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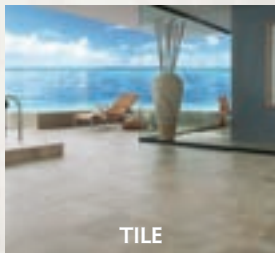
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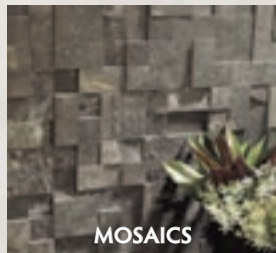
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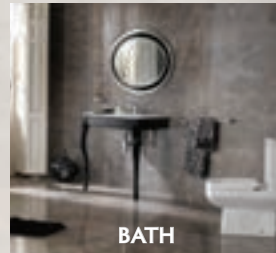
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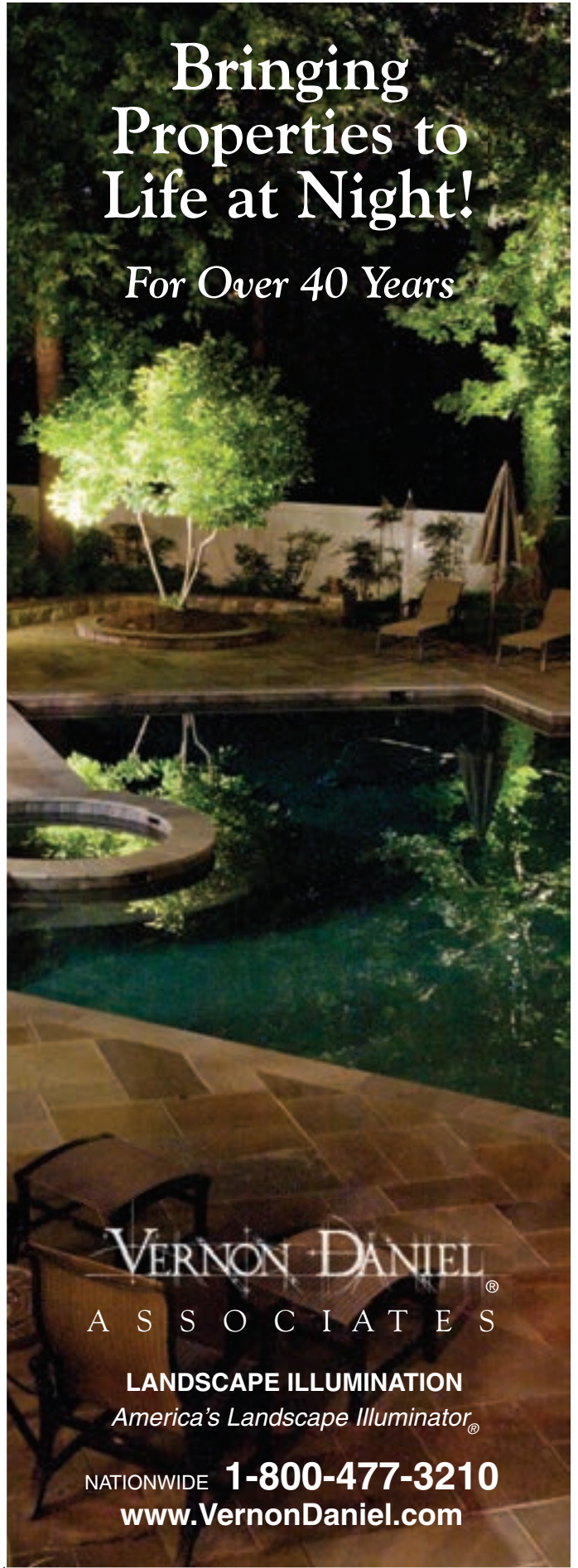
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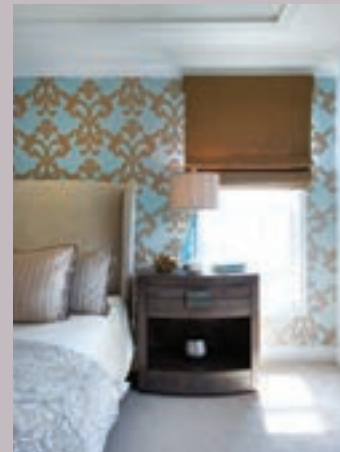
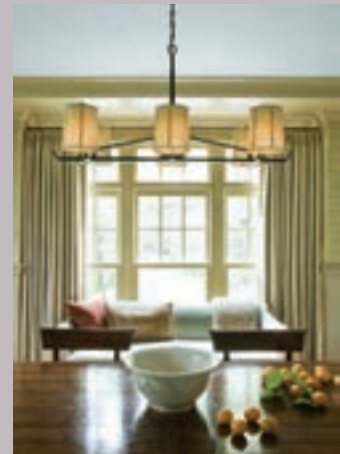
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# ROOMS we love!



FAVORITE  
**living room**





A Georgetown Victorian beckoned to a family of six. But its interiors were woefully outdated and impractical, so the owners called on interior designer Marika Meyer for an update that would make the house more functional for family living, with public spaces such as the living room conveying a sense of graciousness and sophistication for large-scale entertaining.

Separated from an adjoining parlor by pocket doors, the redesigned living room boasts such distinctive features as the original, marble-clad fireplace and a turret. Meyer enhanced the room's elegance with additional millwork, then installed built-in bookshelves. "The owners are big readers," she observes. "The bookshelves add a personal dimension and a casual vibe."

In its previous iteration, the living room had a convoluted furniture plan with too many tables and limited seating. Meyer incorporated a baby grand piano in the turret and repurposed a crystal chandelier from the dining room above it. Existing sofas and a glass-topped coffee table were re-oriented to create a more functional layout. An antique French commode and mirror and an occasional chair by Victoria Hagan, upholstered in vibrant blue, add interest. Niermann Weeks floor lamps anchor the sofas and a Tibetan rug layered over a thinly woven sisal creates texture.

A Restoration Hardware console is paired with a series of graphic prints from Natural Curiosities, while above the fireplace, an original painting by Wolf Kahn creates a focal point. Meyer eschewed window treatments in favor of the existing shutters. "This way," she says, "we kept the space open and airy."

---

INTERIOR DESIGN: Marika Meyer, Marika Meyer Interiors, LLC, Bethesda, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Angie Seckinger.

FAVORITE  
**dining room**







**W**hen redesigning a Bethesda home for a couple who love to entertain, Andrew Law envisioned an elegant dining room where guests could linger with comfortable seating, plenty of space and a warm, welcoming feel.

To achieve his goal, Law first created a connection between the dining room and nearby library that encourages guests to congregate in both. To do this, he commissioned the installation of millwork in the library that duplicates the existing wainscoting in the dining room. Made of quarter-sawn oak, the new millwork has a distinctive grain that decorative paint studio Billet Collins then matched with a faux-bois finish on the dining room's wainscoting and crown molding. Hand-blocked wallpaper by Rose Tarlow picks up what Law calls "putty with crimson accents" in the faux finish and "creates warmth and depth in the room."

The designer furnished the dining room with clean-lined, traditional pieces. A Bausman & Company dining table is paired with British Khaki dining chairs and reproduction Chippendale end chairs in Chinese red leather from Rose Tarlow. A sofa by Edward Ferrell + Lewis Mittman and a wing chair by Victoria Hagan allow "guests to finish dinner and linger," says Law. Twin iron consoles by Salvations Architectural Furnishings are topped with limestone; they complement the hand-stitched iron-and-vellum sconces and chandelier by Roman Thomas. Putty-colored silk-and-linen draperies warm the room and a pale blue-painted ceiling offsets its warmth. Architectural photographs above the consoles, taken on a trip to Prague by the homeowner, sound a more personal, contemporary note.

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INTERIOR DESIGN: Andrew Law, Andrew Law Interior Design, Washington, DC. PHOTOGRAPHY: Angie Seckinger.

FAVORITE  
**kitchen**





**H**omeowners in Avenel wished to update their 15-year-old house and contacted designer Kristin Peake for the job. To overhaul the builder-grade kitchen, Peake tapped Hedy Shashaani of Jack Rosen Custom Kitchens to design a fresh, transitional space that would reflect the home’s aesthetic while imparting new levels of quality and functionality.

The original layout was problematic, with one large, angular island that held the cooktop, downdraft hood and sink. The size and location of the island impeded traffic flow, and the walk-in pantry was awkwardly situated. “We created flow by breaking up the island into two,” Shashaani explains. “Now each island has its own purpose.” One is for food prep and the other—with seating for five and a wine cooler—is for entertaining; located by the breakfast area, it also serves as a buffet. The walk-in pantry was replaced with a wall of easy-access pantry cupboards.

Shashaani relocated the cooktop (a 36-inch Wolf Pro Series range) to the far wall. The new range is paired with a custom hood in contrasting finishes that measures over seven feet wide, creating an attractive focal point. “A lot of houses have downdraft ventilation, but it’s rarely sufficient,” Shashaani comments.

The peripheral cabinetry, by Elmwood, is painted in Warm Concrete with Oyster glaze, while the furniture-like islands are stained in Driftwood. Dishware is stored in a hutch with antiqued-mirror doors near the breakfast area. The countertops and backsplash are made of honed Calcutta Gold marble.

---

KITCHEN DESIGN: Hedy Shashaani, Jack Rosen Custom Kitchens, Rockville, Maryland. INTERIOR DESIGN: Kristin Peake, Kristin Peake Interiors, LLC, Rockville, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: Greg Lentz, Poolesville, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Stacy Zarin Goldberg.

FAVORITE  
**bedroom**





A couple with three young children and a correspondingly hectic lifestyle were looking to remodel their Alexandria home one room at a time. They hired Paola McDonald of Olamar Interiors for the job, which started with the master bedroom. “Ultimately, the bedroom felt like a priority because of their busy lives,” McDonald says. “They asked me to turn it into a retreat where they could rest and recharge.”

The wife also requested a “coastal” vibe for the space. “She wanted it to have a beachy feel, but without being beach-themed,” explains McDonald. “I used colors, textures and materials to evoke the experience of being at the beach.”

The large bedroom needed a focal point, so McDonald created an accent wall covered in large-format wallpaper from Thibaut, then placed the couple’s Restoration Hardware bedstead, with its imposing upholstered headboard, against it. The wallpaper, in shades of cool blue and earthy brown, conveys that coastal sensibility; custom linen Roman shades emphasize the brown while surrounding walls painted Benjamin Moore’s Constellation pick up the restful blue hue.

McDonald used the elaborate tray ceiling to add interest to the room. She painted the moldings and sloped surfaces crisp white, then covered the ceiling in sand-colored grasscloth from Thibaut. Both wallcoverings give off a metallic shimmer that imparts a layer of sophistication.

A rope-and-bronze chandelier, blue-glass bedside lamps and a bronze-framed floor mirror—all from Uttermost—complete the picture. Rustic night tables and a tufted bench are from Caracole.

---

INTERIOR DESIGN: Paola McDonald, IDS, Olamar Interiors, Haymarket, Virginia. PHOTOGRAPHY: Greg Tinius.

FAVORITE  
**bathroom**





After 16 years of living with a circa-1970s master bath in her Potomac, Maryland, home, Deborah Kalkstein—owner of Contemporaria in DC’s Cady’s Alley—was ready for a fresh, modern overhaul that would turn the dated room into an inviting, functional space.

The original bath was spacious at 12 by 18 feet; Kalkstein further opened it up by removing a wall separating the shower from the rest of the room and replacing it with a sleek, glass enclosure. “We also took out drop ceilings above the sinks to allow the mirrors to go all the way to the ceiling,” the designer explains.

Kalkstein’s material selections emphasized functionality and a spare, contemporary look. “I wanted everything to be easy to live with,” she says. Choices include gray-tinted, poured-concrete counters and custom vessel sinks made of crisp, white Corian with fixtures installed in the walls to keep the surfaces uncluttered. The custom, wrap-around vanity is dark-stained oak with plenty of carefully considered, customized storage; for example, a series of deep drawers holds toiletry bottles standing up.

Floors and walls are clad in porcelain tile, but the large-format floor tiles are smooth while the smaller wall tiles are textured. The shower surround is marble and the luxurious sunken tub is made of white Corian.

The lighting plan was important to the design. “We used warm LED lights with different switches for lighting different areas of the room,” Kalkstein says. Simple roll-up shades provide privacy while admitting natural light.

---

INTERIOR & BATH DESIGN: Deborah Kalkstein, Contemporaria, Washington, DC. CONTRACTOR: Patagonia Enterprises, LLC, Point of Rocks, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Stacy Zarin Goldberg.

FAVORITE  
**outdoor room**







**W**hen the owners of an Annapolis home on the South River tasked designer Michelle Miller with decorating their interiors, they also asked her to outfit their outdoor living spaces in casual, easygoing style. She set out to complement the beautiful landscaping already in place with clean-lined, comfortable furniture that would make entertaining a breeze.

“We created little environments out there, just like we’d do inside,” Miller explains. Her furniture plan encompassed three gathering areas on a long terrace located under the rear deck of the house, overlooking the pool and the river beyond. On one end, a large, modular sectional provides plenty of seating; plush cushions in Holly Hunt outdoor fabric combine comfort and practicality. In the center, a long dining table boasts a bench on one side to seat lots of kids. And on the far end, a pair of inviting lounge chairs with matching ottomans creates a perfectly tranquil spot for two.

Brown Jordan chaise longues around the pool invite sunbathers to linger. Custom pillows reflect the bright colors of perennials blooming on the grounds.

“My clients love the water and being outside,” Miller says. “When kids are in the pool, the adults can sit here and relax—they don’t have to be on the pool deck.”

Miller purposely kept the seating arrangements open so guests can view the landscape and easily navigate through the space without feeling trapped. “One of the things I try to avoid is overwhelming a space with too much furniture,” she says. “There’s a lot of beauty in simplicity.”

---

INTERIOR DESIGN: Michelle Miller, Michelle Miller Interiors, Baltimore, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Jamie Sentz.

# **in living** COLOR

*Three projects  
illustrate the  
vibrant art of  
designing with  
color*





“PLACING COLOR STRATEGICALLY THROUGHOUT THE ROOM MAKES THE SPACE INVITING AND A LITTLE UNEXPECTED.”—SUZANNE PRICE

Suzanne Price, CID, of Suzanne Price Interiors, LLC, was tapped to decorate a DC condo. Bowing to her clients' preference for Mid-Century style, she paired modern furniture with an antique rug in turquoise and orange. "Using a complementary color as an accent creates impact," Price says. "Bright orange was the perfect complement to the blue-green sofa and rug. The accents draw the eye around the room, creating rhythm and movement." Walls in Edgecomb Gray from Benjamin Moore provide a neutral backdrop and vibrant throw pillows on the sofa add both comfort and punch.

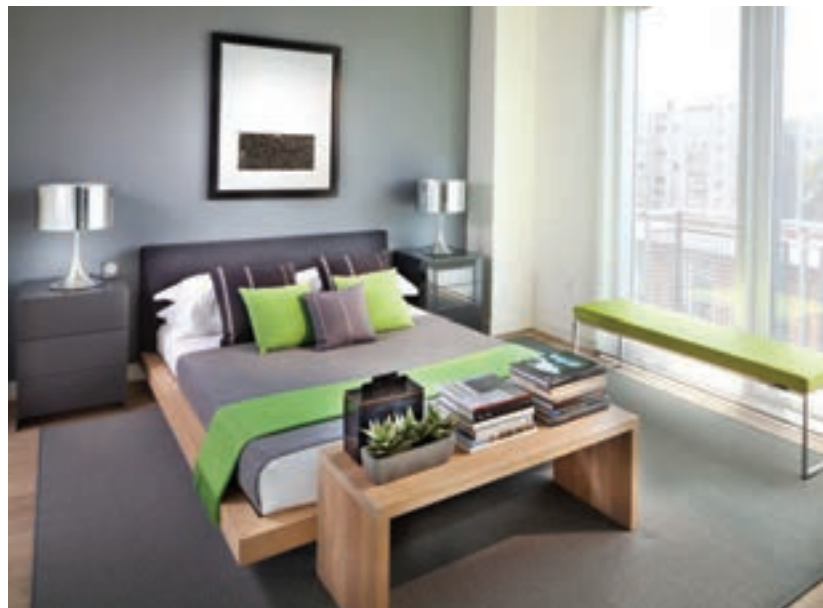
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“THE GREAT PART ABOUT COLOR IS THAT IT TAKES YOU VISUALLY AROUND A ROOM, GIVING THE EYE A PLACE TO FOCUS AS IT TRAVELS.” —DOUGLAS BURTON

In a light-filled DC condo, Douglas Burton of Apartment Zero used the client's existing green sofa "to tell the color story." Against a background of white oak floors and heather gray walls, Burton created a streamlined, modern abode with apple-green accents throughout. "Using color thoughtfully allows for visual connections to be made," Burton observes. "Pops of color create drama and give your eye room to breathe." Space was a constraint, so custom furniture was placed in functional vignettes; accessories and art create visual interest.

PHOTOS © MORGAN HOWARTH









“COLOR MAKES A STATEMENT IN A ROOM. I LOVE THE IMPACT IT HAS, THE WOW FACTOR.” —KELLEY PROXMIRE

Horizontally striped blue-and-white draperies in a silk blend from Dedar inspired the living room of a stately Georgian home decorated by Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design. “I wanted something classic yet dramatic,” she explains. “The contrast between colors really made them pop.” Against a backdrop of cream-colored walls and white upholstery, she introduced fresh green accents in the form of throw pillows, lampshades and accessories. A gold sunburst mirror and artwork from Hollis & Knight complete the look. PHOTOS © ANGIE SECKINGER

# designers' choice AWARDS



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## *Our annual survey of area designers and architects*

Each year, *Home & Design* polls hundreds of area professionals to discover their picks for the leaders in the innovative, ever-evolving home design industry—as well as their votes of confidence in those just making their mark. We also ask architects and designers to vote on their favorite industry resources, in categories ranging from audio/video and appliance showrooms to antiques dealers and art galleries. The following pages cover the complete survey results for 2015.



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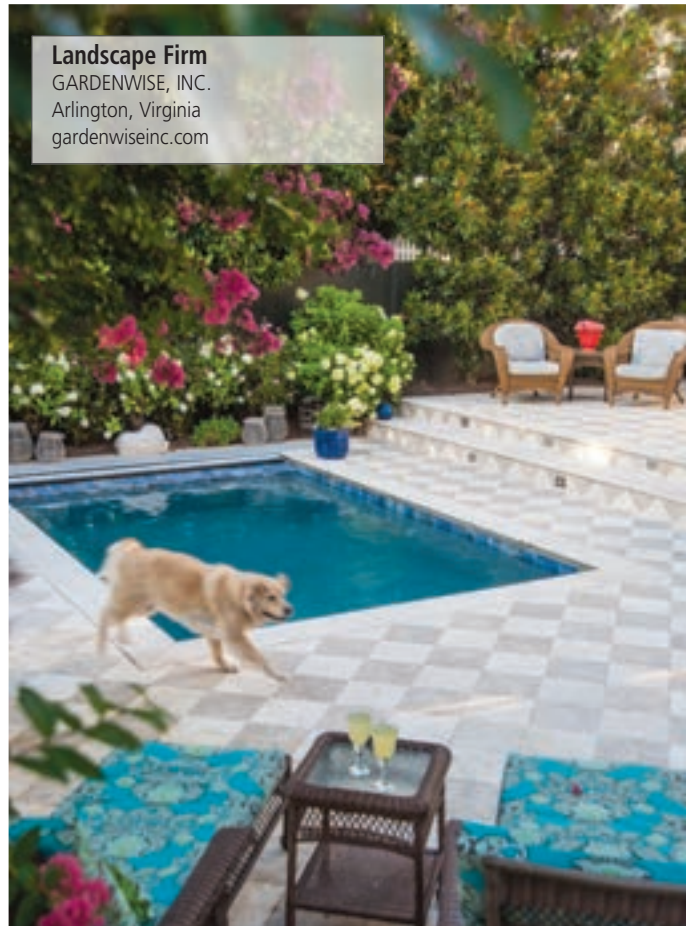


**Traditional Architect**

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Anne Decker Architects, Bethesda  
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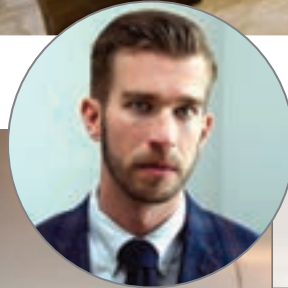
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**Up & Coming Designer**  
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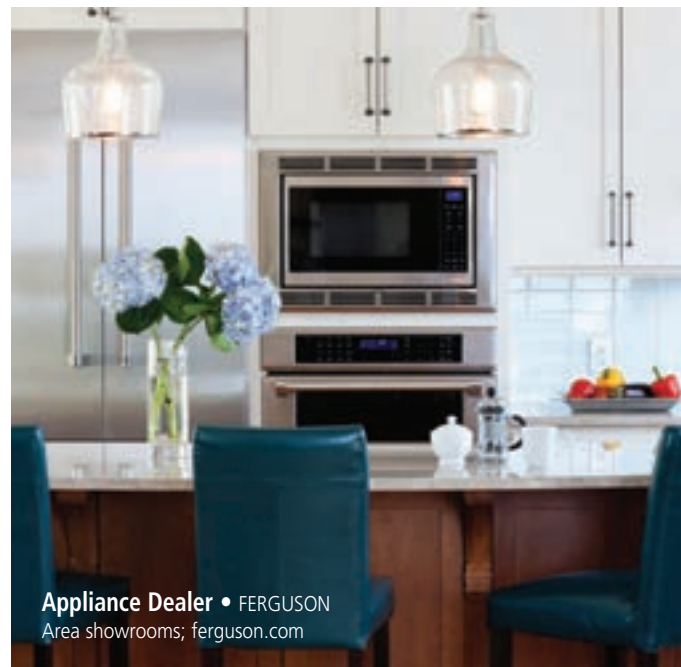
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- Surface Showroom:** Marblex
- Tile Dealer:** Italo Ceramica
- Wallcoverings Showroom:** Kravet



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Silver Spring, Maryland; salvationsaf.com



**Lighting Dealer** • DOMINION ELECTRIC  
Arlington, Virginia; dominionelectric.com



**Wallcoverings Showroom** • KRAVET  
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**Cady's Alley Showroom** • DONGHIA  
Cady's Alley, Washington, DC; donghia.com



# where to SHOP

*New openings and  
big moves on the  
home-furnishings  
front throughout  
the metro area*





The newly relocated Washington Design Center showrooms offer a dazzling array of home furnishings and textiles, from luscious fabrics at Romo (opposite) to (clockwise from below) Holly Hunt chairs, Fabricut textiles, an Edward Ferrell + Lewis Mittman table, Pindler & Pindler fabric and a mirror by Niermann Weeks.



