



Alise O'Brien Photography

**Best Kitchen Award Winner**  
\$15,000

## Best Kitchen

### Chris Novak Berry

brooksBerry Kitchens & Baths, St. Louis, MO  
Co-Designer: Emily Castle

A circa 1820's salvaged cabin was reconstructed several years before on a ridge overlooking unspoiled views of the river valley and woods. Second owners took the addition of the ones before, and developed and expounded on it, resulting in an entirely redesigned and reconstructed home with only the cabin remaining intact.

A Y-shaped floor plan was developed by St. Louis Designer, Chris Berry, to minimize the massive addition's impact on the cabin, with the cabin at the foot of the Y and the kitchen at the intersection of the master and guest wings. Rather than matching the cabin, the new spaces complement it with natural materials of hefty scaling used throughout with a decidedly rustic modern feel.

Where the paired cabin rooms are enveloping, dark wood spaces; the kitchen is light filled and spacious with spectacular views that invite indoor-outdoor entertaining. ►►



Rendering by Waypoint Living Spaces









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The challenge of venting the French stove without it being visible from the dining room was beautifully solved by backing the range area with a stone partition wall.

Double-sided deep peninsula cabinets with dish drawers and a beverage center wall of shelves with cabinets above brought about a viable and well-incorporated solution for glassware and dish storage. To accommodate remote country living, a walk-in pantry and second refrigerator and freezer were added to the design.

To smoothly breach the transition between the stone floors of the whole house and the wood floors desired for the kitchen, a fragmented appearing remnant effect was created and furniture feet were added to show the transitional detail.

Special features of the design include the branches on custom leaded glass doors, mahogany cabinetry with mesquite cabinet center panel accents, Typhoon Green honed granite countertops, natural limestone flagstone flooring as well as fumed wide plank pine flooring.

Berry credits in part "a beautiful shell" also going on to say that architect, Laurent Torno, came out of retirement to help create the space. Berry helped to bring about a different "flavor" than the other homes he had worked on for these clients. "I see a new trend. Most of my clients are looking for large open informal spaces that are full of light, natural materials, and character. The mix of historic and modern is magnetic and speaks to most people!" ■