



LEFT: The expansive kitchen has several elements reminiscent of an Italian villa, including the floating walnut shelves by the range, rustic-style stone wall, and distressed yellow cabinet lined with a cappuccino machine and mugs.



SELTZER PHOTOGRAPHY

# contemporary tuscan villa

RICH WALNUT CABINETS AND STONE  
WALLS CREATE EUROPEAN VERVE

## WISH LIST

- Open cabinets
- Built-in cabinetry made to look like furniture
- Mixed materials—old, reclaimed materials with ultra-modern additions

Instead of creating a kitchen that showcases just Mediterranean elements or strictly contemporary designs, Malgosia Migdal, ASID, CID of MM DESIGN ASSOCIATES was tapped to combine both styles for a new construction home in Bel Air, California.

"It's old Italian villa but more modern, cleaner," notes Migdal, who is based in Beverly Hills.

The stone accent wall behind the cooking area was modeled after the exposed stone walls often found in

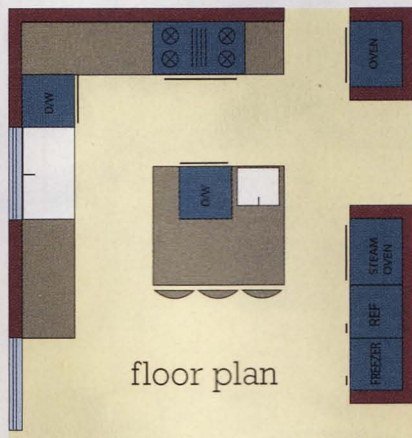
European homes. "It's like the remaining wall of a previous structure," explains Migdal.

Open shelving, including floating wood shelves, has a European look and keeps items accessible. "The homeowner is organized and particular," says Migdal. "It's like a commercial kitchen—everything is handy on the shelves. The plates and bowls are nearby."

The kitchen boasts a variety of distinctive materials. Rich American walnut cabinets with a natural finish and a handsome walnut island create a striking look. One side of the island features a walnut rift-cut butcher-block style, while the other features a zinc countertop with a textured natural finish. "The finish ages it a bit—makes it feel like it's been used," explains Migdal. The sinks and L-shaped counters by the cooking area are also made of zinc. The kitchen flooring—like the rest of the main floor—is a mixture of five different kinds of limestone from Belgium, creating more texture, color and shading.

Since the homeowner likes to cook and entertains often, the kitchen has many seating areas. "The idea is to have people congregate in the kitchen," notes Migdal. A cozy window seat and a bar area outside the kitchen add to the available seating at the island and long table and a nearby pantry offers another space for prep work.

The "Cappuccino Cabinet" is an 8-½-foot-tall, 6-foot-wide coffee station made of alder and has a custom-painted finish. The yellow cabinet was scraped and distressed to look like an old piece of furniture. —*Cynthia Ward Vesey*







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#### >>> SPECIAL FEATURES:

A stone wall made to look like exposed walls; Built-in walnut cabinets and a coffee station; Zinc countertops and sinks; Limestone flooring made from five different limestones

#### LOCATION:

Bel Air, CA

#### DIMENSIONS: 25'5" by 19'3"

#### PRODUCTS USED:

- Refrigerator/freezer: Sub-Zero
- Range and ovens: Wolf
- Hood and backsplash: CAC Fab
- Cappuccino machine; steam oven: Miele
- Dishwashers: Miele; Fisher & Paykel
- Sinks: CAC Fabrications
- Cabinets: D-Group / CAC Fab
- Flooring: Classic Tile & Mosaic
- Stone wall: Jacques Rocks  
by Ann Sacks

The built-in American walnut cabinets on the wall house a refrigerator, freezer, television and steam oven. The long, solid walnut table and bench seat several people when entertaining.