### Washington Design Center

The fall of 2014 marks a new chapter for the Washington Design Center, which will soon celebrate the grand opening of its new location in the Franklin Court Building at 14th and L Streets, NW. The move brings the center to one of the District's most bustling corridors, with a wealth of restaurants, cafés and other design-centric purveyors nearby.

A total of 22 showrooms (listed on right) will occupy Franklin Court's second, third and fourth floors. While most will remain trade-only, consumers will be welcome to browse and design assistance will be available. At press time, most showrooms planned to be open by October 2014.

For more information, visit [designcenterdc.com](http://designcenterdc.com).

### WASHINGTON DESIGN CENTER

#### SHOWROOMS

#### SUITE

AMERICAN EYE	300
ARC-COM FABRICS	450
BEACON HILL	405
CENTURY FURNITURE	250
COWTAN & TOUT	310
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PINDLER & PINDLER	420
ROBERT ALLEN GROUP	410
ROMO	260
SCALAMANDRE	210
SCHUMACHER / PATTERSON FLYNN & MARTIN	340
STARK	430



The new Miele Center-Washington DC showcases the company's Combi-Steam Ovens and Speed Ovens (left), shown in Brilliant White. Carlisle Wide Plank Floors offers an array of finishes, including white oak (below). Farrow & Ball's Aranami wallpaper (bottom) is part of the company's new 2014 collection.



## NEW OPENINGS

**Appliance Distributors Unlimited** celebrates the grand opening of a new Gaithersburg location on October 9, 2014. ADU serves consumers and the trade with a wide range of kitchen appliances by more than 35 manufacturers including Bosch, Dacor, Fisher & Paykel, Gaggenau, KitchenAid, La Cornue, Thermador, Sub-Zero, Wolf, Viking and Zephyr. Shoppers can browse the latest lines from these top brands in 6,000 square feet of showroom space. 8501 Grovemont Circle, Gaithersburg, Maryland; 240-650-6000. adu.com

**Farrow & Ball**, the British paint and wallpaper manufacturer, has opened a new, 2,300-square-foot showroom in Friendship Heights. Though the company had a trade-only presence in the former Washington Design Center, this is its first stand-alone retail location in the DC area. Look for the full range of eco-friendly interior and exterior paints as well as its collection of uniquely crafted wallcoverings. Complimentary color consultations are available. 5221 Wisconsin Avenue, NW; 202-479-6780. us.farrow-ball.com

**Miele**, the German manufacturer of high-end appliances, will open its first dedicated showroom in the Washington area on October 13, 2014. Located in Fairfax Square 1, the 4,800-square-foot Miele Center-Washington DC will spotlight the company's lines of laundry systems; dishwashers; ovens and cooktops; ventilation hoods; refrigeration; wine storage and espresso/coffee systems; and vacuum cleaners. The Center will offer classes on the use of its products. 8065 Leesburg Pike, Suite 110, Vienna, Virginia; 800-843-7231. mieleusa.com

**Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams** debuted a 10,000-square-foot flagship showroom in Tysons II Galleria in June 2014. The new location encompasses lifestyle vignettes assembled by designers Gold and Williams that combine the company's eclectic furniture, accessories, area rugs, lighting and bed linens in myriad ways. The store even sells dog beds to coordinate with upholstered fabrics. 2001 International Drive, McLean, Virginia; 703-962-9310. mgbwhome.com

## ON THE MOVE

**Calligaris** has left Friendship Heights and will showcase its contemporary Italian furnishings in Georgetown's Cady's Alley. Projected opening: October 2014. 3328 M Street, NW; 202-244-5544. washingtondc.calligaris.us

**Carlisle Wide Plank Floors** has a new Georgetown location. The New Hampshire-based company claims to offer the longest, widest center-cut plank floors in the industry. 3251 Prospect Street, NW; 202-339-9799. wideplankflooring.com

**Donghia** has also moved to Cady's Alley. In addition to its own collections, the showroom features luxury brands including Armani Casa, Maya Romanoff wallcovering and Bergamo fabric. 3334 Cady's Alley, NW; 202-479-2724. donghia.com



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# ARCHITECTURE • CUSTOM BUILDING



# FORM + FUNCTION



BEFORE

A Bethesda family tapped Ali Honarkar of Division1 Architects to replace their dark, 1950s-era home with a prefab abode, as money was a concern. Honarkar instead created a new house on the same footprint that answered his clients' requirements without breaking the bank.

## THEN

The house was dilapidated, with vinyl siding and an impractical raised deck.

A problematic slope required steep stairs down from the deck to access the backyard. The owners couldn't easily get outdoors from the house.

A product of its era, the house was cramped and dark, with very little natural light.

## NOW

The new house is clad in warm-hued cedar siding accented by metal panels. The functional deck is at ground level.

The public spaces in the new house are on the lower level so the living areas open out to the yard. In the kitchen (right of frame), the counter extends outside to house a built-in grill.

Abundant windows admit natural light. Outside the two-story living room (left), structural louvers filter the light.

ARCHITECTURE: Ali R. Honarkar, AIA, Division1 Architects, Washington, DC. BUILDER: Renovations Unlimited, Inc., Washington, DC. PHOTOGRAPHY: Debi Fox.



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## RENEWABLE SPACE

*Jim Rill designs a LEED Gold-certified home in true Arts & Crafts style*

A developer living in the historic area of Kensington, Maryland, called on Rill Architects to design a green home on the lot beside hers. She wished it to reflect an historic precedent—specifically the Prairie-style architecture that harkened back to her native Chicago.

Principal Jim Rill's design met the challenge of creating a sustainable home full of Craftsman-style features that make it warm and inviting. The wrap-around porch "creates a flow that brings the outdoors in," says Rill. He added a Prairie-style fieldstone fireplace in the family room flanked by built-ins and installed stained-oak millwork throughout. Details include Craftsman-style windows and light fixtures by Hubbardton Forge.

The 3,100-square-foot home boasts geothermal heat and air conditioning; Icynene spray foam insulation that creates an airtight envelope in the walls, basement, ceiling and roof; and Structural Insulated Sheathing panels that add a layer of rigid foam insulation. HardiePlank fiber-cement siding clads the exterior, with a roof of architectural composite shingles.

Inside, Rill and his team sourced eco-friendly building materials. The millwork is made from replenishable, FSC-certified oak; the floors are reclaimed oak salvaged from a warehouse about to be demolished. Rill selected IceStone recycled-glass countertops, bamboo kitchen cabinets and renewable cork for the basement floors. Energy Star appliances, LED and fluorescent lighting and high-performance, low-E Jeld-Wen windows complete the picture. This custom home that marries sustainability and period style was sold soon after completion.

ARCHITECTURE: James F. Rill, AIA, Rill Architects, Bethesda, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: West Wing Builders, Inc., Warrenton, Virginia. PHOTOGRAPHY: James Ray Spahn.





## JIM RILL'S TRADE SECRETS

- When building a sustainable home, examine how the house is oriented on the lot. The way the wind and sun impact your home is very important—pay attention to roof overhangs and passive solar gain.
- Utilize indoor air-circulation techniques. Air in the house should not be recycled; there should be ways to take in fresh air throughout. In this home, emphasis was placed on indoor air quality with a highly efficient HVAC system, VOC-free finishes and surfaces and sealed, direct-vent gas fireplaces.
- Have fun with your project. Don't spend just to be green; be sure to choose your building materials because they're aesthetically pleasing and economically efficient. Being green should never preclude being beautiful.





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Bruce Bowers launched Bowers Design Build in 1990 after working as a project manager for some of Northern Virginia's biggest developers. Part of a family of builders, Bowers paid his way through the University of Maryland School of Architecture working as a carpenter and project manager.

He had been taught by his grandfather and father that "there was only one way of doing things: the right way," he says. "We call it The Bowers Way. It's a simple promise to deliver the best design solutions, the best construction quality and the best customer experience for the best value."

Armed with a strong sense of building integrity and the knowledge that there was a need for a quality-oriented, well-managed design/build company, Bowers and his wife, Wilma, started their firm to provide a no-surprises building experience. Today, Bowers Design Build offers a holistic

approach to design, customizing solutions that accentuate how each unique client lives and plays. The firm's team of architects and interior designers works with Northern Virginia's top carpenters and tradesmen to ensure a great client experience.

In order to understand how clients live and play, Bowers asks clients to complete a questionnaire that addresses all their needs and wants. "A home can be beautiful, but if it doesn't work for the homeowner, it is not a good design," Bowers observes. "We love hearing clients say 'I would never have thought of that, but it is perfect.'"



### LOOK AT OUR LATEST!

The kitchen is one of the most important rooms in any house. This client wanted a spacious, organized kitchen with convenient storage and a beverage center for entertaining. Every element conveys a sense of warmth and welcome. The master bathroom (opposite) is bright, fun and functional with a no-threshold shower, his-and-her vanities and an oversized custom tub. Brightly painted cabinetry and tiles lend the room a playful sensibility.

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9 TO  
NOTE

# SIMPLY SIDING

## EXTERIOR SURFACES



1



2



3



4



5



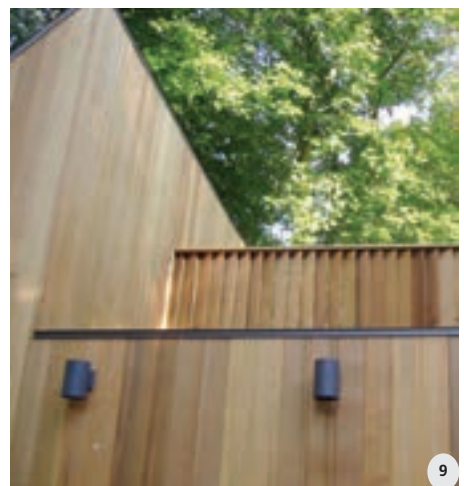
6



7



8



9

1/ Bucks County Dressed Fieldstone. Manufactured stone veneer; boralamerica.com 2/ Realstone, Nero Honed. Black granite; realstonesystems.com 3/ Eco Stucco Decolime Natural. Lime plaster; ecostucco.com 4/ Eco-Clad Burgundy with Smooth Matte Finish. Wood grain; kliptech.com 5/ HardiePlank Select Cedarmill. Fiber cement; jameshardie.com 6/ Euro Villa Stone in Timberlake. Manufactured veneer made with natural stone; coronadostone.com 7/ Mountain Ledgestone in Mist. Manufactured stone; trilitestone.com 8/ Corten Flat Sheets. Weathering steel sheets; corten.com 9/ Clear Cedar Siding. Western red cedar; buffalo-lumber.com



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A Craftsman-style home by  
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## FROM FORMAL TO FUNCTIONAL

*How have trends and amenities in custom homes evolved over the last 10 years? What features are you seeing most often today?*

### **JAMES MCDONALD**

*James McDonald Associate  
Architects*

The trend towards the kitchen being at the center of the home is one of the most significant. Clients are looking for bright spaces with lots of light and glass that open to the family room; the spaces are separate but interconnected. And, depending on the formality of the client, the living room is less important; we are even eliminating them entirely in some medium-sized homes.

The family entry/mudroom is critical. It's become an official entry to the house—we think of it as the family foyer—and clients want it to look good with nice built-ins, benches, closets and durable materials in upgraded finishes.

The other big trend is

loggias—covered indoor/outdoor, three-season spaces with fireplace, grill and kitchenette. They are often made of stone and screened in. Clients are frequently requesting loggias instead of decks.

### **WILLIAM R. SUTTON**

*Sutton Yantis Associates  
Architects*

There has been a fundamental change in what people want in their custom homes. Grand staircases and vaulted, multi-story rooms were common, but designs today are more subdued and sophisticated, with greater attention to function. The challenge is to create something unique in a smaller space. For instance, in single-story spaces we're designing more coffered and beamed ceilings to add interest.

People want formal foyers but don't want to see the stairwell as a centerpiece when they walk in. They want to pass to a stair hall with an elegantly constructed staircase.

This formality contrasts with the combined kitchen, family room and family eating areas. In the kitchen, the big, empty island surface now incorporates a sink and dishwasher so that the person at the sink faces out towards the family room area. Sociability is very important.

### **CHARLES STRUSE**

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We have seen a much higher focus on energy efficiency, both in systems and materials. For example, traditional batt insulation packages have largely been replaced by

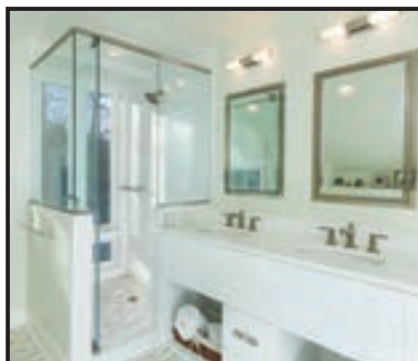
spray-foam insulation. And we've gone from standard HVAC systems to high SEER-rated and geothermal systems.

Another change we've seen is a trend towards en-suite baths for every bedroom. That's been the case with every house we've built over the last two years. We're also noticing that homeowners are investing in home-automation systems that include thermostats, alarm systems, door locks and lighting, all controlled by remote devices.

In a more general way, the level of information and overall education of homeowners is much different than it was. Through the Internet, on websites like Houzz, people find details and finishes they like and facilitate the design selection process on their own.

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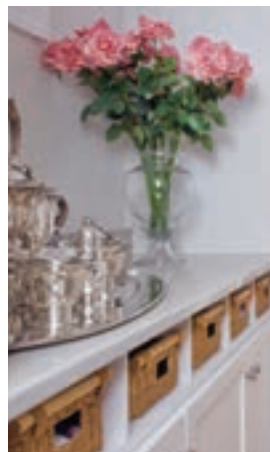


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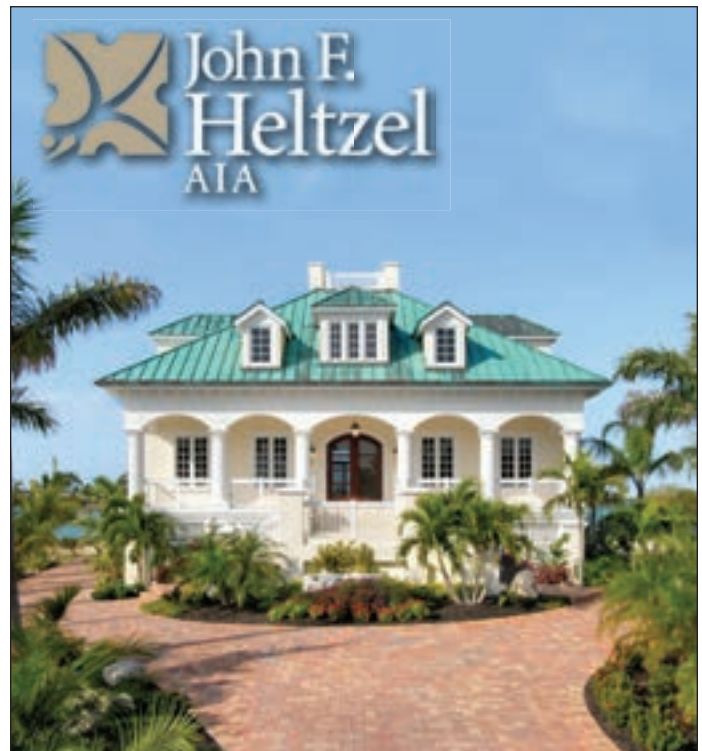
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The image shows the cover of Coastal Design magazine. It features a large, multi-story brick house with a blue roof and white trim, set against a backdrop of a beach and ocean. The magazine title 'COASTAL DESIGN' is prominently displayed at the top. At the bottom, there is a logo for NAHB and text indicating it is a 'Best in American Living Awards Gold Award Winner'.

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# AUDIO/VIDEO • LIGHTING



# SURROUND SOUND



BEFORE

Clients with severe time constraints were looking to upgrade their home-technology system while also fitting out a new media room in their basement. They called on Encore Custom Audio Video to incorporate new, cutting-edge technology throughout their home.

## THEN

Limited lighting and basic HVAC controls were split and didn't work together. The system was convoluted, with manual switches and redundant functions. Wireless access was difficult to navigate.

In the home theater, the sound system was inadequate for the owners' needs.

The bland, bare-bones home theater was open to the rest of the basement, with a necessary but unattractive bulkhead obstructing the space.

## NOW

Encore centralized control distribution, introducing new A/V and HVAC zones and integrating zones of audio, video and lighting. Controls are now user-friendly.

Acoustical treatments clad each wall. Custom sub-woofers are under the screen, behind which speakers create theater-quality sound.

The home theater is a separate room. It has a second bulkhead for symmetry. A coffered ceiling holds recessed light boxes and the screen is recessed for a cleaner look. New furniture invites viewers to relax.

THEATER DESIGN & CONTRACTING: Ian Williams, Encore Custom Audio Video, LLC, Chantilly, Virginia. INTERIOR DESIGN: Nicolette Bozsik, Allied ASID, Nicolette Interiors, LLC, Alexandria, Virginia. PHOTOGRAPHY: Gwin Hunt.



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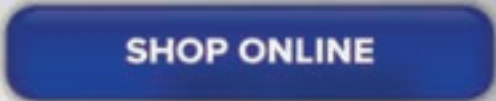
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CASE  
STUDY

## LOUNGE ACT

*Vicky Lal takes inspiration from a resort vacation in designing a chic lower-level entertainment center*

A vacation in St. Tropez inspired Vicky Lal's fun and glitzy basement entertainment center. "We went to a lounge and I fell in love with the look," she recalls. So she came home and embarked on an elaborate project to renovate the lower level of her Potomac house.

With the help of architect Nate Penati, Lal conceived a series of spaces that would include a home theater, bar, dance floor, wine cellar and billiards area. "We wanted a place to hang out and entertain family and friends," Lal says. "I talked to my kids and husband about what they wanted and we started from there."

In the home theater, a 7.2 surround-sound system with a 120-inch projection screen is backlit by LED lights. Gaming systems are embedded under the screen, and club-grade, in-ceiling speakers are faux-painted to blend with the ceiling. The audio and lighting systems are controlled with a hand-held remote as well as an iPad mini that hangs on one wall.

The semi-circular bar is fully stocked; it pairs glass tile and quartz countertops for a sleek, contemporary look. A wine cellar includes a comfortable tasting area. Custom banquettes scattered about the basement provide extra seating and stools at the bar beckon. A plush carpet unifies the space. Illuminating the bar, home theater and dance floor are neon lights that can be changed out, with "a rainbow of colors to choose from," Lal says.

RENOVATION ARCHITECTURE: Nate Penati, AIA, LEED AP, Studio 76 LLC, Oakton, Virginia. INTERIOR DESIGN: Vicky Lal, Vicky Lal Design LLC, Potomac, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: Edgar Gonzales Remodels LLC, Frederick, Maryland. AUDIO/VIDEO SYSTEM: National Technology Integrators, Rockville, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Lydia Cutter.





