



Bronze insets

Dishwasher drawer

Recycled brick

Steel window frames and lintels

Stainless steel countertop

Suspended copper hood

Antique drawer pulls

Cork floor

Antique stained glass

Perfect Blend A masterful mix of materials flavors a mountainside kitchen

Camelback Mountain rises just steps from the back door of Bill and Isabell Rousseau's home. Designed and built by their son, architect Clyde Rousseau, the brick residence was carved carefully into the rocky hillside.

"The house is slightly splayed to fit the site," the architect says. "It was positioned to frame the view and to take advantage of the landscape's existing contours."

The magnificence of the site is celebrated in the kitchen. Two corner windows with steel frames invite the view inside. "The steel frames and lintels were left natural, so they will continue to corrode over time," Rousseau says. Nestled into one corner nook is a

breakfast area with a custom mahogany table and built-in mahogany bench. From here, one can soak in the scenery outside, savor the beauty of the kitchen, and marvel at its mix of materials.

The same rich wood used for the breakfast nook appears on a high island countertop accented with thin marquetry detailing along its edge. This material is just one of five used for countertops in the space. Other surfaces include stainless steel, handmade tile (sage with a deep-bronze edge), honed granite and butcher block. Stainless steel also serves as a backsplash, and tiles also cover windowsills.

A variety of materials is used for cabinetry as well, including

knotty alder, wood painted in soft yellow, and mahogany with bronze insets. More metal appears on the custom hood designed by the architect.

"It's a steel skeleton with hammered-copper panels that were given a flame finish," Rousseau says. "Basically, they take a blow torch to it and it gives the copper an iridescence."

There is a mix here, too, of the old and the new. Antique hardware is used on all the yellow cabinetry, for example. The Chinese Art Deco chandelier and sconces in the breakfast area, as well as a stained-glass door inset were found at an antiques store. New high-end appliances include a dishwasher drawer for cleaning fine

china, a second dishwasher raised up off the floor for ease of use, a gas range with griddle, and a warming drawer.

Supporting this visual feast is a cork floor. "We were attracted to the texture of it," Rousseau says. "It's softer than tile and, since the kitchen is built over a crawl space, the floor gives a little and is easier on the feet. It recovers from dents, too. My mother seems happy with it."

"It was rewarding to work for my parents," Rousseau concludes. "And my mother has said that building this house was the best thing she's ever done." —TO

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