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ASSOCIATION

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PICKS

DESIGN AWARDS

2018 WINNERS FROM NKBA'S
MINNESOTA CHAPTER

BY KATELYN BLOOMQUIST



ARTISAN MATERIALS

1ST PLACE

BOLD AND BUBBLY

Tami Holsten, AKBD, *Bear Trap Design*
Tammy Johnson, CKD, *Arrow Cabinet Gallery*

One tile, two tile, gray tile, blue tile. Inspired by Dr. Seuss and his whimsical ways, this once dark and drab kitchen space was transformed into a lighthearted and playful place that now boasts a beautiful backsplash. After the design was hand-drawn on a set of elevation drawings, a color palette was chosen, pieces were placed, and the design took on a rhythm and rhyme of its own. Hand-crafted tiles by local artisans set the scene for the daring, organic, blue-gray design. The round tiles, which simulate floating bubbles, rise above the range in an eccentric and quirky fashion.



WALLPAPER: GALACATTA MARBLE; RONALD REDDING ORGANIC CORK TEXTURES WALLPAPER; BACKSPLASH: COVERINGS; CORNER CABS: IMAGES; POTOLIA; BELOW: STEVE VOEGLI; OPPOSITE ABOVE: SPACRAFTING; BELOW: JILL GREER

1ST PLACE

BOUTS OF BLUE

Laurie Butler, CKD, and Becca Hall
Ispiri Design-Build

Not many people are hesitant to give a big thumbs-down to outdated appliances, dark backsplashes, meager lighting, and far-too-tight cooking quarters. Unsurprisingly, the clients of this lake home wanted to revamp and revive their rustic kitchen into a space with a calm, cool, and coastal vibe. The solution was simple: A bright, clean kitchen with bouts of bold blue and beautiful amenities. The open-concept design and removal of arched soffits and posts created room for a large, central island, dining table, integrated appliances, and even a built-in coffee maker and beverage center. But be sure to look closer because the design is in the details: A glass backsplash, pot filler, blue range knobs, “X” patterned glass cabinet fronts, and clean, white finishes give this renovated space a coveted Cape Cod feel.



2ND PLACE

ENDURING ORNAMENT

Sarah Maly, CKD,
Sawhill Custom Kitchens

When this family of four found their forever home, all they needed was a kitchen to match. The original space (though flaunting a lovely lake view) was plagued with inadequate prep surfaces, meager appliances, and nonexistent eat-in area. Beyond these must-fix features, the client desired separate his-and-hers sinks, a beverage/serving area, and the maximum amount of seating the space could hold. To accommodate, the designer strategically remodeled the kitchen by turning potential problems into blossoming opportunity. By incorporating a new pantry, wider hallways, and built-in cabinetry (while also honing in on details of the tracery ceiling, custom corbels, and top-notch tiles), what began as a dark and monotone kitchen is now the heart of the home.

MEDIUM KITCHEN

150–350 square feet

1ST PLACE

VICTORIAN VERVE

Kate Roos

Kate Roos Design

This family of six had an extensive list of wants, needs, and requirements for their new kitchen: a baking station; a six-person island; high-capacity appliances; and sufficient storage. At the same time, they didn't want to sacrifice the feel and flow of their Victorian-style home. To meet these desires, the designer removed the low-sitting soffits to add height, raised the cabinets to the ceiling, created dedicated work zones, incorporated open shelving, purchased a prep sink, installed red oak floors, and managed to maintain the Victorian design throughout the far-reaching process. The strokes of color and accents of wood that seamlessly combine with the Carrara marble counters, birch shelves, and matching vent hood create a welcoming, modern aesthetic.



2ND PLACE

FROM '90S TO NOVEL

Laurie Butler, CKD, and Becca Hall, *Ispiri Design-Build*

These clients had a full plate: Between renovating their '90s kitchen and simultaneously adding a three-season porch and new patio door, what originally had the potential to be a devastating disaster turned out to ensure a well-thought out, traffic-approved remodel. The homeowners wanted a large island with ample seating, an open floor plan that extended into the family room, and updated kitchen features. In response, the designer removed soffits and walls, incorporated a new island (that provided seating, storage, and a sink), installed a gorgeous wood hood over the range, and replaced an old broom closet with one of the client's requirements—a butler's pantry. The result? A glamorous, open-concept kitchen with a complementary (and brand new) porch and patio to match.