VICKY LAL'S

## TRADE SECRETS

- When undertaking a substantial basement renovation, hiring an architect and interior designer will yield the best results.
- Careful space planning is crucial to make the most of your renovation.
- Have something you're inspired by to help bring a mood to the space. In my basement, the carpet was a crucial design element; fun yet sophisticated, it set the tone for the design. We also added to the mood with controllable colored lights embedded within and around the ceiling.
- When choosing a projector for a home theater, go with something that comes from a reputable source.
- If possible, install an audio and light system that is controllable through a hand-held remote—the ultimate in convenience and luxury.



TONY FERRANTE AND WALTER TILFORD

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Custom home automation is a luxury and our clients deserve the best. We are dedicated to providing exceptional service and custom solutions that answer each client's vision.

A vision of being the "best of the best" inspired Tony Ferrante and Walter Tilford to launch Electronic Home Environments in the spring of 2013. With more than 25 years in the custom A/V industry, the partners' mission is to build trusting client relationships that will make EHE the partner

of choice and a valued educator on how home automation works. "We want to keep clients happy with the highest level of service we can provide," says Ferrante.

EHE works directly with the architect, builder and/or homeowner to ensure that all home-automation designs and ideas are implemented properly from day one. "There are products and designs to fit any style imaginable," says Tilford. "Once we identify what the client wants, we can share our ideas and designs in order to create a custom solution for them. We make sure what we deliver is up to the client's expectations."

Prior to starting their own company, both Ferrante and Tilford were frequently asked to "fix" the work of other A/V companies. "We realized what a different approach we had," observes Ferrante. "Our motto is, 'Just because you can, doesn't mean you should.' We know how to make the client's vision a reality while keeping budget in mind."

EHE offers in-house system programming that enables the company to service home-automation systems 24/7. "No matter what the client wants," Ferrante says, "we can create an environment that will fit their way of life."



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9 TO  
NOTE

# LIGHTEN UP

## OUTDOOR SCONCES



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

1/ Level Wall Mount. Die-cast aluminum; \$330 to \$520; [csllighting.com](http://csllighting.com) 2/ Moon Dance 18. Etched, hand-blown glass; \$750 to \$990; [lbellighting.com](http://lbellighting.com) 3/ Halvdal Sconce. By Kevin Reilly; metal with bronze finish; \$3,300; [hollyhunt.com](http://hollyhunt.com) 4/ Ginza. Aluminum; \$524; [troy-lighting.com](http://troy-lighting.com) 5/ Zenith EE 1-Light Wall Mount. Maxim Lighting; aluminum in bronze finish; \$80; [annapolislighting.com](http://annapolislighting.com) 6/ Atlantis 1640SW-LED. Aluminum and etched glass; \$440; [hinkleylighting.com](http://hinkleylighting.com) 7/ Vortex Indoor/Outdoor LED Wall Sconce. Glass, etched opal and aluminum; price by request; [modernforms.com](http://modernforms.com) 8/ Kani. Iron, steel and glass; price by request; [eglo.com](http://eglo.com) 9/ Zephyr. Muted bronze; from \$270; [quoizel.com](http://quoizel.com)





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In a media room by A.B.E. Networks, components are hidden while TV, music, lighting and HVAC are controlled via a downloadable app.

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## A STREAMLINED SOLUTION

*What are some guidelines to follow when installing a whole-house technology system, and how do you ensure its lighting plan will meet the clients' needs?*

### RONNA COHEN

#### *Annapolis Lighting*

Lighting is an integral part of any whole-house technology system. When deciding what you want, ask yourself what spaces you want to control. Then look at how you are using each space. For example, in the dining room you may want intimate lighting for dining and full light for clean up. In the kitchen, you may put task lighting on one circuit, pendants on another and under-cabinet lighting on a third. CFLs are now less popular than LEDs. They are not easy to dim and LEDs are; the color they emit is not warm, while LEDs offer more temperature options; and LEDs are longer lived.

Simple, inexpensive control systems like Caséta Wireless

by Lutron can replace all the switches in a house with one hand-held remote using radio-frequency technology. They can also be controlled with a cell phone or iPad.

### TONY FERRANTE

#### *Electronic Home Environments*

Every home is different and every family uses their technology a little differently, so the solution is always a custom one. We interview clients extensively to make sure we are on the same page.

We also work with the client's vision while staying within budget. For example, refrigerators can live on your network now—but do you really need that? We can put four pairs of speakers in a dining room that only gets

used three times a year—but wouldn't it be better to use the budget on a more reliable network switch or remote control?

Installing quality components costs more, but is well worth it. Be upfront with your AV contractor from the start, clearly explaining what you are looking for and what you love about technology. The more we know, the better we can deliver a custom solution.

### AVI BENAIM

#### *A.B.E. Networks*

Homeowners should follow several important guidelines when installing a home-automation system. First, the system's manufacturer should have at least 10 years' experience in the business; we carry

Crestron and Control4 products, both of which go back that far. Second, the integrator who is installing the system should also be doing the programming in-house. You want someone who can install, program and maintain your system, which over time will require reprogramming and software updates; the company you choose should offer a service contract. And third, make sure your system has a simple app you can download that will allow you to control it from a hand-held device.

Homeowners can work with program-sensitive systems that need to be installed and maintained, or they can buy a device, download an app for it and do it themselves. We offer both solutions.



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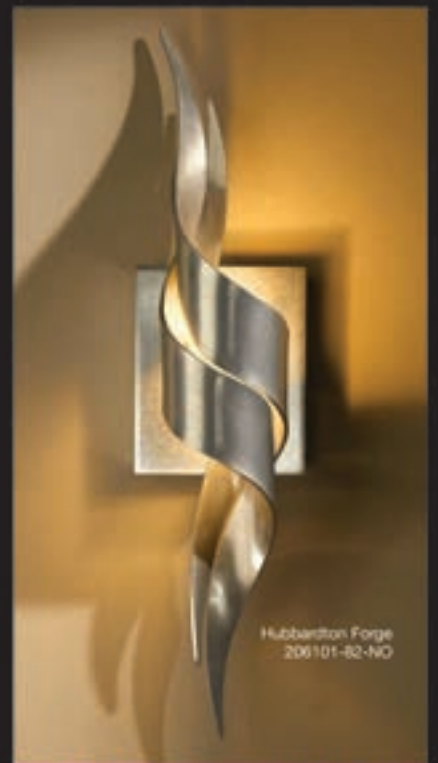


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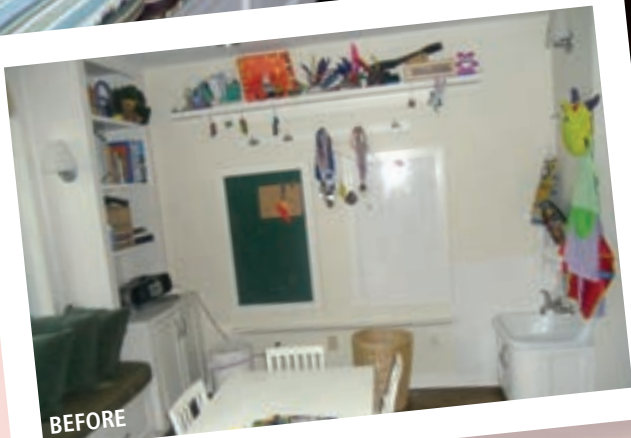
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# PLAY SPACE



BEFORE

A single father of three contacted Kristin Peake for a whole-house redesign, which included the overhaul of a large, multi-purpose room. Peake created a playful yet functional space that reflects the needs and personal styles of the kids as well as their dad.

## THEN

Located off the side entry to the house, the room presented a messy, disorganized first view to visitors.

The large space had no definition or purpose.

The father wanted a space where he could play pool with friends—but the existing room was not polished enough for entertaining.

## NOW

Peake installed built-ins to eliminate clutter, creating a streamlined, attractive first impression.

The room is divided into zones representing each child's interests: One reflects the younger son's fascination with Legos (pictured); a second offers comfortable space for gaming; and a third is a crafts area.

A combination pool/ping-pong table centers the room, which has a vibe that appeals to both kids and adults. A kitchenette lining one wall caters to guests.

INTERIOR DESIGN: Kristin Peake, Kristin Peake Interiors, Rockville, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Stacy Zarin Goldberg.



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CASE  
STUDY

## CUSTOM CREATION

*Vincent Sagart blends style and convenience in a chic closet design*

Interior architect Andreas Charalambous tapped Vincent Sagart of Poliform | Sagart Studio to create a practical yet luxurious dressing room with a clean-lined, modern look that would complement a client's new custom home in Arlington. Sagart put a premium on functionality in the nine-and-a-half-by-20-foot space in an effort "to simplify the clients' everyday life," he explains.

The area delineated for the closet was already configured when Sagart arrived on the scene. "We didn't change any of the architectural parameters," he comments. "We customized the space through the products we chose for it."

Sagart selected a closet system of textured walnut laminate with leather handles. Though the room is narrow, he was able to install 24-inch-deep cabinets—wider than those commonly found in closets—that fully protect hanging garments. He allotted two-thirds of the room to the wife, who wished to keep accessories, handbags and shoes in the same place.

"She had some very detailed ideas of what she wanted," he recalls. For example, a pull-out hamper accommodates two laundry bags, and dividers for scarves and jewelry make organizing easy. A full-height mirrored door conceals storage for formal gowns and tuxedos. Sagart incorporated two convenient Silestone surfaces with outlets for chargers and space for emptying pockets or folding clothes. Flat metal hooks above the shelves hang clothing ensembles and recessed LED lights illuminate each shelf.

Moooi pendants supply a definite "wow" factor to the space.

## CLOSET DESIGN &amp; FABRICATION:

Vincent Sagart, Poliform | Sagart Studio, Washington, DC. CONTRACTOR: Miller/Custom Builders, Bethesda, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: PoliformDC.com.

VINCENT SAGART'S  
TRADE SECRETS

- When embarking on a closet design, decide what is important to you. Build your closet around your habits and lifestyle, rather than adapting your habits to your closet design.
- Approach the design holistically, with a vision for the space as a whole and how its parts will fit together.
- If the space is narrow as this one was, sacrifice extra storage for maneuverability. If you can't move around, it will defeat the purpose.
- Lighting is very important. It has to be practical. But if possible, also include decorative lights like the Moooi chandeliers in this project that will make your heart jump when you walk in and will turn your dressing room into something special.
- Incorporate a flat surface into your design for personal items.





9 TO  
NOTE

## KITCHEN CARTS

STORAGE ON WHEELS



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

1/ Suzanne Kasler Directoire Bar Cart. Aluminum; \$469; ballarddesigns.com 2/ Belmont Kitchen Island. Rubberwood veneer and lacquer; \$499; crateandbarrel.com 3/ Butterfield (Serving Cart). Wood and stainless steel; \$2,697; vanguardfurniture.com 4/ Stone Top Kitchen Island. Natural stone and reclaimed pine; \$1,295; williams-sonoma.com 5/ Trolley. Stainless steel; price on request; poggenpohl.com 6/ Vintage Utility Bar Cart. Wood and iron; \$1,495; restorationhardware.com 7/ Luxembourg Bar Cart. Powder-coated aluminum; \$932; shophorne.com 8/ Design Workshop Wood Top Counter. Steel and oak; \$2,399; westelm.com 9/ Møller Trolley. Walnut with casters; \$1,725; dwr.com

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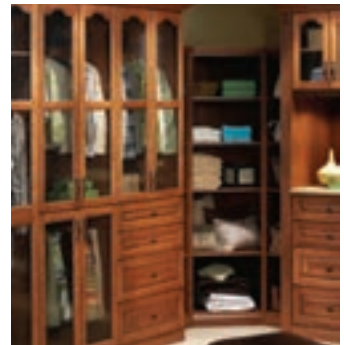
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# FINE FURNISHINGS • ART



# FAUX FLAIR



BEFORE

Camille Saum created an element of surprise in her 2011 DC Design House dining room by painting the floors; artist Ali Nassiri expertly executed her design. "It's another way of adding color to a space," says Saum. "And if it's done correctly, it lasts for a long time."

## THEN

The dull, dismal hardwood floor needed an update.

The dark, reddish stain on the floor clashed with the designer's playful green-and-yellow color scheme.

The large, worn and faded carpet collected dust and dirt.

The room's original floor lacked character and style.

## NOW

The painted, yellow-and-white checked pattern enlivens the room.

The bright new floor complements the palette Saum selected—particularly the bright yellow patent-leather seat cushions.

Keeping a dining room floor uncovered allows for easy cleaning and maintenance.

Saum's painted floor adds a playful, whimsical note that illustrates the designer's message: that while a dining room may be formal, it need not be taken too seriously.

INTERIOR DESIGN: Camille Saum, ASID, Camille Saum Interior Design, Bethesda, Maryland. DECORATIVE PAINTING: Ali Nassiri, Atelier Artists, Rockville, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Lydia Cutter.

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CASE  
STUDY

## SIMPLE + SERENE

*Urban Country's design team combines neutral hues and comfortable, stylish furniture in a restful retreat*

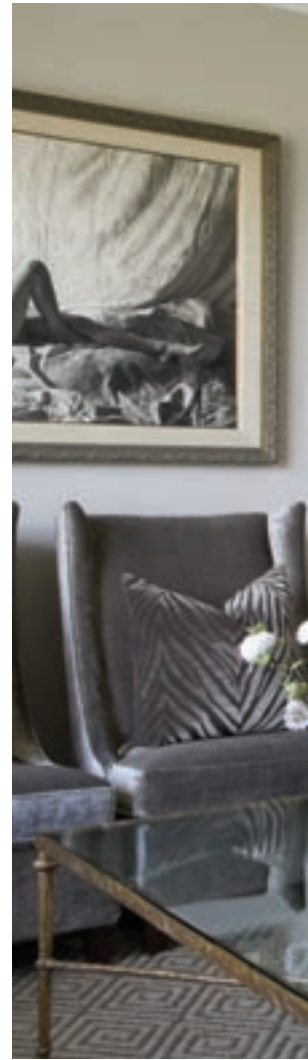
After downsizing to a 3,500-square-foot brownstone in the development of Symphony Park at Strathmore, a couple hired designer Linda Mann to decorate the interiors of their new four-bedroom, four-bath home. Mann—who frequently sources goods through Urban Country—worked with store owner Rachelle Roth and in-house designer Terri Johnson to select furnishings from the Bethesda showroom's collections and create a sophisticated refuge for their clients.

The couple, who had raised kids in a busy house for many years, wanted their new home to communicate a restful, calming vibe. “They’re empty nesters,” explains Roth. “They were ready for a change in lifestyle, with a soothing, more serene space to live in.”

Against a backdrop of neutral colors and soft textures, the design team chose transitional pieces that are both comfortable and elegant. A Steinway baby grand piano anchors one end of the open-plan living/dining room, which also houses sofas and armchairs by Lee Industries and an over-sized custom Bolier dining table paired with chairs by Lillian August. A modern bronze-and-glass coffee table “introduces a little bit of glam to the room,” says Roth.

The owners’ contemporary artwork—including large paintings in the dining area and behind the piano—creates visual interest by adding splashes of color in the monochromatic space. A series of architectural prints complements an antique, custom-framed mirror above a sideboard by CR Currin in the dining area, while a custom sisal carpet unifies the room.

INTERIOR DESIGN: Rachelle Roth, owner; Terri Johnson, visual director, Urban Country, Bethesda, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Angie Seckinger.





RACHELLE ROTH'S  
**TRADE SECRETS**

- Hire a professional to help. You'll need a floor plan for furniture placement and a pro will know how to do it right.
- Consider whether each piece makes sense in your space. How will you use the room? Will people be watching TV or is easy conversation important? For example, if a lot of people will be using the room, you'll need a big sofa. Plan your space for optimal use.
- The scale of the furniture is important. Don't go with too many little pieces. But don't depend on one oversized piece either—less is sometimes better, but it has to have the proper scale. Again, consulting a professional will make all the difference.
- Make sure your designer understands your taste and that he or she is really listening to you.

9 TO  
NOTE

# ANGLE OF REPOSE

BEAUTIFUL BEDS



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

1/ Serpentine Bed. Gold leaf and iron; \$16,520; [niermannweeks.com](http://niermannweeks.com) 2/ Lancaster Four Post Bed. Wood; price by request; [ef-lm.com](http://ef-lm.com)  
 3/ Logan Four-Post Bed. Oak and velvet; price by request; [davidiatesta.com](http://davidiatesta.com) 4/ Luxe Bed. Mahogany and upholstery; \$12,706; [bakerfurniture.com](http://bakerfurniture.com)  
 5/ Alerion Platform Bed. Mahogany finish; from \$1,399; [charlesprogers.com](http://charlesprogers.com) 6/ Eveil. By Philippe Bouix; removable headboard cover; price by request; [roche-bobois.com](http://roche-bobois.com) 7/ New Moon Bed. Upholstered leather; \$11,831 to \$13,441; [nellavetrina.com](http://nellavetrina.com) 8/ Matchbox Bed. Walnut, steel and leather; \$10,285 to \$12,900; [edwinblue.com](http://edwinblue.com) 9/ Station Bed. Steel and upholstery; \$1,199; [bludot.com](http://bludot.com)

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9 TO  
NOTE

# BLOWN AWAY

THE ART OF GLASS



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

1/ *Turquoise Overlay* by Dierk Van Keppel. Hand-blown; [artfulhome.com](http://artfulhome.com) 2/ *Here's Looking* by Elizabeth Guerry Mead. Film on glass; [transformglass.com](http://transformglass.com)  
 3/ *Sphere* by David Patchen. Hand-blown; [glassart.net](http://glassart.net) 4/ *Fall Garden* by Jackie Braitman. Glass, resin and steel; [zenithgallery.com](http://zenithgallery.com)  
 5/ *Nesting Vessel Intricate Orange* by Tim McFadden. Hand-blown; [renaissancefinearts.com](http://renaissancefinearts.com) 6/ *Untitled No. 490* by Rhoda Baer. Optical glass; [rhodabaerglass.com](http://rhodabaerglass.com) 7/ *Waiting for October* by Kari Minnick. Kiln-formed; [kariminnick.com](http://kariminnick.com) 8/ *Interfuse II Weave/Mix* by Robert Wiener. Kiln-formed; [dcartglass.com](http://dcartglass.com) 9/ *Thorn Bowl* by Andrew Madvin. Blown glass; [chasengalleries.com](http://chasengalleries.com)





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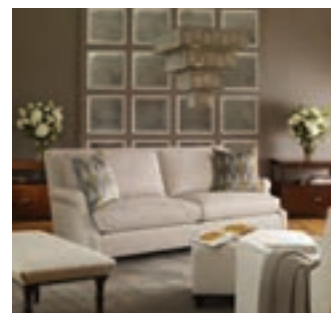


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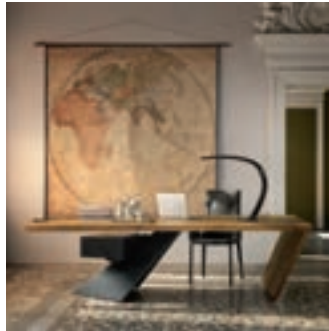
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The Volutes dining table with an updated finish from Roche Bobois.

## MIX AND MATCH

*Today's trends reflect a transitional look that combines vintage or antique furnishings with more contemporary pieces. How do you help customers blend styles successfully?*

### **JULIEN BIGAN**

*Roche Bobois*

I don't necessarily recommend blending styles because it is not easy to do it well. At Roche Bobois, we have two distinct collections—Les Contemporains and Nouveaux Classiques—and customers sometimes wish to blend pieces from both collections. Remember that you can modernize an antique but you can't make contemporary pieces look old. In order to reinvent classical pieces, like our line of Louis XV tables and chairs, we add updated finishes, fabrics and colors. For example, we will put a Missoni Home fabric on a Louis XV chair or add silver trim to our Volutes dining table. You don't want the styles to be similar enough

to look as if combining them could be a mistake. The most successful combination is to match really old styles with contemporary pieces, as the contrast looks intentional and can be what makes it appealing.

### **ROBERT WILHITE**

*Pompanoosuc Mills*

As transitional furnishings become more popular, we are often asked to blend new pieces with more traditional designs that a client may already own. Ideally, we'll have an on-site consultation to see what the client already has, but we can also work with photos (this step helps our designers understand the client's budget and comfort level).

We have several methods of bridging styles and creating

harmony between old and new. For instance, we can make custom stains that coordinate with most traditional collections and edge/corner treatments and leg profiles that will contemporize an Early American or Shaker-inspired piece. We prefer not to incorporate inlays, carvings or finishes that may quickly seem outdated, opting instead for subtlety and understatement—the enduring hallmarks of our designs. Above all, it's vital to understand the mood that the customer is trying to set.

