



Breakfast and birdsong

Natural finishes and numerous windows connect this kitchen to the outdoors – interior links are equally well considered

These pages: Limestone tiles and walnut finishes give this kitchen, by Gustavo Carlson, a natural ambience appropriate to its tree-lined canyon setting. Even the mahogany windows and doors have been given a rich walnut stain. The floors are in white oak to lighten the space and give the furniture-like cabinetry a floating look. Custom door panels of painted canvas bring color and texture to the kitchen.

Introducing a kitchen into a double-height space often requires an overview – literally.

This kitchen is by designer Gustavo Carlson. He says easy connections to surrounding interiors and the outdoor area, along with a lightness of spirit, were central to the design.

"A walk-in pantry avoided the need for upper cabinets on the perimeter, allowing an expanse of windows to take in

the hillside garden opposite.

"I specified walnut for the cabinetry and island countertop to respond to the green outlook and to give the kitchen a furniture-like appeal. This look is a key feature of the design, as the kitchen is on show to adjacent rooms and an open loft space directly above. The ceiling under the loft and the baseboards are also in walnut."

In terms of layout, the prep and cleanup sinks were oriented to the views, which in turn led to the placement of the tight, efficient work triangles.

"An Indian cupboard is a playful touch, and it framed in walnut to draw it into the design. Similarly, on the opposite wall, a nook for the coffee maker and the pantry entrance are fronted by two canvas-wrapped sliding panels. These





Above: The living room, known as the canyon room for its vertiginous outlooks, is open to the kitchen area. The low left ceiling gives way to a soaring 16ft volume directly over the kitchen. The choice of bar stools adds to the furniture-like aesthetic.

Above right: Concrete perimeter countertops balance the warm wood surfaces and provide durable work surfaces. Clerestory windows maximize light penetration and the connection to the hillside garden.

are painted blue and silver and are also framed in walnut.”

Lighting in a double-height space can prove problematic. Here, Carlson designed a light trough that runs above the island. This holds pendants for ambient lighting and task lights for when the owners are cooking.

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Architect: Gustave Carlson, Gustave Carlson Design (Berkeley, CA)
Interior designer: Carolyn Lawrence, Gustave Carlson Design
Kitchen designer: Gustave Carlson, Carolyn Lawrence
Cabinet company: Smallbone of Devices
Cabinetry: Walnut, matte finish, silver
Hardware: Smallbone of Devices
Countertops and backsplash: Batoig (Blue limestone, by J & A Stone & Tile)
Kitchen sink: Concrete, Cheng Design
Faucets: Pfister
Cooktop: La Cornue

Hood: Custom by Gustave Carlson
Microwave, refrigeration: Gaggenau
Dishwasher: Bosch
Flooring: Wide-plank oak
Walls: Batoig (Blue limestone tile)
Doors, windows, skylight: Mahogany with walnut stain by Lawson
Kitchen furniture: Stools by Christian Liaigre; custom oak table designed by Gustave Carlson and Carolyn Lawrence
Lighting: Holly Hunt, Michael McIlwain

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