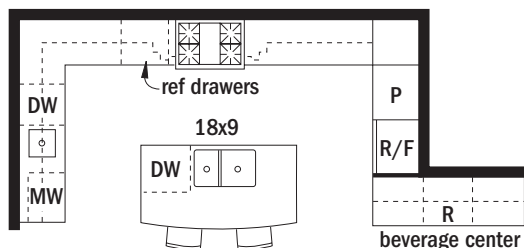
blah. Boring. Flat. Just about any adjective that applied to this vacation home's original kitchen seemed to be the exact opposite of the magnificent mountain views outside. As an interior designer and the founder of Camellia Interior Design, homeowner Laura Abramson-Pritchard knew she could do better. "That kitchen was a total dud," she says. "I wanted to marry the beauty of the outdoors with what could be beautiful indoors."

Laura's first nod to Mother Nature came in the form of ceiling-high butternut-wood cabinetry from Exquisite Kitchen Design in Denver. She counted on the look of natural wood to create a sophisticated natural environment—without the mounted antlers often found in rustic settings, she says. "There's a hand-sculpted finish that ties in with the mountain architecture," says Mikal Otten, Exquisite's owner.

Laura chose other earthy materials to support the warm wood tones. Honed quartz-surfacing countertops offer the look and durability of natural stone. On the backsplash is a mix of limestone and crushed-glass tiles in hues that remind Laura of earth and sky. "The glass tiles add sparkle," she says.

Other smart changes made the kitchen feel and work better for Laura, her husband, Keith, and their two teenagers. The original two-tier island was replaced with a single-level version to afford a better view of the mountains through the adjoining dining room's picture windows. And the cooktop,

ABOVE RIGHT: A prep sink adds convenience outside the main work core. Honed quartz-surfacing countertops offer a low-maintenance alternative to natural stone. **RIGHT:** Within steps of the island sink and the range, a refrigerator paired with freezer drawers creates an efficient work triangle.





I wanted the view into the kitchen to be as beautiful as the view looking out from it.

Laura Abramson-Pritchard
homeowner and designer

previously installed at an angle, was replaced with a range in a more central location. Paired with refrigerator drawers, the range is just a heel-turn away from the island's primary sink and within a few steps of the main refrigerator, freezer drawers, and a pantry—all on an adjacent wall.

As Laura likes to keep the work zones to herself when cooking, a bar hutch was added just outside the kitchen in a spot handy to both the dining table and living room. Multiple cabinets, open shelves, and drawers keep glasses, liquor, and linens accessible. A built-in refrigerator keeps white wines and other beverages chilled, while open racks store reds.

A new coffered ceiling adds warmth as well as a place to disguise recessed lighting. The butternut beams also make the high-ceiling kitchen seem more intimate. "It helps the space feel cozy," Laura says.

Hiding the kitchen's workings was a design goal, Otten says, to keep the focus on the wood's natural beauty. The main refrigerator and pantry hide behind cabinetry panels, while the two stainless-steel sinks melt into gray countertops.

The new kitchen is now warm and welcoming, making the family's mountain vacations more beautiful than ever. "Our house has these incredible views of the Gore Range and the beauty of nature," Laura says. "Now the kitchen matches the way you feel when looking out at the mountaintops." **KBI**

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ABOVE LEFT: Laura designed the focal-point tile mural above the range from a combination of limestone and crushed-glass tiles. "I wanted there to be a little wow factor when you came around the corner and entered the room," she says. **LEFT:** The second sink is flanked by a microwave drawer and an integrated dishwasher. **OPPOSITE:** A ceiling-high bar hutch near the dining area provides overflow storage for kitchen items as well as a small refrigerator and provisions for entertaining.





Takeaways

- 1** Cabinets stretch from floor to ceiling to maximize storage.
- 2** Limestone and glass tiles add subtle color to the backsplash.
- 3** A coffered ceiling introduces a strong architectural element.
- 4** Relocating the range made it possible to add a microwave oven and a second sink.
- 5** A bar hutch helps the kitchen transition into the living area.