### **FERNANDO RODRIGUES**

*IMI Furniture*

Combining different styles is challenging, so be sure to take the time to have a conversation with a professional about

how to do it right. It's very important to have the right resources—manufacturers who can customize a new piece to blend with an older piece or an antique. For example, you may find a piece you like but it's in the wrong finish for what you already have. Customizing the finish may give the piece a completely different look that will achieve the blend you're looking for. The current trend of painting furniture means you can pick out a paint color you like and take it to the manufacturer to duplicate.

Remember that if you are blending antique and modern styles, you don't need the pieces to match, you just need them to complement each other. Done correctly, blending styles can be beautiful.

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## ON THE SHELF



### DANISH DESIGN ICON

■ The Mid-Century designer Hans J. Wegner is known for his elegant yet ergonomically correct furniture creations—particularly his chairs. Such seminal pieces as his China Chair, Y Chair and Round Chair are still popular today. *Hans J. Wegner: Just One Good Chair* celebrates the designer's keen aesthetic as well as his masterful woodworking. Hatje Cantz, Ostfildern, Germany; September 2014; \$65.

### FURNITURE 101

■ Furniture expert Christophe Pourny, who learned his trade in his father's atelier in the South of France, guides readers through all aspects of furniture care in *The Furniture Bible*. Pourny explains how to restore, update and maintain furniture, from antiques to flea-market finds, and also discusses cleaning, polishing and more. Artisan Books, New York, New York; November 2014; \$35.

### ON THE CUTTING EDGE

■ A rising generation of innovators globally is creating furnishings and interior environments that bridge the gap between design and architecture. *Furniture: Furniture That Transforms Space* documents a wide range of "micro architecture" solutions—such as expandable kitchen cubes and dynamically dividing bookshelves—currently attracting attention from Chicago to Japan. Thames & Hudson, Inc.; New York, New York; March 2015; \$29.95.



JOHN SMITH

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After 15 years in finance, John Smith, founder and CEO of Willem Smith, was drawn to furniture-making as a career.

Recognizing opportunities for innovation from initial design through manufacturing and distribution, he launched the company in the DC Design Center in 2004 with the mission of cre-

ating a collection that would be distinguished in both aesthetics and functionality.

"For every new piece," Smith explains, "we set out to build a better mousetrap. We are decidedly *not* more of the same. Our objective is to design and manufacture a product that delivers a superior experience—look, scale, materials, execution and 'sit'—at a terrific value." You can see—and test—the collections in the company's Merrifield showroom near the Mosaic District.

While the company prides itself on a high level of customer satisfaction, one of Smith's greatest moments came when a designer pro-

posed one of his chairs for a high-end, 50-room resort renovation in the Rockies. "The property's owners disqualified us from the bid because they weren't familiar with our company," he recalls. "Undaunted, we built a chair to spec and sent it to them anyway. Not only did our comfort and workmanship win them over but, 18 months later, they ordered sofas and sleepers for each suite."

Winning new clients is rewarding, but Willem Smith thrives on return business. "No matter how wonderful our pieces may be," says Smith, "it's particularly gratifying that such a large part of our business is via referrals."



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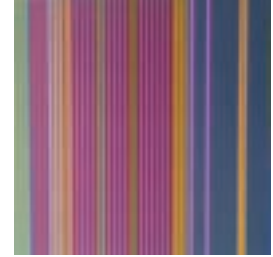
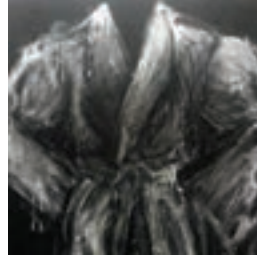
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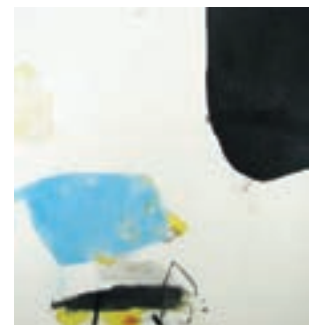


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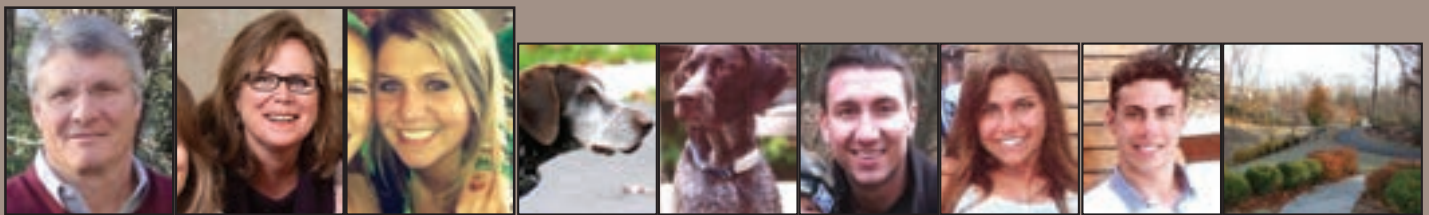
# A Different Kind of Family Portrait



"The Gretzinger Family"

4ft x 6ft

acrylic on canvas



Gary

Nancy

Nikole

Jasmine

Jake

Beau

Steph

James

Middleburg Farm

Nancy first saw David Cochran's portraits in a magazine and she loved how he captured not only the looks, but the personalities of his subjects. She called David for information and learned that he creates an acrylic painting of a family, working from the client's photographs (NO sittings!) and depicts them in a personalized background.

She also learned that a painting can be any size and can include as many or as few people as desired, even incorporating family members of former generations. The price and time frame seemed reasonable so she confirmed a commission. Nancy (CEO of Imagex, Inc) wanted this painting as a Christmas surprise for her husband, Gary. David assured her that this would be no problem. She wanted to include their daughter Nikole and her three cousins.

So last fall, Dave began. He found many visually interesting things in Nancy's life through her photographs. They own a 100 acre farm in Middleburg where race horses are trained, so the horses were included. The family adores their pets, so three dogs and a cat (both past and present) were also included. The background includes their gazebo fireplace with the farm on the left side and the family's favorite Caribbean vacation spot on the right.

This 4ft x 6ft painting was unveiled on Christmas, much to the surprise of the family. Gary described it as, "...the coolest present EVER!"

Giclée prints of this painting were given to various family members.

## The Perfect Anniversary Gift

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# MODERN TOUCH



Tasked with renovating his client's three-bedroom apartment in DC, Andreas Charalambous traded its outdated, 1970s look for a clean, contemporary aesthetic. In the master bedroom (pictured here), he combined an innovative closet-door design and a neutral color palette with accents of bold "sun-dried tomato" red.

## THEN

Low-quality, paneled closet doors had a bi-fold mechanism that made finding items cumbersome.

The closet wall was an eyesore.

The same builder-grade door in the bedroom entry lacked drama and scale.

## NOW

Charalambous removed drywall between the two closets and replaced the doors with panels of translucent 3form resin. The doors now slide open for easy access.

The new doors create a sexy design element. Lights in the closet glow, highlighting shards of shaved copper embedded in the resin panels.

The designer raised the door height to make the ceilings appear higher and installed a new custom, flat-panel door in its place.

INTERIOR DESIGN: Andreas Charalambous, AIA, IIDA, FORMA Design, Washington, DC. CONTRACTOR: Michael Apergis, MCA Remodeling, Potomac, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Geoffrey Hodgdon.

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# SOLAR GAIN

*Architect Reena Racki lets in the light in a Woodley Park addition*

The appeal of a gracious center-hall Colonial was diminished by a poorly constructed addition, so the owners called on Reena Racki to remedy the situation. She and her team remodeled the kitchen and replaced the existing addition with a new one that encompassed a family room and eating area, a mudroom leading to the garage and a powder room.

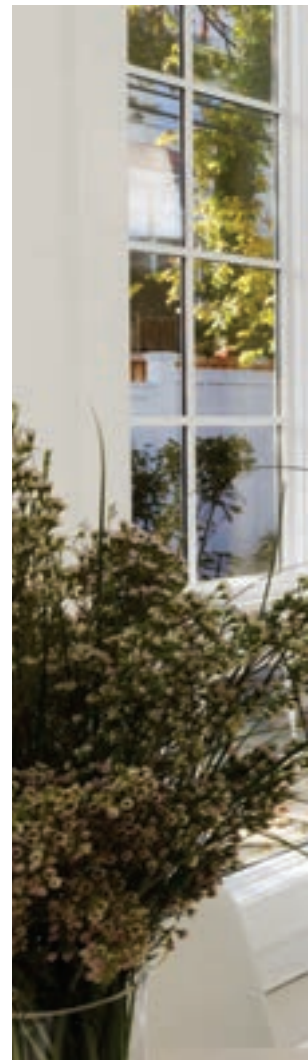
Since a front porch blocked sunlight from entering the interiors in the older part of the home, Racki wished to emphasize light and airiness in the south-facing addition. Nine-foot ceilings give way to an 11-and-a-half-foot ceiling in the addition, which is kept bright by white walls and floors in a pale, sand-hued porcelain tile, warmed in winter by radiant heat.

Seven-foot-tall casements open for cross ventilation, with transoms above and fixed window panels below. The windows are Jeld-Wen Custom Wood Clad low-E glass for low heat gain in summer and heat retention in winter. “We emphasize energy conservation in the context of climate control,” Racki explains.

A partial wall separates the mudroom and powder room from the rest of the family room; Racki added transoms at ceiling height to bring in more light. A large Velux skylight, positioned in the angled family-room ceiling, directs light through French doors into the otherwise-dark living room.

Racki worked around a 60-foot oak tree in the backyard that created obstacles to the new construction, in part because the tree provided passive sun control. A separate screened porch echoes the style of the addition.

RENOVATION ARCHITECTURE: Reena Racki, AIA, Reena Racki Associates, Washington, DC. CONTRACTOR: Acadia Contractors, Inc., Bethesda, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Alan Karchmer.





REENA RACKI'S  
**TRADE SECRETS**

■ Windows are a very important component of any project. It is worth investing time and budget on them, as they affect the use and economy of a space so much.

■ Never go with cheap windows. Economize on other things first; it's worth making trade-offs for quality windows, which influence heat gain and loss in the home.

■ When deciding which windows to buy, take comfort level and use of space into account. How cozy do you want it? How open? Remember that heated floors can balance the climate in a space that has lots of windows.

■ Window choices should not be made irrespective of other choices in the process. They should be synthesized with all aspects of the design. The process should be done holistically.



9 TO  
NOTE

# CIRCULAR CHIC

## ROUND RUGS



1



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3



4



5



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7



8



9

1/ Majesty Rug. New Zealand wool; \$270; [angelaadams.com](http://angelaadams.com) 2/ Adele Lake Rug. Wool and yarn; \$750; [companyc.com](http://companyc.com) 3/ Eternity Shyrdak. Felt, inspired by art of nomadic Kyrgyz; \$1,675 to \$1,695; [lavivahome.com](http://lavivahome.com) 4/ Ancient Treasures A-165. Semi-worsted New Zealand wool; \$1,599; [surya.com](http://surya.com) 5/ Chelsea Rug. Hand-hooked wool; \$89 to \$529; [ballarddesigns.com](http://ballarddesigns.com) 6/ Spiros. Trade only; price on request; [nibarugs.com](http://nibarugs.com) 7/ Rangoli. New Zealand wool; \$2,853; [dwr.com](http://dwr.com) 8/ Kimono Rug Round 7.9. Hand-tufted New Zealand wool; \$1,402; [shophomaspaul.com](http://shophomaspaul.com) 9/ Luna Rug by Oscar Tusquet. Hand-knotted New Zealand wool; \$2,580; [nanimarquina.com](http://nanimarquina.com)





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## ECO-FRIENDLY EFFORT

*What are the latest trends in sustainable design? Describe the challenges of working with green versus conventional materials.*

### DAVID BALDWIN

*American Cedar and Millwork*

There is a strong push for green building and sustainable design. Architects are looking at cradle-to-grave sustainability—how much energy, time and money it takes to create, distribute and dispose of products. We make choices once or twice a day based on green-building practices, looking at materials, performance and durability. Cost is not the main issue; it's longevity of products.

The latest trend is toward fiberglass surfaces, which meet a lot of energy codes, last a long time and are stable—meaning they don't change with environmental conditions. Composite materials—like silica sand or fly ash combined with resins—make popular building materials. There's a trend away from vinyl products, which use

petroleum and are less durable.

The cost to stay green can be a challenge. Wood is still one of the best products but as old-growth timber disappears it's increasingly hard to find affordable, good-quality wood.

### TRICIA KESLING

*Clark Hall Doors*

For our clients, sustainability not only means a responsible attitude towards the environment, but—on a personal level—it means durability at home. Clients are choosing custom wrought-iron doors because they last forever and require almost no maintenance. Wrought iron looks like wood but offers the resilience of metal.

Wood is still a popular choice but today's wood isn't like the wood that was used on homes 200 years ago. It

comes from young forests and is not as hard or durable. It is subject to the elements, splitting and warping or becoming dried out and brittle. When we do make wood doors, we source sustainably forested areas that are carefully controlled and managed.

In terms of style, we are seeing simpler, less ornate designs both on interior and entry doors. Doors with clean, elegant lines speak to quality and the look people are trying to achieve.

### GIGI PARR

*Bowers Design Build*

About 95 percent of our clients these days are thinking in terms of sustainability; people are looking at long-term returns and value.

In flooring, we are finding that in addition to

bamboo—which has long been popular—we're using reclaimed wood from old structures that are being torn down. We reuse wood that is 100 to 200 years old so it doesn't get wasted—clients love that it's aesthetically beautiful and has been salvaged.

Window technology has really advanced. The trend is towards open views in homes, so we're installing a lot of triple-pane glass, which maintains the home's envelope while emphasizing vistas and natural light.

We're seeing an increase in unusual materials in the entry doors we're installing, including salvaged wood and iron. Iron doors are very substantial and combining them with a double-paned glass window is more secure than a door made with wood and glass.



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Designers Welcome

# EDITORS' PICKS



## 1/ MEDITERRANEAN STYLE

Part of the Mediterranean Collection, Riviera Wood Grain Porcelain from Architectural Systems, Inc., boasts the earthy palette found along the coastline of that picturesque spot. Available in six-by-24-inch or eight-by-48-inch planks, the eco-friendly matte tiles are durable, made with low-emitting, recycled content. [archsystems.com](http://archsystems.com)

## 2/ WET + WILD

Porcelanosa's Parker Oxford Collection of floor tiles looks like wood but offers the durability and flexibility of porcelain, performing well with radiant heat and in high-traffic areas. Impervious to moisture and with an anti-slip finish, the collection is perfect for bathroom applications. Pictured here in Acero. [porcelanosa-usa.com](http://porcelanosa-usa.com)

## 3/ CONTEMPORARY COLOR

Launched at Salone del Mobile, the 2014 Missoni Home collection showcases rugs in the company's trademark bright, vivid colors, with patterns such as flowers, stripes, zigzags and geometric shapes. The collection also includes furniture, bedding, fabric and more. Missoni Home is now sold through Contemporaria in DC. [contemporaria.com](http://contemporaria.com)





3



4



5

#### 4/ OUTDOOR LIVING

Marca Corona's Externo porcelain stoneware is designed for outdoor use, with an organic, wood-grain look paired with the properties of porcelain: durability and resistance to moisture, mold and warping. A slip-resistant surface makes it perfect for gardens, terraces and pool surrounds. [marcacorona.it](http://marcacorona.it)

#### 5/ CUSTOM CREATION

A tribal motif inspired this contemporary rug from Doris Leslie Blau, which was designed by artist and rug historian John Kurtz. The charcoal-gray Tibetan wool background is overlaid by a silver-and-blue Chinese silk design. Handmade in Nepal, the Bali Blue rug comes in standard and custom sizes. Available at the new Doris Leslie Blau showroom in DC. [dorisleslieblau.com](http://dorisleslieblau.com)

# PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

◆ **American Cedar & Millwork**



For over 30 years, American Cedar & Millwork has been the best source for quality building supplies for our area's most discriminating buyers. As the preferred Marvin and Integrity window dealer in the region, they strive for excellence with each client that they serve.

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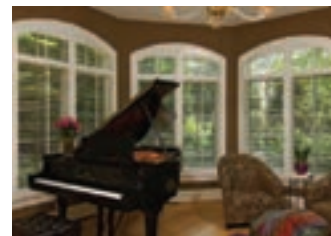
◆ **Loewen Window Center of Bethesda**



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◆ **Stark**



Stark, purveyors of the finest carpet, rugs, fabric, wallcovering and furniture, announces its new location at 1099 14th Street N.W., Suite 430. Discover the new Dorjee Collection of custom rugs hand-knotted in Nepal.

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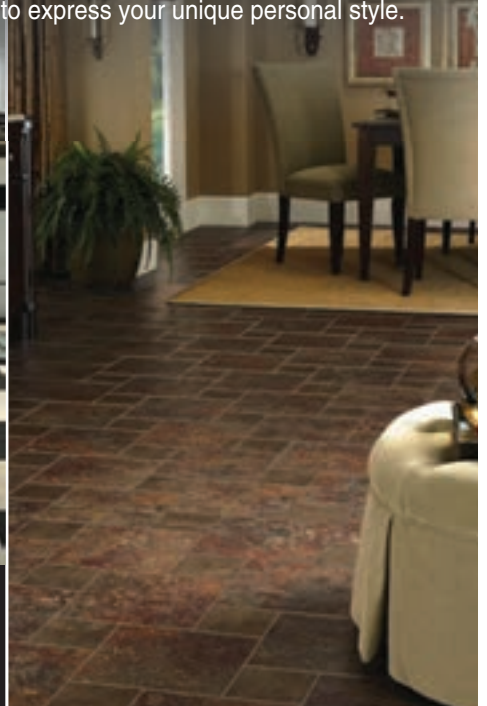
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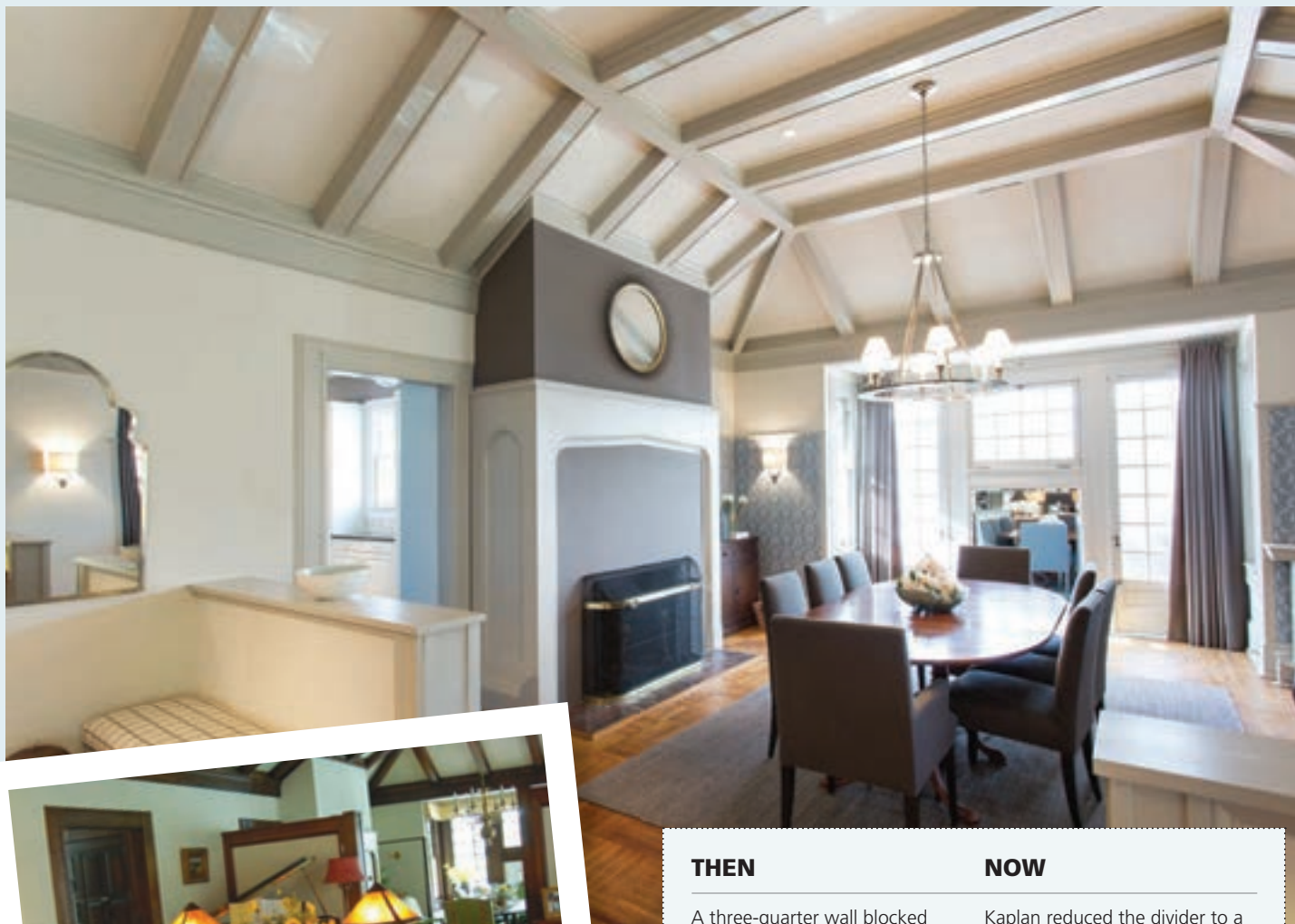
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# INTERIOR DESIGN



# HISTORIC CONTEXT



BEFORE

After inheriting a turn-of-the-century home in Baltimore’s Roland Park, owners turned to Kirsten Anthony Kaplan to update its interiors while respecting its Prairie-style architecture. A new color palette introduced a sophisticated edge while Kaplan selected furnishings that “would not feel incongruous” in the home’s historical context.

