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Wraparound views

Generous glazing ensures that 360° views of the nearby mountains are easily enjoyed from the kitchens and living areas of these two apartments

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Families and groups of friends that are on vacation are likely to be more casual, relaxed and easygoing in their attitudes than they are at home.

When Bill and Katrine Formby remodeled an older four-story office building in downtown Telluride, Colorado, they saw its potential as a vacation home. It had 360° outlooks of the local mountains, and was a short walk away from ski lifts. Views from the upper levels were spectacular, so office space on the second floor was converted into a one-bedroom condominium,

and the two top levels, one a hot tub in a shed, became a three-bedroom penthouse.

"We felt that when people are away on vacation, everyone wants to be together after the day's activities. The kitchen and living spaces need to be closely connected so people can communicate comfortably and easily," says Katrine Formby.

In both apartments, open-plan kitchens connect smoothly with living spaces.

"We chose curved islands between the kitchen, living and dining areas to soften the spaces, improve the connections and

Facing page: This two-level penthouse apartment is designed to be both practical and comfortable, with closely linked living, dining and kitchen spaces. The arch of the antique window in the dining area is replicated in the curved shape of the kitchen island.

Above: Curved metal strips that form a negative detail around the outside of the island are echoed in the shape of the range hood at the back of the kitchen. Lights concealed under the island illuminate the curves, and a slightly angled cabinet softens the back corner of the kitchen.

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Above: A curved island is also a focal point of the kitchen in the condominium, which features a smooth, curved copper range hood and an underlit copper band around the base of the island. Behind the drawn curtains, large windows look out towards the mountains.

Facing page: Backlit glass cabinets at the rear of the kitchen are curved to match the island and range hood. To improve connections between the kitchen and the living spaces, the bar stools are designed so they can be swiveled around to face the sofas.

add charm to the design," says Formby.

The shape of the island is echoed in the gentle curve on the front of the range hoods at the back of both kitchens, in the stone wall leading down to the bedrooms in the penthouse, and in the cabinetry on the back wall of the smaller apartment.

"We also felt that with a backdrop of such spectacular views, the interior colors needed to be understated, subtle and natural," Formby says.

The color palette in the penthouse includes shades of black, white, gray and

brown, while caramel and beige tones predominate in the apartment. Cherry-stained alder cabinetry is teamed with black granite countertops, and distressed walnut floorboards are a practical finish.

"We wanted the apartments to be warm, welcoming and easy to stay in. When you're on vacation, you don't want surroundings that are precious and easily damaged," Formby says.



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