

**K+BB Design Awards**



# French Connection

An elegant kitchen channels Europe and the mountains

By Matthew Marin

Described as “a castle on the lake” by Ruth Cross, owner of Home Concepts, this home in North Lake Tahoe, CA, overlooks the rocky shoreline of the lake and is nestled in a cove of granite boulders. Drawing inspiration from a French chateau, as well as the area’s mountainous beauty, the kitchen was designed for an avid antique collector who collaborated with Cross. “He was so much a part of the design,” she said. “He had a vision in his mind of what he wanted, and I helped bring the project together. It was an ideal partnership.”

To visually tie the kitchen to the rest of the home, which is outfitted with antique cabinetry, Cross opted for furniture-quality, European-style kitchen cabinets that were custom-made from stained and glazed knotty alder and are adorned with heavy molding. Complementing the cabinetry, honed granite countertops in an earthy burgundy gently ease into a pewter edge with sculpted oakleaf copper inserts.

For convenience, the kitchen features two islands, one of which is used for entertaining. Boasting finishes that coordinate with a hutch that is visible

in the adjoining dining room, the unit is differentiated from the rest of the room with black distressed cabinetry, copper tile countertops and tin cabinet door inserts. “The overall kitchen is a vision of grandness,” Cross said. “It has a lot of intricate curves and angles like the rest of the house.”

The focal point of the space, of course, is a majestic hood and a backsplash that reflects the client’s love of ancient coats-of-arms and traditional fleur-de-lis insignia. The Medieval sensibility evoked is further enhanced by such details as pewter and copper tiles, dome liners, mosaics and clavos. Faucet and hardware finishes blend seamlessly with these elements, as well as the stamped tin ceiling, which extends over the space like a sort of crown.

That Cross’ design has resulted in a kitchen “that the client feels proud to share with friends and family” is not surprising. With its unique design and exceptional craftsmanship, it is a fitting complement to the home that Cross set out to create—one of high caliber, a castle “that shines above the other distinguished homes of Lake Tahoe.” ■



## SOURCES

**Interior designer:** Ruth Cross—Home Concepts, Truckee, CA; [www.homeconceptstruckee.com](http://www.homeconceptstruckee.com) **Manufacturers:** Cabinetry: Homestead Cabinetry; Refrigerator: Sub-Zero; Range: Thermador; Wine refrigerator: U-Line; Countertops: Home Concepts; Countertop tiles: Landmark Metalcoat; Faucets: Rohl; Farm sink: Home Concepts; Hood: Scagliola; Ceiling panels: Stamped Tin; Flooring: Home Concepts **Photography:** © Nicholas Rab Photography