## THEN

A three-quarter wall blocked off the dining room from the expansive great room.

The contrast between the dark beams and the walls made the space feel like a lodge or “time capsule.”

Though many pieces had sentimental value, the furnishings did not reflect the new owner’s transitional aesthetic.

The interiors lacked detail and definition.

## NOW

Kaplan reduced the divider to a half-wall that opens the room up, delineating each area and revealing the dramatic fireplace.

The walls were painted gray and beams painted a few shades darker to create a clean, monochromatic palette.

Kaplan retained the existing dining table but added modern chairs and a new chandelier from Circa Lighting.

A Farrow & Ball wallcovering and drapes in a luxurious Holly Hunt fabric add texture and personality.

INTERIOR DESIGN: Kirsten Anthony Kaplan, Haus Interior Design, Rockville, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: Winchester Construction, Millersville, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Helen John.



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# RICH + REFINED

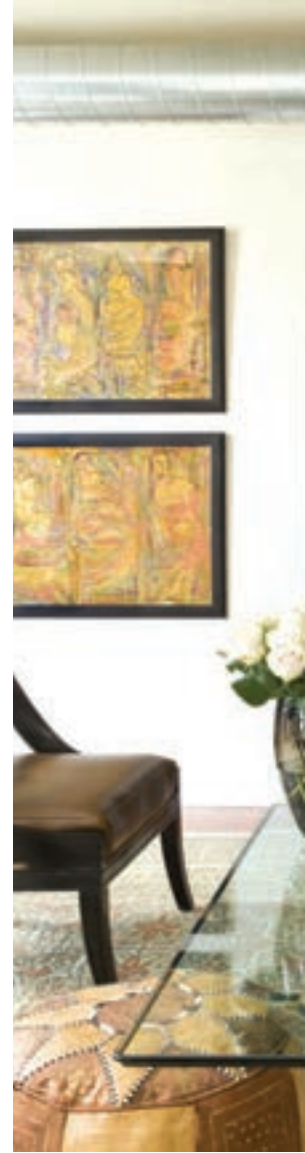
*Nestor Santa-Cruz imparts casual elegance to a hip DC condo*

A two-bedroom condo in downtown DC's trendy 14th Street Corridor lured a bachelor just returning from a stint working in London. However, the space—encompassing a living/dining area, two bedrooms and a huge terrace—lacked personality and definition, so the owner tapped Nestor Santa-Cruz to create a look that would reflect his cosmopolitan lifestyle, incorporating artwork and mementos and instilling the space with a sense of casual elegance.

The first hurdle was the exposed ductwork that lined the ceiling, conveying an edgy, industrial sensibility that didn't necessarily jibe with the owner's refined furnishings and style. "The building was intended to have an industrial aspect," says Santa-Cruz. "We would have had to lower the ceiling to cover the ducts anyway. So we said, 'let the ceiling be its own plane.' It became a sort of sculpture woven throughout."

The owner was drawn to an Art Deco aesthetic, so in the main living space Santa-Cruz selected furniture and accessories from that era, including open-backed spoon chairs and console lamps made of ammonite and coral. An early 19th-century French typographer's table from Marston Luce doubles as both desk and dining table, while iron and leather chairs from Hickory Chair echo a design by Jean-Michel Frank. An existing plush sofa was reshaped, reupholstered and paired with a 1970s plated chrome-and-glass coffee table from Jansen. A rug from Timothy Paul Home delineates the seating area. A Chinese cupboard from the owner's collection creates a focal point in the room.

INTERIOR DESIGN: Nestor Santa-Cruz, IIDA, LEED AP, Nestor Santa-Cruz Decoration, Washington, DC. PHOTOGRAPHY: Angie Seckinger.





## NESTOR SANTA-CRUZ'S TRADE SECRETS

- First, create an optimal furniture layout with your interior designer; you can always use your existing pieces as a mock-up. The layout is what gives a room its structure. Take height into account and think in inches—they count!
- You don't need everyone's opinion. Work with your designer. If you hired a designer based on previous work, that should establish a sense of trust.
- When in doubt, over-scale a little. Too many little pieces don't give proper scale to a room. Less is more—what you take out is more important than what stays!
- Start with a realistic budget. High and low is okay; your designer should know where to splurge and where to save.
- Visual comfort is as important as physical comfort—but design for use, not for show.



PHOTO: DAVID O. MARLOW PHOTOGRAPHY

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# SITTING PRETTY

PERFECT POUFS



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

1/ Vevey Vivid Cylinder Pouf by Missoni Home. Cotton with a patent leather handle; \$440; contemporaria.com 2/ Bandas Small Pouf. By Gan; virgin wool; price available in 2015; apartmentzero.com 3/ White and Blue Round Pouf. Hand-woven wool and cotton; \$199; arhaus.com 4/ Leather Pouf. \$299; ballarddesigns.com 5/ Arrow Tangerine Outdoor Pouf. Polyester; \$269; dwellstudio.com 6/ Patchwork Pouf. Handcrafted pieces of embroidered Indian fabric; \$158; horchow.com 7/ Zebra Cube. Cowhide; \$1,275; dwr.com 8/ KSPF-016. Cotton; \$189; surya.com 9/ Moroccan Leather Pouf. \$450; serenaandlily.com





PAMELA HARVEY

## Pamela Harvey Interiors

My world is my aesthetic. I love working with clients and look forward to every new project with passion.

Pamela Harvey launched Pamela Harvey Interiors (PHI) in 1999 by leveraging her diverse professional experience in fashion design, art history and interior design. This confluence of creativity produces warm, inviting and functional designs. "We love to work with a variety of styles and

a range of aesthetics, never getting too comfortable with a particular look," explains Harvey. She takes pride in delivering stylish, creative work, along with good value to her clients. "We believe that good business and great design go hand in hand," she observes. We try to outline the design process and our fees up front so there are no hidden surprises. We believe in transparency." Once the concept and space planning are complete, she and her team move into the next phase of creativity: mixing the old with the new.

During every project regardless of size, Harvey gives clients

her full, personalized attention throughout the process. From fabric, furniture and floor plans to windows, walls and accessories, she introduces inviting ideas, welcoming her clients participation as she creates interiors specific to their lifestyle and taste. "We have a keen ability to translate clients' needs into comfortable, beautiful spaces," she says.

Harvey attributes her success to the close professional relationships she strives to build with her clients. "Getting a call back to update a space or work with former clients on a second or third home years later is the best feeling," she admits.



### LOOK AT OUR LATEST!

In our second job for these clients, they requested a fresh look that reminded them of their previous home in Santa Barbara. We chose timeless pieces, including a pair of oatmeal-colored sofas from Hickory Chair and a gray Oushak rug for the living room. We like all of our rooms to include a whimsical element; here, a pair of oversized owl prints provides a touch of the unexpected.

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Barbara Hawthorn designed a cheerful dining room with a custom area rug.

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## COMMON LANGUAGE

*As an interior designer, how do you ensure from the outset that a project will reflect a client's taste, style and needs?*

### **BARBARA HAWTHORN**

*Barbara Hawthorn Interiors*  
We start out with a programming meeting where we review photographs and discuss exactly what clients are attracted to. We can tell right away if they're traditional, transitional, eclectic or modern. Then we do what I call my "gestalt" test: We show them Ziploc bags full of fabrics in different color groupings and ask them what they like. We do the same thing with wood, tile and stone. This gives us a great sense of what they gravitate towards.

Based on that meeting, we put together a master list of what they need in each space. And if we can't find an item, we make it.

To ensure a project's success, you should feel that you can say anything to your designer and he or she won't be offended. And the designer should really want to hear what you have to say. It should be easy.

### **PAULA GRACE HALEWSKI**

*Paula Grace Designs, Inc.*  
First, I share an article I've written on the principles and elements of quality design. This gives clients a common language so we know we're talking about the same things in terms of symmetry, scale and proportion. This is paramount.

Sometimes people have an image in their minds; it's what they think they should have

versus what they really like. To define what their style really is, I ask clients to make idea books on Houzz and then we discuss the photos together. We talk a lot about the mood they're trying to create as well as about function.

I also ask if there are particular places we can go and see to identify the feel they are after. I have gone to restaurants, hotels and previous clients' houses. It's priceless to be in a space and get the vibe.

### **ANDREA HOUCK**

*A. Houck Designs*  
First, I assess the core scope of the work because every client is different. Some are empty nesters, some need a renovation, some just need help

with color. We go through a series of meetings and I give them a large stack of shelter magazines with Post-It notes. I ask them to flag images they like—both advertising and editorial—then I study the photos to see if I can distinguish their taste and style. This gives me a way to focus and get inside their heads.

Then I follow up with elaborate drawings. I do 2D flat plans and 3D elevation drawings showing furniture, changes to the walls and lighting. I create renderings because a lot of people are not able to visualize how everything will look. And I purposely don't color in the drawings so that color preferences don't skew the process.



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# EDITORS' PICKS



1

## 1/ COMFORT WITH CURVES

Originally designed for a luxury hotel restaurant by Jean-Philippe Nuel, the Luca Soft armchair brings comfort and a soft silhouette to the home environment. It comes in low and high styles, with legs or a sleigh base. Available at Ligne Roset in DC. [ligne-roset-usa.com](http://ligne-roset-usa.com)

## 2/ FALL SPLENDOR

Brentano Design Studio recently released its fall 2014 Affinity collection—24 new textiles characterized by bold patterns and colors. The line includes nine draperies in graphic motifs such as (left to right) Kazuri Stripe, Pearl Ray and Sash Stripe. [brentanofabrics.com](http://brentanofabrics.com)



2

## 3/ FRENCH REVIVAL

Cassina has revived the Indochine chair, designed by French architect Charlotte Perriand. She based the model on her 1929 LC7 chair, which was included in Le Corbusier's furniture collection. This modern-day tribute is made of solid walnut and stained black ash, with leather or fabric upholstery. [poltronafraugroup.com](http://poltronafraugroup.com)



3

## 4/ PLAYING WITH LIGHT

Le Deun Luminaire's Micro not only sheds direct and indirect light on a room, it also makes a unique sculptural statement. Made in France of epoxy-painted steel and LEDs, it is available in black, red or white at J. Lambeth in DC. [jlambeth.com](http://jlambeth.com)



4

## 5/ RIBBON READY

A knit weave produced on old ribbon machines in New York's Garment District inspired Chilewich's Ribbon collection. Made from extruded yarns that put a modern spin on the vintage look, the collection includes durable, easy-to-clean placemats and runners in four color options. [chilewich.com](http://chilewich.com)



5

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▼ **KALEIDOSCOPE OF COLOR**

Jonathan's Adler's new Bel Air Mini Scoop Vases appear to float in cubes of Lucite. Available in a rainbow of colors—white, smoke, yellow, turquoise and lilac—they will enliven any table. [jonathanadler.com](http://jonathanadler.com)



▲ **OUT OF ENGLAND**

Carl Robinson, a third-generation English designer, recently unveiled an eponymous wallpaper collection for Wallquest, Inc. Robinson has created four editions of chic, fashion-forward wallcoverings; Carlton (pictured) is part of his third edition of specialty papers. [wallquest.com](http://wallquest.com)

▼ **UNDER COVER**

Handmade in India with "wild" silk fibers, Mela Artisans' Herringbone Throw features a hand-woven edge. Perfect for cozying up on a chilly night, the versatile blanket comes in indigo, sand, garnet and slate. [melaartisans.com](http://melaartisans.com)



▲ **FINE FINISH**

Maryland-based Niermann Weeks may add a touch of glamour to its custom, handmade furnishings. Here the Elgin Chair is shown in an Elgin pearl and gold-leaf finish, while the Tramezzo Screen is embellished with antique zinc. [niermannweeks.com](http://niermannweeks.com)



▲ **IN BLOOM**

Inspired by his travels to India, designer John Robshaw created the Pondicherry bedding line as an homage to peonies on display in the flower market of this one-time French Colonial town. Made in India of 200-count cotton percale. [johnrobshaw.com](http://johnrobshaw.com)





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▼ **JAPANESE STYLE**

Lori Weitzner created her Omotenashi fabric and wallcovering collection after extensive travels in Japan, capturing the warmth, grace and simplicity she encountered. Alpine wallcovering (pictured) is made of a silk-and-linen sheer overlaid on tinted paper and available in five colorways. [weitznerlimited.com](http://weitznerlimited.com)



▲ **ITALIAN ACCENT**

Rosita Missoni's Papavero Acquarellato collection features the new Pamplona (floral) and Paraguay (stripe) textiles, both of which exude a colorful sense of whimsy. Pamplona is made of cotton and linen while Paraguay is a textured, 100-percent viscose corduroy. At [Contemporaria in DC](http://Contemporaria in DC). [contemporaria.com](http://contemporaria.com)



▲ **ALL IN THE DETAILS**

Samuel & Sons' new Aquitaine trim collection adds stylish accents to a wide range of upholstery and drapery designs. Available in 17 color palettes, the collection combines 8.25-inch bullion and a coordinating 5mm cord with tape. [samuelandsons.com](http://samuelandsons.com)



◀ **MADE IN AMERICA**

Minneapolis-based Hennepin Made has created a collection of hand-blown glass pendants exclusively for Room & Board. Imparting a timeless, handcrafted feel, the line includes cone, globe and teardrop shapes in smoke, clear, pewter/aluminum and silver finishes. [roomandboard.com](http://roomandboard.com)



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▼ **BREATH OF FRESH AIR**

Osborne & Little's Verdanta collection includes Japonerie—fabric and coordinating wallpaper with a watercolor motif of oriental blossoms interspersed with birds in full wing. Available in five colorways: sapphire (pictured), silver, turquoise, peacock and primrose. [osborneandlittle.com](http://osborneandlittle.com)



▲ **A RICH TAPESTRY**

Pollack's new Jaipur collection pays tribute to India's rich hand-woven textile legacy. It is comprised of seven patterns in beautifully lustrous hues, inspired by hammered metal, traditional block-printing and elaborate screens. Motifs include (top to bottom) Deity, Jaipur, Shisha and Priya. [pollackassociates.com](http://pollackassociates.com)

▲ **CITY SLICKER**

DwellStudio's fifth collaboration with Robert Allen, the Decorative Modern collection was inspired by the bold styles and iconic motifs of New York. With 56 color and pattern options, the line encourages unexpected combinations. Pictured: Leda Peony, Vreeland and Unravel—all in Persimmon. [robertallen.com](http://robertallen.com)



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My philosophy about design is simple. Your home should reflect who you are and also work for the way you live in it and use it every day. To me, luxury is living in a space that your family and friends love to visit and never want to leave. It is truly enjoying your home and the time you spend in it.

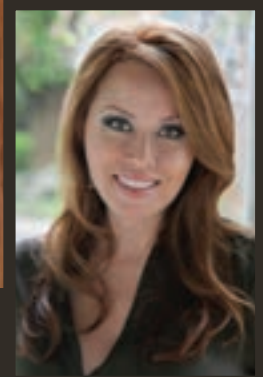


**Paola McDonald**  
Interior Designer



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**▲ BARELY THERE**

Made of hand-etched, white frosted glass, Dagmar votives bring year-round style and soothing light to tabletop décor. Available at And Beige in Washington, DC, they come in three different patterns. Each votive is 2.5 inches in diameter and three inches tall. Buy one style or combine all three. [andbeige.com](http://andbeige.com)



**▲ SINGULAR PERSPECTIVE**

With architectural lines and industrial accents, the Singular Perspective table lamp by Theodore Alexander plays well in both modern and traditional settings. Its steel and brass frame is mounted on a black-lacquered base and topped with a rectangular shade. [theodorealexander.com](http://theodorealexander.com)

**► UNDERWATER LIFE**

Noa Ikeuchi from Japan and Tommaso Nani from Italy collaborated on the design of Atlantis for Cappellini. The piece combines ceramic vessels submerged in a glass case of water, fostering a creative floral display. Available through Poltrona Frau Group in DC. [poltronafraugroup.com](http://poltronafraugroup.com)



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## ON THE SHELF



### GAME-CHANGING DESIGNS

■ *DesignPOP* by Lisa Roberts chronicles 82 products created since 2000 that break new ground in terms of design innovation, material use and technology, from the iPhone and the Jambox to the Moooi Random Light and Kaktus stool made from recycled aluminum. Spotlighting work by Ron Arad, Frank Gehry, Philippe Starck and many other modern luminaries, the book is sure to enlighten even the most astute design devotee. Rizzoli, New York, New York; 2014; \$35.

### ODE TO MID-CENTURY DESIGN

■ Design buffs inspired by the period will find plenty of fodder in *Mid-Century Modern Complete*. The book spotlights 100 seminal designers and architects of the era—including Marimekko, Isamu Noguchi, Philip Johnson and Alvar Aalto—and also features an illustrated glossary that sheds light on an array of manufacturers, organizations and related movements. Abrams Books, New York, New York; September 2014; \$125.

### INSPIRED BY COLOR

■ Fashion designer Tory Burch reveals what color means to her in *Tory Burch: In Color*. Organized by hue, the book features a glimpse into the designers' professional and private worlds with images of her own collections, her travels and the artists and interior designers she most admires. The book's forward was written by *Vogue* editor-in-chief Anna Wintour. Abrams Books, New York, New York; November 2014; \$125.

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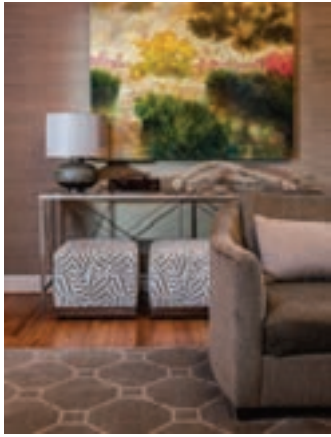


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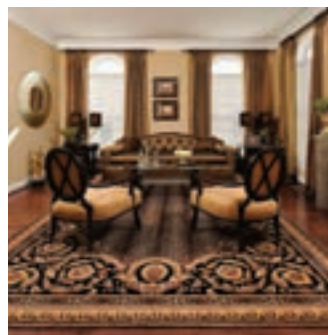
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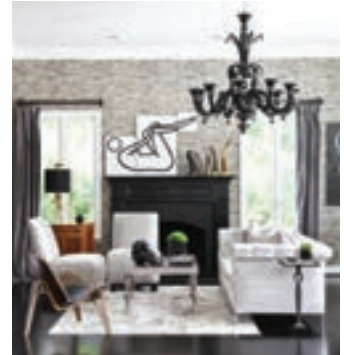
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Shiva Rostami, the founder of Essence of Design, has been in the design business for more than 25 years. She and her design team work in close collaboration with clients to create unique interiors that reflect their individual preferences, lifestyles and personalities.