ABOVE ANDREA RUGG | BELOW SPACECRAFTING
OPPOSITE ABOVE SCOTT GILBERTSON | BELOW ANDREA RUGG

1ST PLACE

RECONFIGURED RENO

Anne Newman, ASID

Partners 4, Design

The clients of this small kitchen knew exactly what they *didn't* want incorporated in the revamp of their 1950s suburban rambler: white. What they *did* want was a welcoming, dog-friendly kitchen that sported a gray and glossy taupe color palette. To create the perfect pet-approved space for this veterinarian, the kitchen was stripped to near nothing to prep for the installation of new appliances and up-to-date electronics. The designer created better flow throughout the room by relocating the sink and opening up an interior wall that led to the dining room. By pulling in additional light with a glass backsplash, installing maintenance-free porcelain tile floors, building a breakfast bar, transforming the fire-place, and throwing in custom cabinetry for additional storage, what was once outdated is now outstanding.



2ND PLACE

SMALL SPACE SUCCESS

Kate Roos

Kate Roos Design

When a lack of light combines with a lack of both counter space and storage, you need a solution, stat. The clients of this small kitchen knew it, and that's exactly why they traded in their cramped, poorly functioning kitchen for an upbeat space that could entertain guests in their bungalow-style home. One of the client's wishes was to remove the wall between the kitchen and dining room, but this request was met with a considerable challenge: How could they increase storage and counter space while losing a wall? The designer's innovative solutions included raising the remaining cabinets up to the ceiling, installing floating shelves across the top of the wall, and mounting a magnetic steel panel to hang pans and other cookware.



BUDGET-FRIENDLY KITCHEN

< \$40,000

1ST PLACE

BUNGALOW ON A BUDGET

Kate Roos

Kate Roos Design

As first-time homeowners, the newlywed clients of this remodel knew their kitchen needed an out-of-this-world renovation. In order to adhere to their limited budget of \$40,000, they took it upon themselves to get down and dirty, performing a partial demolition and tackling the painting themselves. With the help of their designer, they pulled off an upscale look and custom design—sans hefty price tag—by purchasing a floor-model fridge, installing economical quartz countertops, refinishing the existing wood floors, and opting for budget-friendly appliances. The small scale of the kitchen kept the price down without sacrificing the quality, look, or feel of a high-end home.



2ND PLACE

LABOR OF LOVE

Tammy Johnson, CKD

Arrow Cabinet Gallery

The architecture of this couple's townhome was practical and functional, but after the husband suffered a debilitating stroke, it no longer served them. They sought to change their outdated and uninviting kitchen by converting it into a bright and happy open floor plan—safe and usable for both husband and wife. To stay within their tight budget (and follow association rules), the clients took on the demolition work, preserved the existing floor, transformed the standing walls into half walls, and recruited the help of friends who offered their services at reduced rates. The new and improved space is distinguished by its soft, baby blue and seafoam green aesthetic, a multi-colored backsplash, scroll work appliques, and glossy, marble countertops.



ABOVE ANDREA RUGG BELOW DENISE BAUER
OPPOSITE ABOVE ALYSSA LEE BELOW SPACECRAFTING

1ST PLACE**ATTIC REVIVAL**

Sara E. Carstens, AKBD

Adler-Allyn Interior Design, LLC

As a prominent and professional citizen famous for hosting colleagues as well as family at their home, this client was ready to say *au revoir* to the awkward layout of their attic bath in exchange for something a little more glam. Their goals for the remodel: add function (as in, a double sink vanity, separate shower, and comfortable toilet height); install adequate lighting; create more storage; reuse the historic clawfoot tub; introduce a marble shower and mosaic flooring; and invest in heated floors. Faced with challenges around every corner, the designer strategically played off ceiling heights, added LED fixtures, and built a narrow soffit with delicate and decorative sconces. Covered in crystal, white, and gray detail, this top-floor transformation lends an updated, traditional feel that keeps the home's historical charm firmly intact.

