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KITCHEN OF THE MONTH

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

With two cooks in the family, one island was split in half to give both husband and wife a work space

Kitchen by BERKLEY VALLONE *and* CAROLINE DeCESARE

Interview by
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Grohe's 31-041 pot filler will extend to reach the farthest burner on the 48" Wolf range. Hood, with accessory rails, by Viking. Kohler's Vinnata faucet in brushed nickel is paired with Franke's stainless-steel Manor House sink.

CHRISTINE PITTEL: This is a big space in a new house, yet the details suggest an old-fashioned kitchen. What look were you going for?

DESIGNER CAROLINE DeCESARE: You know that Diane Keaton, Jack Nicholson movie, *Something's Gotta Give*? The kitchen in that movie was our starting point—a clean white traditional kitchen with subway tiles and glass-fronted cabinets, updated with stainless-steel appliances. We even did the same kind of brackets under the upper cabinets.

DESIGNER BERKLEY VALLONE: The client wanted big, clean work surfaces. Originally, we did soapstone countertops like they had in the movie, but we replaced them with honed black granite after a year, because of the maintenance. Soapstone has to be oiled, and when you oil it, some areas absorb more and get darker. Others stay lighter. It's very inconsistent, and that bothers some people. Indian Premium black granite gives a similar look, with less maintenance. We sealed it with a color-enhancing sealer.

Why did you do two separate islands?

VALLONE: Originally there was only one, as the wife wanted. But it was so big that you couldn't even reach the center.

DeCESARE: You could have parked a car on it. So we redid it. Now husband and wife each have their own sink and their own work space. Both sinks are big, with garbage disposals, trash on one side and a dishwasher on the other. The days of those little round bar sinks on an island are over—they're too dysfunctional.

VALLONE: We did two dishwashers and two refrigerators, side by side, each with the refrigerator on top and freezer drawers below. There's also a beverage refrigerator, under the counter where the glasses are kept.

How come you didn't match the sinks and faucets on the islands?

DeCESARE: The husband is Italian and he wanted a stainless-steel single-compartment sink that could handle big pasta pots. We wanted the farmhouse look. He went online and found Franke's stainless-steel farmhouse sink. He's very particular about his space. Which is why they have separate sinks, because she might leave a stray sippy cup around.

VALLONE: The double islands work really well when you're having a party. The inner one becomes the prep area and the outer one becomes a buffet. People can circulate all around the food.

Is that the dining room, through the archway?

VALLONE: The breakfast room, and it gets used all the time. It has killer light, with French doors on either side and then that big window behind the table. The table is new but made to look old. Super-casual black wicker chairs, with an indoor/outdoor fabric on the seats, so they can take the covers off and wash them. Important, with four young children. And then a banquette in back, with a leather seat they can wipe down.


DeCESARE: With a banquette, it's essential to be able to slide in and out, and that's easier if it's covered in leather instead of fabric. The kids love the sliding, and you can fit a bunch of little bums back there.

VALLONE: With the two French doors to the barbecue and the pool, there's a lot of traffic here, and we wanted the table to be out of the way. With a banquette, you can push the table closer to the wall.

What's on the floor?

VALLONE: Seven-inch-wide walnut planks. A wider plank feels older, more casual. It's a little country, just like the coffered ceiling, which we made with drywall, stock moldings, and beadboard. Then the industrial light fixtures and the stainless-steel appliances add a modern edge. >>



A kitchen featuring two islands with dark countertops. The background island has a stainless steel range hood and a sink with a faucet. The foreground island has a sink and is surrounded by four black leather bar stools with brass studs. Two sets of pendant lights hang over the islands. The walls are white with a subway tile backsplash. There are windows with striped roman shades and various kitchen items on the counters.

Two cooks, two islands. Akira barstools from Royal Custom Designs are covered in Rustico leather from Cortina. On the front island, the Fairfax faucet and Undertone sink are both from Kohler. The Single Prismatic Standard hanging lights are from Urban Archaeology. OPPOSITE: A chandelier from Allan Knight & Associates hangs over the 9-foot-long breakfast table by Bausman & Co. Parlor Square armchairs by Palecek. Mitsubishi TV.





THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: A turned leg on each corner of the islands makes them look more like furniture. Franke's Manor House apron-front sink in stainless steel puts an industrial spin on the country look. The pillows on the banquette by the breakfast table are covered in Pondi, Patta, and Merpal fabrics by Malabar. The kitchen and breakfast room are painted in Pure White

SW 7005 by Sherwin-Williams (color chip, RIGHT). OPPOSITE: Honed Indian Premium black granite covers the countertops. The beadboard detail from the ceiling reappears inside the cabinets. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES



GET THE LOOK...
Custom cabinetry by Riverwoods Mill: 435-673-4145.
Bronze cabinet pulls by Rocky Mountain Hardware: 888-788-2013.
Subway tiles in semigloss from Dal-Tile: 800-449-3592.
Indian Premium black granite from Arizona Tile: 480-893-9393.
Vinnata faucet, Fairfax faucet, and Undertone extra large sink from Kohler: 800-456-4537.
Manor House sink by Franke: 800-626-5771.