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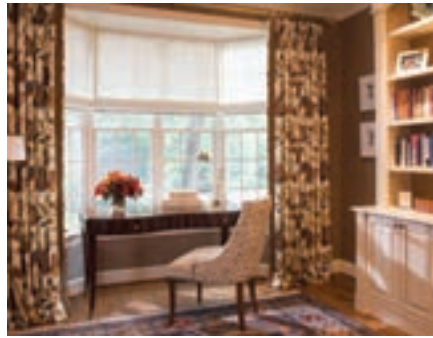
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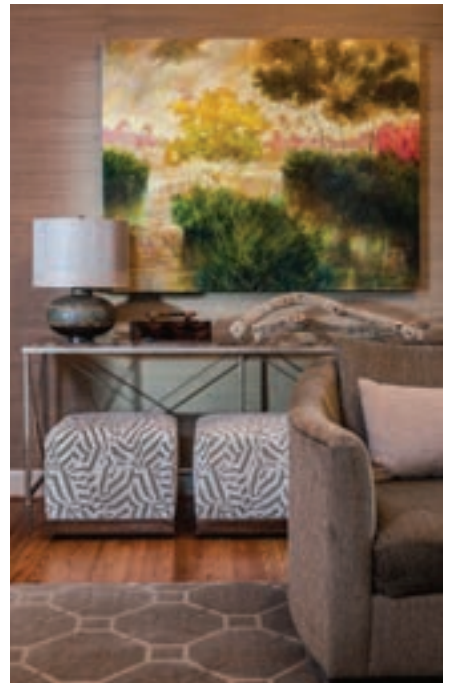


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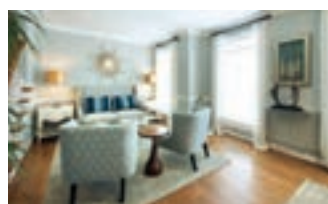
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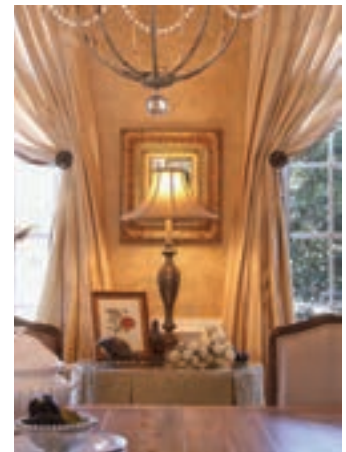
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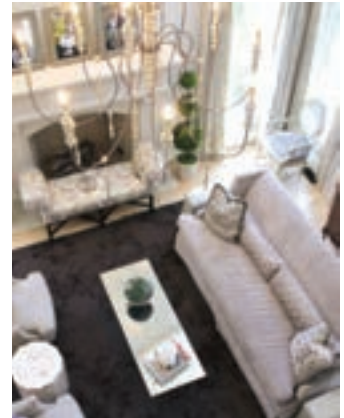
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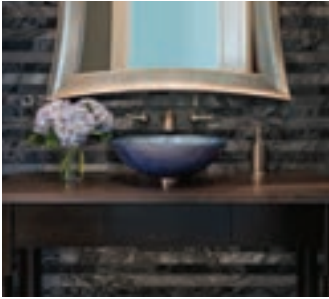
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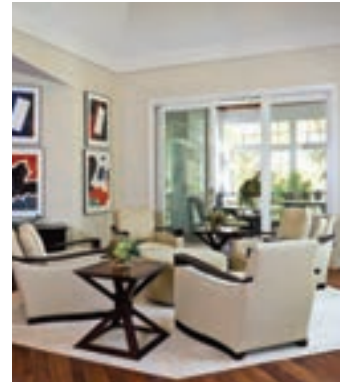
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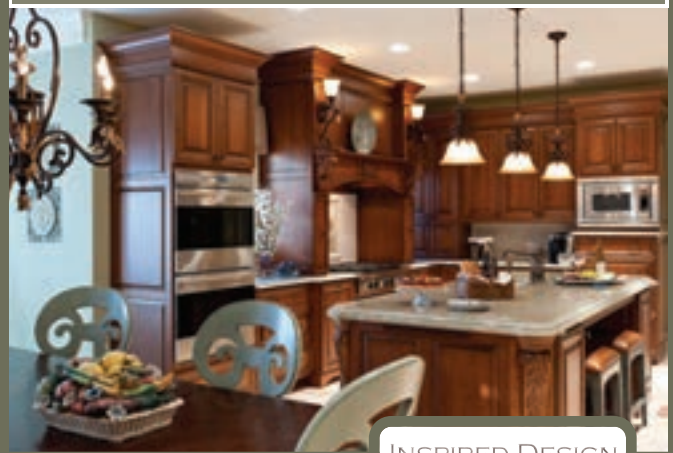


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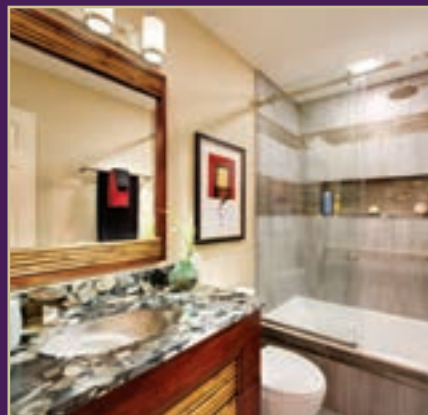


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# KITCHEN • BATH



# HOME SPA



BEFORE

A home with builder-grade finishes included a master bath that was spacious but poorly designed and mundane in appearance. The owner tapped Davida Rodriguez of Davida's Kitchen & Tiles to give her a spa bath with an organic, Zen-like vibe.

## THEN

A drywall linen closet and enclosed W.C. took up space without offering efficient room for storage.

The owner wished for more surface space than the double vanity allowed.

The standard acrylic shower pan and tub and nondescript flooring made the room boring.

Dull, white tiles imparted no personality or style.

## NOW

The W.C. was eliminated and the toilet partially concealed by a floating wall clad in flat pebbles. The linen closet was replaced by a built-in cabinet with hamper and drawers.

A single-sink vanity provides surface area; cherry cabinetry matches the nearby cabinet.

Flat pebble flooring conveys an organic look; the non-skid surface eliminates the need for bathmats.

Wood-like porcelain tiles add warmth and interest to the room.

BATH DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION: Davida Rodriguez, CKD, Davida's Kitchen & Tiles, Gaithersburg, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Bob Narod.

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# ARTISTIC VISION

*Designer Paul Bentham infuses a modern kitchen with a playful, Pop-Art sensibility*

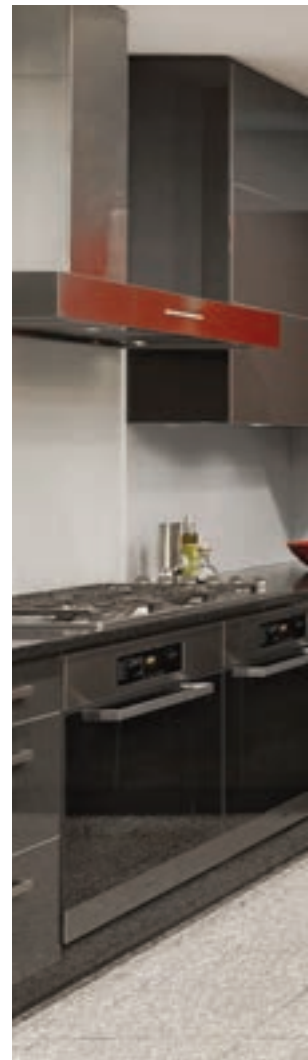
The owners of a Bethesda home hadn't touched its outdated kitchen since the house was built in the 1980s. When they were ready for a change, they contacted Paul Bentham of Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath to create an updated, contemporary space. "They have Pop-Art taste," Bentham says. "They have a lot of that kind of art and wanted a kitchen that would complement it, with a sort of European feel."

Bentham designed a more convenient layout by replacing a space-squandering, L-shaped island with a functional, linear one that is longer and wider than the original. He also removed the bulky, freestanding range and hood, which took up too much space, and substituted a streamlined, 42-inch cooktop and 48-inch hood. All the appliances are Miele.

The original cabinetry was clad in a mundane laminate popular in the 1980s. "The owners wanted things bright, but they have a penchant for grays, so though I started out designing with only gray, I ended up introducing red for interest," Bentham says. The new cabinets are a lively mix of the two colors, made of a high-gloss, acrylic-based laminate that creates a strong sheen. They are paired with honed, Absolute Black granite countertops.

A bank of red pantry cupboards has been elevated and lit from above and below. The light over the island—a Philips Ledalite—is an industrial fixture that the clients chose; made of polished chrome, it adds the final touch to the sleek, modern kitchen.

KITCHEN DESIGN: Paul Bentham, Jennifer Gilmer Kitchen & Bath, Chevy Chase, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: Mike Thornton, M.R. Thornton & Sons, Inc., Woodbine, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Bob Narod.





## PAUL BENTHAM'S TRADE SECRETS

- In most cases, it's best to follow the general shape of the room when designing how the kitchen will flow. In a long room, a linear feel with horizontal cabinet lines and handles will work best.
- Keep in mind that you can achieve an interesting look through subtle variations in a kitchen. For example, materials in the same color can have different looks and depths if they come in variable sheens.
- Take a step out of the norm by using LED lighting that points in different directions, such as down-lighting that will bounce light from various cabinet depths and heights off of walls and ceilings.
- Consider your lifestyle and choose materials accordingly. For instance, high-gloss paint finishes will not wear well for a young family with pets.



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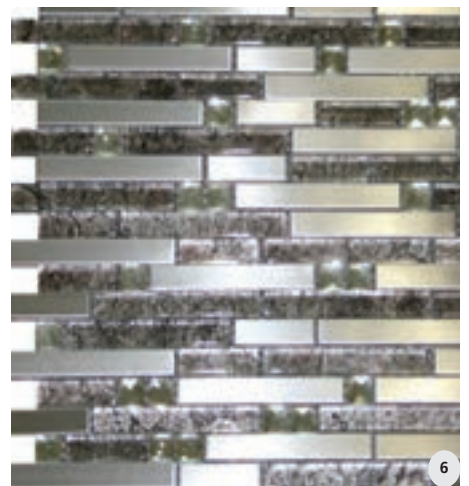
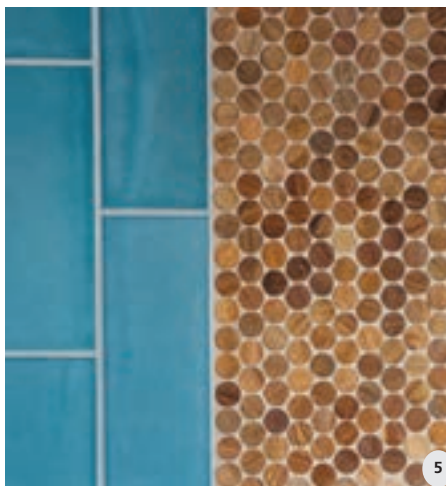


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# SURFACE STYLE

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Best Tile serves homeowners, contractors, builders, architects and designers on both residential and commercial spaces. The company's staff of designers pays attention to every detail of a project, from concept through design and final installation. The client's vision and budget are paramount, and the knowledgeable

staff works hard to educate customers and to provide total client satisfaction. "We create the best possible buying experience for people on the market for tile and stone," Mednick says.

"Our company is based on principles, integrity and respect," he continues. "We strongly believe that customer service and superior quality, together with virtually limitless possibilities in terms of products and design, cannot fail to achieve the client's vision for his or her home or business. Our goal is to guide clients to a unique and personal space that they will be able to enjoy for years to come."



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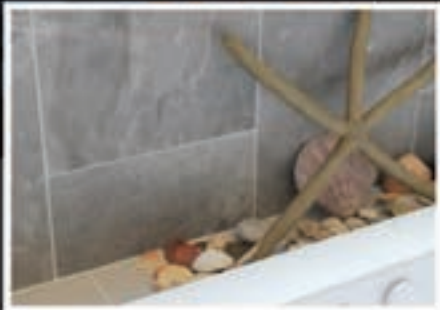
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9 TO  
NOTE

# BATH TIME

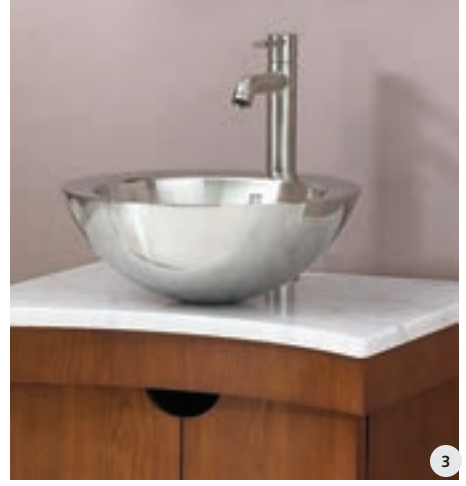
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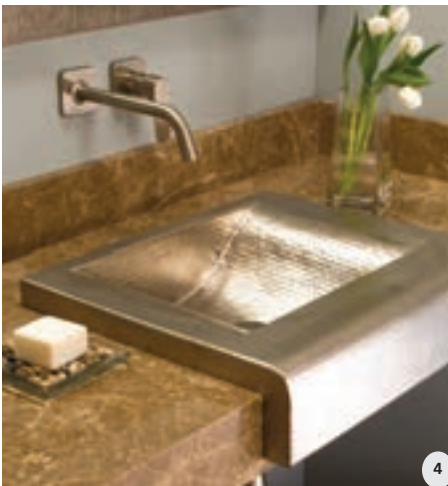
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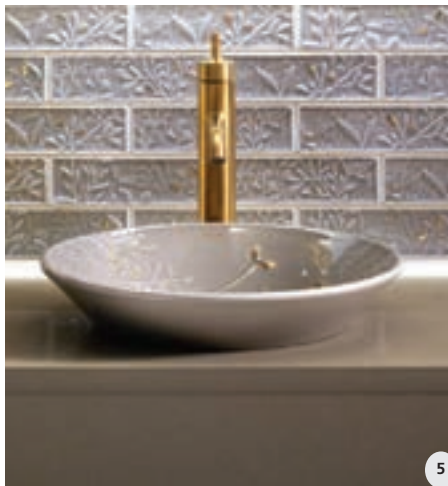
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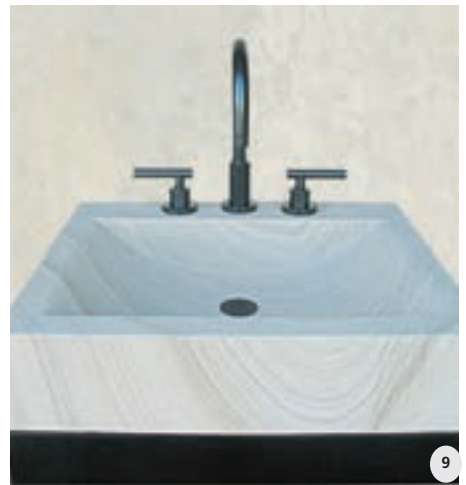
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7



8



9

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A modern kitchen featuring a stainless steel refrigerator, dishwasher, and oven. A large window offers a view of a forested landscape. A kitchen island with a white countertop and a built-in wine cooler is in the foreground, with two wooden stools. The kitchen has dark wood cabinetry and a light-colored backsplash.

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## Jack Rosen Custom Kitchens, Inc.



FROM LEFT: HEDY SHASHAANI, LARRY ROSEN, STEPHANIE FRIED

Kitchen design is about the client, not the designer. We pride ourselves on understanding everyone's needs and providing the best service possible.

Jack Rosen Custom Kitchens has been delivering timeless designs with an emphasis on quality and a superior customer experience since its inception more than 32 years ago. "There is no doubt that my father, who founded the company, is my greatest influence," says owner Larry Rosen. "He

named the company after himself because he knew he would always do things the right way. We have maintained our excellent reputation ever since."

At Jack Rosen Custom Kitchens, a talented and versatile team of designers is able to design in every style and size, while being well versed in the latest trends and improvements. "I am inspired by architectural features in the rest of the house when creating new spaces to fit each client's lifestyle," Rosen says. "However, in the end it is always about the client's complete satisfaction. We provide quality, creativity and de-

pendability to each client and it is paramount that they be delighted with their investment."

The firm puts a premium on comfort and functionality, as well as aesthetics. "A well-designed kitchen is one that not only is beautiful but functions easily," Rosen says. "Appliances should be placed logically and safely, there should be ample counter space and storage should be maximized. Food prep should be a pleasure, clean-up should be quick and people should be able to comfortably linger after a meal. If all these needs are met, then we have done our job."



### LOOK AT OUR LATEST!

The two kitchens at left exemplify transitional (top) and traditional (bottom) styles. The transitional kitchen's clean-lined peripheral cabinets contrast with the dark-stained, rift-cut oak island. Glass doors above the sink offer a visual focal point.

The traditional kitchen is timeless. Gray-painted custom cabinetry from Elmwood complements the cherry island, and details such as the custom hood, X mullion doors and substantial island legs contribute to a stunning appearance.

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A sleek, modern kitchen by Poggenpohl.

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### EMILY EADS

*Poggenpohl*

We begin the renovation process with a consultation in which we ascertain how the kitchen needs to function for a client's lifestyle. Do they have young children? Do they entertain a lot? Do they cook quite a bit? And how will the kitchen fit in with the rest of their interiors? Once we have determined what is important to them, we come up with a design concept that we feel will best fit their needs.

A common misconception is that one needs a built-in microwave. We feel that microwaves are on the way out and will soon be replaced by steam ovens, which offer a less drying approach to reheating

food. If the client feels they need a microwave, we often suggest putting it in a closed cabinet and not making it an investment piece of the appliance package.

### SONNY NAZEMIAN

*Michael Nash Design, Build & Homes*

When renovating a kitchen—where people now spend more time than in their living rooms or family rooms—pre-planning is extremely important. One of the most common mistakes people make is they've seen a picture they like in a magazine but at the end of the day it is not going to create a kitchen that's right for them. It might look nice, but the clients have not taken the time to think

about the extra counter space or drawers they'll need.

Homeowners need to consider the existing deficiencies of their kitchen. Are you a big bulk shopper who needs a huge pantry? Are you a wine drinker who needs lots of storage? A professional kitchen designer will review the wish list and figure out how to create a plan that will address the deficiencies and how the clients want to use their kitchen.

### JERRY WEED

*Kitchen and Bath Studios*

One mistake is rushing the project. A kitchen renovation puts you under a lot of stress and people don't make good decisions under stress. You're talking about a space that's

going to be an intimate part of your everyday life for a 10-year period. But it's less stressful if you have time to accumulate knowledge. Allow a month in the planning stage so you can do it comfortably.

If you start to think about everything at once, most people freeze up. Instead, think about the project by square footage. Cabinets and flooring make up the most square footage so start out focusing on them. Then go on to the countertop and appliances. I think about backsplash tile like a man in a suit picking out a necktie. That's where you can have a little fun and bring out a little color. It's a nice, safe place to show some personality.



Photo by Bob Narod

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ANDREY VERETENOV

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“Good design is obvious. Great design is transparent.”  
—Joe Sparano

Launched in 2013 by owner Andrey Veretenov, Nouvel Kitchen and Bath provides cutting-edge cabinetry design at a reasonable cost. The company, an offshoot of a design/build firm also owned by Veretenov, represents European manufacturers in the U.S., bringing both contemporary and classic

lines of kitchen and bath furniture to the DC area.

A staff of designers guides clients, conceptualizing their ideas for each space. “We are a small company and every client is important to us,” says Veretenov. “We are in the process of building our reputation. We strive to provide the best possible cabinetry design within the client’s budget.”

Nouvel believes in building reliable relationships between consumers and professionals. “The best result is a happy client whose aesthetic and organizational needs have been met,” Veretenov observes. “We offer exactly the solution the client is looking for, using highly

customized products and services that help make the client’s house feel like home. If it reflects their personal taste and lifestyle, it’s bound to keep them happy for years to come.”

Nouvel recently completed a custom-office addition to a Mediterranean-style home with 12-foot ceilings and an open floor plan. The office was narrow and boxy, with limited wall space, so Nouvel created niches in the wall to accommodate custom shelving and make the room feel squarer. “The space shows that we don’t just hang cabinetry on walls,” Veretenov says. “We think about space planning and structural solutions.”



### LOOK AT OUR LATEST!

A sleek, modern kitchen (top) boasts frameless cabinetry by Elmwood in a walnut veneer topped by Silestone counters. Other features include LED accent and pendant lighting, Dacor appliances and a travertine backsplash. A complete remodel of the master bathroom (bottom) in a Great Falls home features wavy white wall tile around the bathtub area and solid gray porcelain floor tile from Spain. Kohler fixtures in chrome from the Purist collection and Silestone countertops finish the space.

#### ADDRESS

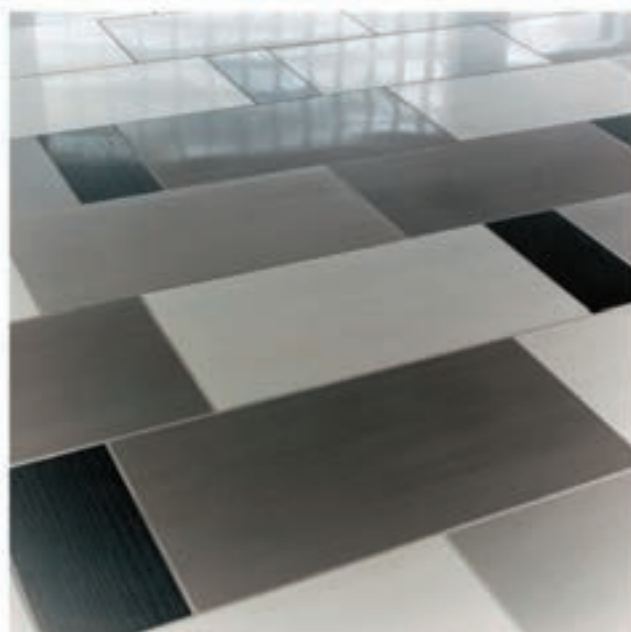
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# EDITORS' PICKS



1



2

### 1/ TWO-IN-ONE

Liebherr's new 24-inch Fully Integrated refrigerator and freezer boasts separate compressor compartments to ensure optimal food flavor and shelf life. The model, which can be concealed seamlessly behind cabinetry panels, also offers automatic quick-chill and quick-freeze features for the ultimate in convenience. [liebherr.com](http://liebherr.com)



3

### 2/ AU NATUREL

Porcelanosa's Cascais Natural porcelain floor tiles, shown in a 17-by-26-inch format, mimic the look of real stone. In this serene bathroom, they are paired with the company's Zeus Blanco wall tiles and cast-iron Victorian tub. The tub legs are available in white, chrome or gold finishes. At Porcelanosa in Rockville. [porcelanosa-usa.com](http://porcelanosa-usa.com)



4



5

### 3/ CLEAN MACHINE

Thermador's Star-Sapphire dishwasher maximizes efficiency and storage with space for 18 wine glasses and cookware in a range of sizes. A 20-minute cycle allows for multiple washes throughout an evening of entertainment, ensuring that the kitchen is clean before the last guest goes home. [thermador.com](http://thermador.com)

### 4/ RETRO FIT

Big Chill clads cutting-edge, professional-quality kitchen appliances in distinctive retro colors. Pictured here, the Pro Range houses racks that accommodate commercial-size baking sheets and a convection fan for even baking and roasting. Available in eight standard and 200 custom colors. [bigchill.com](http://bigchill.com)

### 5/ DIVIDING LINE

This year's Milan Furniture Fair saw the debut of Screen, a cabinetry unit designed by architect Filippo Bombace for Effeti. The unit acts as a divider between kitchen and dining area while retaining a connection between the two via an opening in the cabinetry; size, color and finishes can be customized. [effetiusa.com](http://effetiusa.com)



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Meté Yilmaz has always had a passion for working with stone. After earning a master's degree in architecture at Catholic University, he served as an architect for a stone company commissioned to oversee the restoration of the National Museum of Women in the Arts. In 1987, Yilmaz

founded Marblex with the mission to fill a specialized niche by providing custom stone treatments and material for high-end residential projects.

"It is our goal to provide continuous innovation, education, quality service and products," he says. "No project is too small for Marblex. We take pride in every project we do." The company hires the most professional, experienced staff members available to meet its high standards in the field. Projects vary from custom kitchen countertops to full bathroom renovations and fireplace designs.

Yilmaz and his staff spend a good deal of

time talking to clients and understanding their goals and design requirements. He explains that one of the most rewarding aspects of his job is "the satisfaction of being able to listen to a customer's needs and turning that into a beautiful design. The end result fills us with pride."

Marblex is dedicated to the local design community and recently won a *Home & Design* 2014 Designers' Choice Award for Favorite Surface Showroom. The company is also accredited by the Marble Institute of America, ensuring that customers receive the highest possible level of service and expertise.



### LOOK AT OUR LATEST!

Marblex recently took part in the makeover of a historic row house, which features a new, modern kitchen. The company created the island countertop (bottom) using Equatro marble, a striated stone from Turkey, while Caesarstone was used for the remaining countertops. In the master bath (top), Caesarstone countertops and porcelain-tile floors and walls create a sleek, clean-lined appearance.

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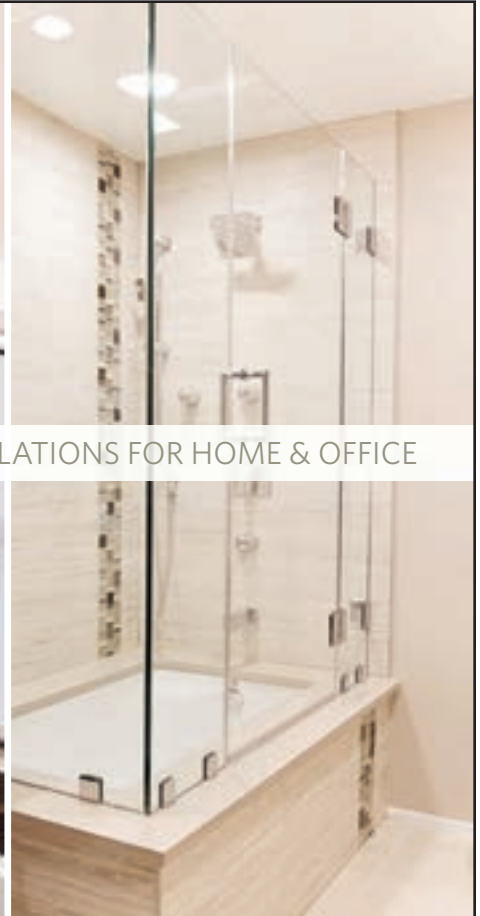
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Bel Pre Glassworks was launched in 1974 with the goal of providing customers with quality products and service at competitive prices. A family-run enterprise from the start, it employs eight family members today, and its orientation towards family has never wavered. "We build on family traditions in the

way we work," says August Gagliarducci. "We are truly a family business."

Bel Pre Glassworks designs and fabricates frameless shower enclosures; custom, antique and framed mirrors (the company is known for its creative mirror designs); painted-glass backsplashes and countertops; glass tabletops; and glass cabinet-door fronts. Beveling, sandblasting and waterjet design are its specialties.

Over the years, Bel Pre Glassworks has maintained a cutting edge in the business by regularly expanding its fabricating capabilities through the purchase of specialized on-site machinery. The com-

pany recently added a state-of-the-art waterjet fabrication machine to its Rockville warehouse and in January 2013, purchased a tempering oven that enables the fabrication of all glass-enclosed shower doors in-house from start to finish.

The team at Bel Pre Glassworks collaborates with customers to create the applications that will best suit their day-to-day needs, while also guiding them towards timeless designs that they will be able to enjoy for years to come. "Ours is a service business," observes Gagliarducci. "It brings us great satisfaction to be able to fill the needs of our customers."



### LOOK AT OUR LATEST!

Pictured here, a luxury townhome in a community for which we installed glass shower doors, mirrors and glass balcony railings. The railings were fabricated out of half-inch-thick Evergreen laminated-glass panels, which seamlessly tie into the backdrop of trees behind each property. The shower enclosures are frameless, heavy glass systems that convey a high-end look. We've thoroughly enjoyed being a part of this ongoing project.

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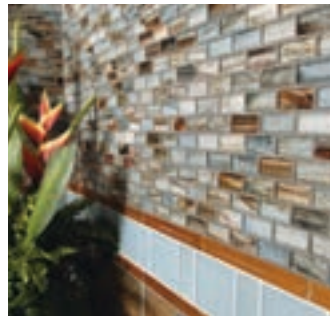
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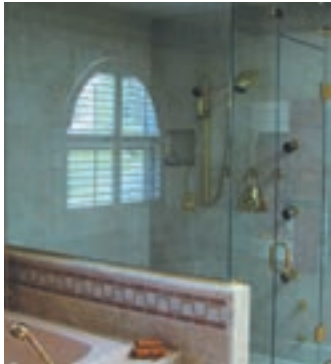
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McHale Landscape Design was founded in 1981 by brothers Kevin and Stephen McHale, who share a love of landscaping and the outdoors that dates back to their teenage years mowing lawns. From the beginning, both understood the rewards of self-employment and had the passion and determination to build

a business. “Our goal is to be the single source for anything design-build on a residential property,” says Kevin McHale. “We provide quality goods, services and value through the implementation of the design-build philosophy. Our creative, sustainable designs are enhanced by quality materials and superior craftsmanship.”

Before embarking on a project, the McHale team observes clients’ outdoor-living habits to make sure the design reflects their needs. “A creative design is futile if it doesn’t improve the client’s life,” explains Stephen McHale. “It is successful only if the designer listens to the client and transforms

his or her dreams into a functional and aesthetic design.”

Instead of using subcontractors, McHale does carpentry and masonry in-house, which allows control over scheduling, pricing and quality. The brothers pride themselves on hiring great people. “Our first employee, Phil Kelly—now our chief operating officer—has been instrumental in the company’s growth,” says Kevin. “We have very little turnover and clients trust us to be creative, talented, ethical and determined to do our best for them. Good design and quality craftsmanship initially lead clients to us, but trust and confidence make them clients for life.”



### LOOK AT OUR LATEST!

The outdoor entertainment space for this beautiful brick home in Potomac, Maryland, was limited to an upper backyard patio. The client asked us to transform the grassy area in the lower backyard into a grand pool terrace featuring a pool house, pool, spa and ornamental plantings. After the successful transformation, the client paid us a great compliment by saying of the new landscape, “It feels like it has always been here.”

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# MEDITERRANEAN VIBE



A couple tapped Morgan Washburn of Botanical Decorators to design a front yard that would complement the Mediterranean-style architecture of their new Arlington home while adding a modern slant. The plan would include a driveway, a walkway to the house and an array of year-round plantings.

## THEN

A blank slate, the front yard needed strong definition and style.

In a neighborhood with limited parking, a driveway was a must.

The homeowners needed help selecting the right plants to complement the home.

## NOW

A Pennsylvania bluestone walkway with cobblestone detail and a travertine front terrace reflect both the home's architecture and the local vernacular.

A parking courtyard with a gravel surface paved in local river rock accommodates cars and provides a porous surface to prevent rainwater runoff.

Squares of dwarf mondo grass, simple yew hedges, urns of boxwood and a tall, columnar Sweetgum sycamore evoke a Mediterranean feel.

LANDSCAPE DESIGN: Morgan Washburn, Botanical Decorators, Olney, Maryland. ARCHITECTURE: Bob Braddock, Red House Architects, Arlington, Virginia. BUILDER: Mickey Simpson Builder, Ltd., Arlington, Virginia. PHOTOGRAPHY: Roger Foley.





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## GOING NATIVE

*A Chestertown garden is transformed with luxurious new amenities and indigenous plant life*

Landscape architect John Gutting had begun to revive the grounds of his daughter's home in historic Chestertown, Maryland, but, sadly, was unable to design the second, most ambitious phase of the project. After Gutting passed away in 2006, the family hired landscape architect Miles Barnard to tackle the job while respecting Gutting's design vision and dedication to indigenous plants.

The project scope was complex, especially given that the lot measured a mere half-acre. Designed to complement a renovation to the house, the new landscape plan would include a pool makeover, the design and construction of a pool house and the creation of a drainage system to capture rainwater. It also called for new garden gates, brick walls, cedar fencing and a lighting plan. "Our goal was to create a biologically diverse, indigenous landscape with quality materials consistent with the house, enhance privacy and create functional space," Barnard explains.

The homeowners now enjoy al fresco areas for dining and showering, space to sunbathe and a pool house with a kitchen and bath—amidst native plants including Sweetbay magnolia, dwarf fothergilla and Black-Eyed Susan.

"The lush landscape feels like an oasis in downtown Chestertown," says Barnard. "A space should look good, but it's most important for it to feel good and have a sense of spatial security."

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE: D. Miles Barnard, ASLA, RLA, South Fork Studio Landscape Architecture, Chestertown, Maryland. LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR: Anthony's Flowers and Landscaping, Chestertown, Maryland. POOL RENOVATION: Masten Pools, Greensboro, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Allen Russ.





## MILES BARNARD'S TRADE SECRETS

- Consider the whole property as a single composition. Don't get lost designing one space without thinking about how it relates to others in terms of materials, scale, function and circulation.
- Take soil samples at the beginning of the project and have them tested for pH, calcium, organic matter, nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium. Selecting plants without knowing this information is like selecting windows for a house without knowing which direction is north.
- Make a vision statement for the project with your landscape architect at the very beginning of the process. Follow that up with a list of things you want to see or experience in the final built product. I give my clients a questionnaire when we first meet so that I can better understand their expectations.



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NOTE

# GRILLS GALORE

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1



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9

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PROJECT

Design Location : AN ARLINGTON RESIDENTIAL GARDEN

Client Objective : AN OUTDOOR KITCHEN SO I CAN BE OUT WITH MY GUESTS WHILE I'M COOKING AL FRESCO!



Wheat's Landscape designed this inviting pool surrounded by lush greenery.

© GREG SHANNON

## DESIGNING A ROAD MAP

*What are the most important components involved in planning a successful landscape project, and what are some pitfalls to avoid?*

### **JOSH FRANKLIN**

*Decksapes of Virginia, LLC*  
In the first meeting, I normally try to tackle two things: I am looking for a design program and beginning to evaluate the site, finding out what constraints and opportunities there are as well as getting the client's feedback. I take that information and begin to diagram how I can accomplish everything they want.

These diagrams generally transition into modeling. I use software called Google SketchUp, which adds to the dynamic of how someone can see a project take shape. The third step in the project is the actual conceptual design, where I map out where the planting beds will go, the size of the patio, etc.

Doing due diligence to get to the conceptual design phase through site analysis, a proper design and a well-thought-out diagram or model can eliminate a lot of the headaches that designers sometimes deal with later on.

### **JOHN GAMBA, RLA, ASLA**

*Through the Garden, Inc.*  
A company might do a master plan and install it in phases. Being a landscape architect, I put a lot of value in the design process. I like to take my time and think about the future. Maybe in a later phase clients want to build a pool. We need to know that now so we can avoid redundant work.

The design plan becomes a road map and a great communication tool—even between

a husband and a wife. On a recent project, the wife thought she was getting a pool and the husband thought he was getting a basketball court! The plan keeps everyone on the same page.

Design fees usually are about one percent of total installation fees. Some people worry it's an added expense, but the amount of work it saves winds up being money in a client's pockets.

### **GREG SHANNON**

*Wheat's Landscape*  
A well-designed landscape starts with the end in mind. At our first meeting with a new client, we look to clearly identify the key objectives of the project and the key elements on the client's wish list. After

we have a project scope, the next item we need to address is the budget. Talking about budgets up-front is critical to delivering a great project in a timely fashion.

The purpose of this conversation is not to identify what the client has set aside for the project and then to spend every available dollar. Rather, the goal is to match the available budget to expectations.

One common pitfall is not ensuring everything is in writing; having documented correspondence and approvals eliminates confusion, especially with design details. Complex projects have hundreds of details and we strive to have them identified and approved long before we go into production.

# Coming Home



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JOSH DESILETS

## Deckscape of Virginia LLC

Henry Ford said, “Quality means doing it right when no one is looking.” This quote epitomizes our approach.

Josh Desilets founded Deckscape of Virginia in 2004. The company has since grown into a full-service construction, hardscape and landscape enterprise with a great reputation. A family business that he runs with his parents, Gary and Deborah Desilets, it now encompasses a staff of 18,

including a landscape architect, three project designers and four project managers.

This steady growth has enabled Desilets to continue doing what he loves most: designing and building beautiful outdoor living spaces for clients. “Our philosophy is to work hard every day to provide the best service and craftsmanship regardless of the size of the project,” he explains. He is most proud of a recent renovation of the VIP Club at Jiffy Lube Live in Bristow, Virginia. The job encompassed the replacement of an old platform deck with inviting Trex deck areas featuring pergolas and

seating areas. The company also re-faced the bar pavilion with stone and granite countertops and seat walls and added a stage for VIP entertainment. Waterfalls and landscaping add the final touch.

The company’s primary focus, however, is on residential design. “We derive the most satisfaction from seeing the transformation of an empty or non-functional space into a beautiful outdoor living area that enhances a family’s quality of life,” says Desilets. “Sometimes a small space can be the most challenging and most rewarding when it becomes beautiful and functional.”



### LOOK AT OUR LATEST!

When we remodeled the VIP Club at Jiffy Lube Live, our vision was to imbue a commercial space with the feel of a residential backyard. The design included decks totaling 6,000 square feet, partially covered by pergolas that provide beauty and protection from the sun. New patio seating and seat walls (shown in these photos) have been installed. The landscape plan included trees, shrubs, flowers and a water garden/fountain area.

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#### CONTACT

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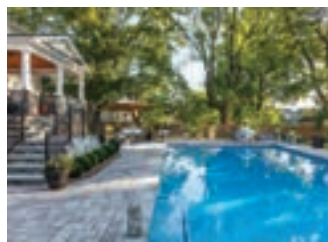


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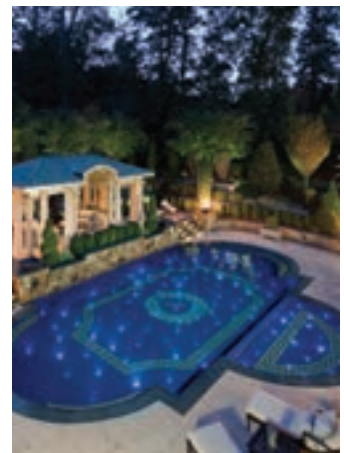


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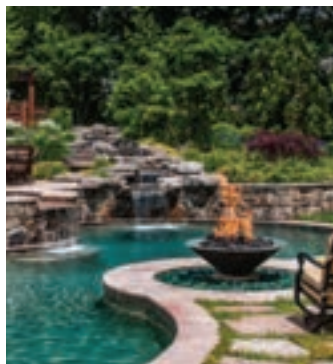


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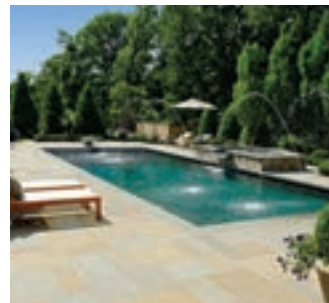
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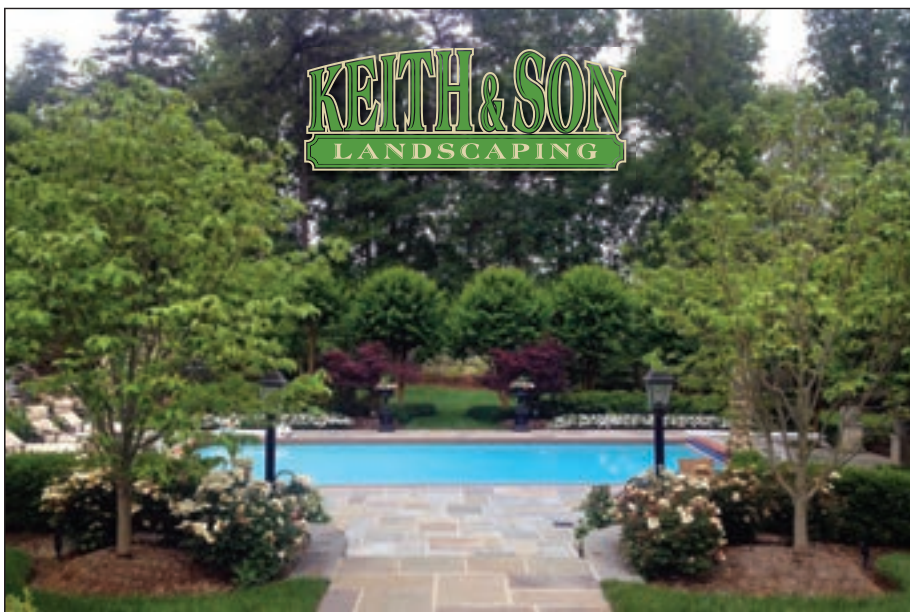
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### LOOK AT OUR LATEST!

Cathy Carr, owner of GreenHeart LLC, a garden design and consulting firm in the DC metro area, recently installed Zuri® on her property (left) and is delighted with the results. Carr has designed dozens of new decks for her clients and has weighed the pros and cons of all materials available on the market; she chose Zuri® for her own home because of its unique combination of beauty, sustainability and durability.

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# REMODELING



# FRESH FAÇADE

5



BEFORE

A homeowner was drawn to a McLean, Virginia, rambler for its location and promise of easy, one-story living. However, the unappealing, dated exterior needed an overhaul. She hired architectural designer Christina Doyle of Gilday Renovations to transform the home, both inside and out.

## THEN

The client wished to update the tired, brick façade and 1960s look with something fresh and stylish.

A low-slope roof made the house feel cramped and small.

Small, mundane windows added no charm to the home's appearance, and a garage door dominated the view from the front.

## NOW

A French Eclectic architectural style conveys a welcoming "country house" vibe; the brick is covered in painted stucco.

Doyle raised the interior ceilings 12 inches, and replaced the old roof with a steeply pitched, wood-truss roof that elevates the front façade.

French doors replaced the existing front door and windows, making the house appear taller and reinforcing its new look; a decorative dormer above and wrought-iron accents complete the picture.

RENOVATION ARCHITECTURE: Christina Doyle, Gilday Renovations, Silver Spring, Maryland. CONSTRUCTION: Gilday Renovations. PHOTOGRAPHY: Morgan Howarth.





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*Gardner Mohr Architects  
revives a dilapidated house  
in the woods with  
sustainability and style*

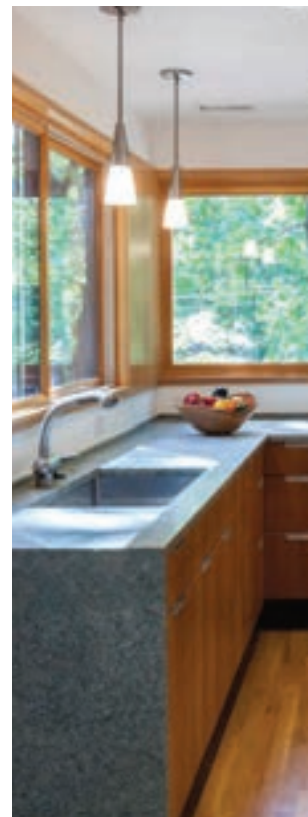
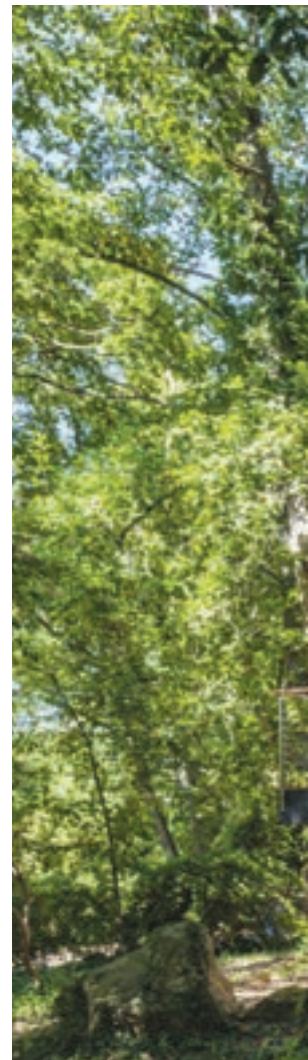
It was a trade-off: A run-down, poorly constructed house, circa 1969, was located on a spectacular site in Bethesda. The owners were forced to either raze or remodel their home when burst pipes rendered the place uninhabitable; zoning constraints and a goal of preserving existing trees made them opt to remodel. They called on Amy Gardner of Gardner Mohr Architects to create a space that would answer their wishes for a modern, energy-efficient abode with a strong connection to the outdoors.

“The position and orientation of the house were ideal for views and passive solar and natural ventilation, as well as the creation of secluded outdoor spaces,” Gardner says. Located on a sloping lot, the home had a tree house feel to it that the owners wanted to preserve. Gardner and her team designed a whole-house overhaul that would “improve the general building fabric and systems, extend the sense of living outdoors to all seasons and add strategically, staying within the original footprint.”

Doors and windows were enlarged and, in most cases, relocated to capture views. New porches and decks forge a connection to the outdoors, while the new, modern kitchen and baths—including a master bath that cantilevers over the south deck like a tree house—add convenience.

In the interest of preserving the existing structure, Gardner and her team removed, refinished and reinstalled the cedar siding using a rainscreen assembly. Next on the list: a landscape plan that will preserve the wooded site while creating an oasis of native species and a bird garden.

RENOVATION ARCHITECTURE: Amy Gardner, AIA, LEED AP, Gardner Mohr Architects, Silver Spring, Maryland. CONTRACTOR: Charlie Berliner, Berliner Construction, Annapolis, Maryland. PHOTOGRAPHY: Jim Tetro.





## AMY GARDNER'S TRADE SECRETS

- I often recommend an energy audit at the beginning of a renovation, in order to study performance and value. Starting with such information can guide aspects of the project, including significant budget decisions.
- Create a tiered list of goals: must-haves, desired options, wish list. Let it evolve during the first schematic design phase of the project, when options arise that can impact those original goals.
- Develop an understanding of the interconnectedness of elements within the house. We find this to be among our clients' biggest challenges when managing scope and budget.
- Summarize a project budget that includes construction, permit costs, contingency funds (often overlooked in the creation of a budget) and professional fees.

# FRIENDLY FIRE

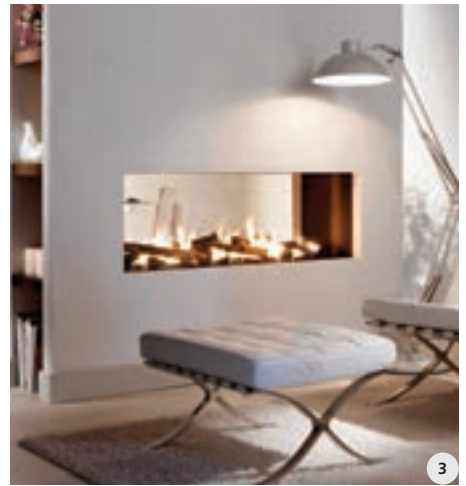
## A HOST OF HEARTHHS



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9

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## Michael Nash Design, Build & Homes

In-house talent, lots of budget-sensitive options and a company-wide concern for the client's satisfaction have always typified the Michael Nash brand.

Owner Sonny Nazemian launched Michael Nash Design, Build & Homes 30 years ago as an interior design firm. Since then, "interior design has changed drastically," he says. "It started with window treatments, flooring and interior decoration and evolved into space planning and architectural changes.

We have adapted with the times."

Today, Michael Nash designs and builds kitchens and baths, additions, outdoor living areas, extensions, basements and wine cellars—as well as new homes. A growing repertoire of architectural, engineering and interior design skills assures that each house will be unique: perfectly sighted, long-lasting and just right for its owner.

Michael Nash makes home improvement and custom-home building a consumer-friendly experience. The firm pledges to surpass client expectations, no matter the size or scope of the project. "Each client is unique—each project has its own challenge," Nazem-

ian says. "When that \$50,000 client is smiling as hard as a \$500,000 client, that brings us happiness.

"Everything about renovation these days is about luxury," he continues. "I try to add an element of luxury to every job, whether it's a \$50,000 job or a \$1 million job."

Over the last 10 years, Michael Nash has received numerous awards, including National Chrysalis awards and Contractor of the Year (COTY) awards from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. The company's work has often been featured in local, regional and national newspapers and magazines.



### LOOK AT OUR LATEST!

This home's new design eliminates walls between kitchen, family room and dining room for continuous traffic flow and openness. Ten-foot ceilings allow for decorative cabinetry and crown moldings. Quartzite counters and backsplash add brightness while high-end appliances clad in custom panels and chandeliers create elegance. Cabinetry separates the kitchen and dining room.

#### ADDRESS

8630-A Lee Highway  
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

#### CONTACT

info@michael-nash.com  
703-641-9800

#### WEB ADDRESS

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A stylish kitchen remodel by Michael Nash Design, Build & Homes.

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## A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

*What factors should clients consider when planning a remodeling project, and what are the secrets to success?*

### **DONNA C. GODWIN, ASID**

*Gallagher & Huguely*

The most important thing to consider is how homeowners want to feel when they're in the space. They need to focus on that and share it with their design team. Homey and comfortable are words that always pop up, but a good designer will push them farther. It's surprising what that conversation can lead to.

When choosing a firm, look for good designers with a real desire to walk in the shoes of their clients, understand what their life is like and tailor the job to them. The ability to listen is essential, along with a huge amount of experience. Kitchen and bath planning, for example, can be like a

landmine, with issues that can hang people up at every turn. It is essential to have a good design professional with you to navigate the waters.

### **DAVID LUNDEN**

*Timberlake Design/Build*

Budget dictates a lot of what you can accomplish. Consider whether it's worth putting this money into the house. Clients staying in a home for 20 years can over-improve because it's a lifestyle choice—not a financial investment.

I'm a firm believer in having an architect, interior designer and builder at the table from the very beginning. Working as a team is very important and you will end up with fewer surprises along the way. When

doing custom work, the ability to be flexible is important. Most people can't think in 3D, even with 3D modeling. Once they have the structure up, a project may look different than what the owners expected. As a result, there are invariably changes to be made along the way. You need to find a contractor who is flexible enough to manage changes and keep the project on schedule.

### **SONNY NAZEMIAN**

*Michael Nash Design, Build & Homes*

There are a few factors to consider: client needs, square footage and budget. Homeowners should ask themselves some important questions. First, are you over-improving the

property for the area that you live in? Is the size coordinated and balanced with the rest of the structure? And is the addition really going to tie in seamlessly to the existing home?

A design-build firm should have an in-house architect and in-house designers, because being able to modify a design is the most crucial part of remodeling, at the beginning and even during construction. Having in-house designers will eliminate a lot of back-and-forth with third parties, prevent mistakes and save clients a great deal of time. We do all the interior work like plumbing and electrical with our own employees. Also, having a project manager assigned to a job is another key to success.





ROB MENELEE

## FA Design Build/Flooring America

We consider ourselves lucky to be in a business where our knowledgeable, caring staff works together to provide customers with an unparalleled experience.

FA Design Build/Flooring America traces its roots to 1979, when the Menefee family opened the first of several retail flooring stores throughout the Washington area. From the beginning, the company gained a reputation for high standards of customer satisfaction. In 2004, it evolved into a design/build firm with

the mission of providing customers with the highest-quality products, installations and renovations delivered at competitive prices. The company has three showrooms offering an array of building materials.

“Our primary goal is to exceed our clients’ expectations with outstanding, full-service, design/build services, from inspiration through installation,” says CEO Rob Menefee. “We aim to express our clients’ personal lifestyle at a value they deserve.

“Our passion is to provide clients with the best and most cost-effective remodeling solutions that they can find and to provide them with an enjoyable experience along the

way,” he continues. “Remodeling doesn’t have to be a complicated process; we have all of the talent, knowledge and expertise to pull it together for you.”

No project is too large or too small for FA Design Build. “Whether it’s one room or an entire home, we get satisfaction from maximizing and refining the design of clients’ existing homes,” Menefee explains, pointing out the positive benefits a newly remodeled home can have on a family’s lifestyle. “A well designed space will not only make you more likely to have guests over, but will provide a place where you can relax and escape from outside stress,” he says.



### LOOK AT OUR LATEST!

FA Design Build gave an historic Alexandria, Virginia home a modern update. The goal was to design a new kitchen that not only complemented the historic character of the home, but also enhanced its connection to the past. By seamlessly blending the old and the new, the company created a warm, comfortable and functional space. Shaker-style white-painted cabinet doors coordinate with appliance panels, marble countertops and backsplash for a seamless look.

#### ADDRESS

9979 Main Street  
Fairfax, Virginia 22031

#### CONTACT

888-469-2180

#### WEB ADDRESS

[fadesignbuild.com](http://fadesignbuild.com)

# EDITORS' PICKS



1



2



3



4

## 1/ MODERN ENGINEERING

The Knotty Walnut Colorado engineered floor—part of Mirage Floors' Admiration Collection—is made of sustainably harvested hardwood over a plywood base. The smooth surface resists wear, cracks and UV rays. The floor is available in a hypoallergenic semi-gloss or matte finish, in planks or strips. [miragefloors.com](http://miragefloors.com)

## 2/ WEATHERED WOOD

The timeworn beauty of aging wood characterizes Windfall Lumber's Sabi weather interior wall cladding, made of Douglas fir

and hemlock reclaimed from solid and glue-laminated beams and lumber. Named for the Japanese philosophy of Wabi Sabi—the discovery of beauty in imperfection—the cladding highlights wood grain and texture. It comes in random lengths and in a range of finishes. [windfalllumber.com](http://windfalllumber.com)

## 3/ STEAMPUNK STYLE

Atlas Homewares' Steam Punk Collection of pulls and handles conjures the eponymously named fiction genre featuring steam-powered machinery in 19th-century settings. The

collection is crafted and textured to resemble industrial plumbing fixtures and is available in brushed nickel, graphite and vintage brass. [atlashomewares.com](http://atlashomewares.com)

## 4/ MOROCCAN MAGIC

Fireclay Tile's Moroccan collection creates an exotic vibe using textured motifs, many of which are based on traditional Moroccan designs. Hand-painted in neutral and vivid colors with lead-free glazes on clay that's 70 percent recycled. The tiles come in a range of sizes. [fireclaytile.com](http://fireclaytile.com)



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◀ INTO THE LIGHT

The Pixi FlatLight luminaire (on ceiling) is an easy-to-install LED light source that comes in the form of a sleek panel that can be flush-mounted to any flat surface. This fixture uses 80 percent less energy than a standard light and contains no mercury or lead, which reduces its carbon footprint. [pixi-lighting.com](http://pixi-lighting.com)

▼ SAY WHAT?

Recycled plastic bottles and eco-friendly dyes provide the material for Kirei's EchoPanel, a new line of acoustic surface products that comes in flat panels, molded tiles and peel-and-stick die-cut tiles. Manufactured in Australia, the panels offer a noise reduction co-efficient of up to .85. They come in 30 colors and seven- and 12-millimeter sheets that may be imprinted or laser cut into a variety of shapes. [kireiusa.com](http://kireiusa.com)



▲ NEW WAVE

The swell of waves over glass inspired Swell, House Fifty Two's new mosaic-tile collection by Erin Adams. Characterized by smooth edges and organic shapes, the colorful, matte tiles can be used for pools, shower floors, fireplaces, kitchens, baths and more. Available in 16 shades that can be custom blended. [housefiftytwo.com](http://housefiftytwo.com)



▲ DOOR WAYS

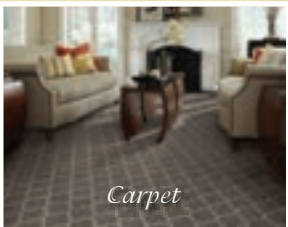
The Modern Crystal Disc Knob from Emtek adds transitional style with a clean-lined design that complements any décor. Also available in a round, square, octagonal, oblong or orb shape. Pictured here with a square rosette. [emtek.com](http://emtek.com)



# Remodeling Fairfax and Loudoun with today's designs



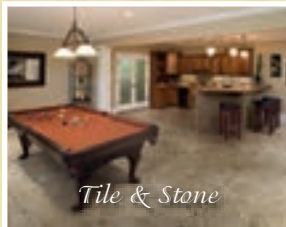
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◀ **FAMILY AFFAIR**

German manufacturer Klafs' glass-fronted All-Generation Comfort sauna meets the needs of everyone in the family, from kids to seniors whose mobility may be restricted. Handrails make it safe to maneuver, spacious benches on several levels allow for comfortable seating or reclining and indirect lighting creates a soothing atmosphere while making it easy to see. [klafs.com](http://klafs.com)



▲ **LOOK, NO HANDS**

Pfister's trademark React sensor technology is the key to the Selia (pictured) and Pasadena Touch-Free Kitchen Faucets, which respond to a wave of the hand over their sensors. Convenient and hygienic, the faucet shuts the stream off automatically after two minutes of inactivity and a manual override allows use of the handle anytime. [pfisterfaucets.com](http://pfisterfaucets.com)



▲ **THE LOOK OF LINEN**

Daltile's Fabrique line of porcelain tile mimics the look of linen with its delicately textured surface. Tiles come in a variety of neutral shades and are slip-resistant enough for a shower floor. Pictured here, Crème Linen clads the walls while Noir Linen covers the floor. Available in a range of sizes and patterns. [daltile.com](http://daltile.com)

▶ **SPACE SAVER**

This home office by Econize encompasses a desk setup with open bookshelves, deep cabinets and a work surface. To the left of the frame, a unit of shelving and cabinetry doubles as a Murphy bed with a built-in pillow box that folds up to create floor space when needed. Components come in stylishly contrasting finishes. [eco-nize.com](http://eco-nize.com)



◀ **WHAT'S COOKING?**

The Italian appliance manufacturer SMEG has just introduced its retro-style 36-inch-wide Victorian range to the U.S. market. It comes in cream, black and stainless steel; features include eight pro-cooking functions, molded chrome shelves with telescopic guides and a rotisserie. A matching hood offers three speeds. [smegusa.com](http://smegusa.com)



▼ **SUPER SURFACE**

Italian company SantaMargherita's quartz surfaces are perfect for floor, wall and countertop applications. Crafted from quartz sand and resins, they resist chipping, abrasions and staining and come in a wide range of colors (pictured: Skyfall), textures and finishes. Waterjet cutting and imprinting can create a one-of-a-kind look. Available as slabs or tiles. [santamargherita.net](http://santamargherita.net)



▲ **GREAT VIEW**

The wide variety of windows on offer from Kolbe is showcased in the bath above. Walls of stacked awning crank-out windows and picture casements create views of the outdoors from three separate angles. The windows are mullioned for a more classic look and are available in a range of glass types, glazes and wood species. [kolbewindows.com](http://kolbewindows.com)

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The Michael Nash designs skillfully marry engineering and infrastructure solutions with well-articulated elevations and interior scheme that is architecturally-appropriate, highly functional and warmly inviting.

703-641-9800  
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# A YEAR IN DESIGN

*A calendar of home and garden shows, tours & special events*

## **E(MERGE) ART FAIR**

October 2 to 5, 2014. Capitol Skyline Hotel, DC; [emergeartfair.com](http://emergeartfair.com)

## **MARYLAND HOME & HOLIDAY SHOW**

October 17 to 19, 2014. Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Maryland; [mdhomeandgarden.com/fall](http://mdhomeandgarden.com/fall)

## **13TH ANNUAL RESTON HOME TOUR**

October 18, 2014. Reston, Virginia; [restonmuseum.org](http://restonmuseum.org)

## **DUPONT CIRCLE HOUSE TOUR & TEA**

October 19, 2014. Dupont Circle, DC; [dupont-circle.org](http://dupont-circle.org)

## **32ND ANNUAL ST. ALBANS CHRISTMAS HOUSE TOUR**

December 5 & 6, 2014. Washington, DC; [stalbansschool.org](http://stalbansschool.org)

## **HOME + REMODELING SHOW**

January 23 to 25, 2015. Dulles Expo Center Chantilly, Virginia; [homeandremodelingshow.com](http://homeandremodelingshow.com)

The entry garden, designed by D & A Dunlevy Landscapers, Inc., welcomed visitors to the 2014 DC Design House. Architectural update by Rill Architects, PC. Photo © Angie Seckinger.

## **AMERICAN CRAFT COUNCIL SHOW**

February 20 to 22, 2015. Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland; [craftcouncil.org](http://craftcouncil.org)

## **CAPITAL REMODEL + GARDEN SHOW**

February 27 to March 1, 2015. Dulles Expo Center, Chantilly, Virginia; [capitalhomeandgardenshow.com](http://capitalhomeandgardenshow.com)

## **MARYLAND HOME AND GARDEN SPRING SHOW**

March 1, 2, 7, 8 & 9, 2015. Maryland State Fairgrounds, Timonium, Maryland; [mdhomeandgarden.com/spring](http://mdhomeandgarden.com/spring)

## **2015 DC DESIGN HOUSE**

April 11 to May 12, 2015. Location to be determined; [dcdesignhouse.com](http://dcdesignhouse.com)

## **HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IN VIRGINIA**

April 18 to 25, 2015; The Garden Club of Virginia and statewide; [vagardenweek.org](http://vagardenweek.org)

## **32ND ANNUAL SMITHSONIAN CRAFT SHOW**

April 23 to 26, 2015. National Building Museum, DC; [smithsoniancraftshow.com](http://smithsoniancraftshow.com)

## **THE 17TH ANNUAL PARADE OF HOMES**

April 25 & 26, 2015. Northern Virginia; [vaparadeofhomes.com](http://vaparadeofhomes.com)

## **BALTIMORE SYMPHONY DECORATOR SHOW HOUSE**

April 26 to May 17, 2015. Location to be determined; [bsomusic.org](http://bsomusic.org)

## **CAPITOL HILL RESTORATION SOCIETY 58TH ANNUAL HOUSE AND GARDEN TOUR**

May 9 & 10, 2015. Capitol Hill, DC; [chrs.org](http://chrs.org)

## **BETHESDA FINE ARTS FESTIVAL**

May 9 & 10, 2015. Bethesda, Maryland; [bethesda.org](http://bethesda.org)

## **PLEIN AIR-EASTON ART FESTIVAL**

July 11 to 19, 2015. Easton, Maryland; [pleinaireaston.com](http://pleinaireaston.com)

## **34TH ANNUAL BALTIMORE SUMMER ANTIQUES SHOW**

August 20 to 23, 2015. Baltimore Convention Center, Baltimore, Maryland; [baltimoresummerantiques.com](http://baltimoresummerantiques.com)

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