**2ND PLACE****SLEEK AND CHIC**

Laurie Butler, CKD, and Becca Hall

Ispiri Design-Build

Grand. Luxury. Bling. Three simple words, yet a perfect description of what the client envisioned for their new master bath. Ready to leave their dark, rather heavy bathroom behind, the clients hoped to introduce a stylish, trendy feel with a double bowl vanity, a roomy, frameless shower, and loads of storage space. The designers promptly went to work, reconfiguring part of the walk-in closet to make space for the new shower, creating separate his-and-hers vanities, and installing clean cabinetry around a large vanity mirror. The marble floors reflect the dazzling chandelier, sparkling crystal sconces, and shiny chrome fixtures, while soft pink accents lend the perfect glamorous-yet-refined finishing touch.



SMALL BATHROOM

< 55 square feet

1ST PLACE

MOD MAKEOVER

Anne Newman, ASID, *Partners 4, Design*

The goal aesthetic: a modern, industrial bath with natural wood, black accents, and splashes of brilliant white that nodded to a classic color palette. The current aesthetic: a warehouse-converted-condominium with dated “flair” that offered zero natural light and sported low ceilings, and dark, dated features that needed to go. Gracing the top of the client’s must-have list was access from the bathroom to the bedroom, the removal of the dropped drywall ceiling, and the addition of LED lights, storage, and a frameless shower (and, of course, a way to welcome natural light into the space). The designer cut a frosted-glass door into the adjacent bedroom wall to let light in, removed the ceiling to expose historic wooden beams, installed a recessed, LED-lit mirror/medicine cabinet, and even added a floating vanity to create room for more storage space.



2ND PLACE

VICTORIAN OVERHAUL

Kate Roos, *Kate Roos Design*

The empty nesters of this small bathroom space knew it was time to reconsider the original bathroom of their Victorian-style home. The clients were well aware of the room’s many problems: the clawfoot tub was worn and clunky; the pipes were leaking; and the storage just wasn’t enough to provide the modern, spa-like feel they desired. Envisioning an updated look that still embraced the Victorian-era elements they loved, they wanted to install a floor-to-ceiling corner shower, a series of space-creating cabinets and vanities, and polished chrome fixtures. In response, the designer morphed drab and dreary into marvelous and magnetic. The vanity’s decorative backsplash, Italian marble hex tile, statement-making wood detail, and pretty pops of bright white give this 19th-century bathroom a dazzling dose of 2018.

ABOVE SCOTT GILBERTSON | BELOW ANDREA RUGG
OPPOSITE ABOVE STEPHEN VOEBELI | BELOW SPACECRAFTING

1ST PLACE

A TOUCH OF DELIGHT

Tami Holsten, AKBD

Bear Trap Design

What's less than 19-square-feet and blood-red all over? This client's old powder room. In order to meet building requirements, the designer worked to maximize open space and add visual appeal to the tiny bathroom. By mounting a new wall sink, repositioning the toilet, and creating a gorgeous accent wall (tiled with mosaic Carrara marble) the space now has a clean and modern feel. As they worked diligently to get the bath up to code, a new problem presented itself: There wasn't any room for a door to open. To resolve the issue, the designer implemented a large floor-length mirror to act as a sliding barn door, that, when closed, completely disguised the bathroom behind it. By integrating a glimpse of gold and trace of tile, this overbearing-turned-inviting space adds resourceful and renewed purpose to the client's home.



2ND PLACE

FINISHES AND FIXTURES

Laurie Butler, CKD, and Becca Hall

Ispiri Design-Build

When a once trendy '80s bath turns from shabby chic to just plain shabby, you know it's time for an overhaul. The biggest challenge this space provided was finding a toilet that wouldn't interfere with the proximity of the counter above it. To resolve the dilemma, the designers installed a one-piece, low-tank toilet that allowed the client to fully open the lid without having to sacrifice must-keep, non-negotiable counter space. What was once branded with outdated brass now highlights shimmering pressed cork wallpaper, a crystal light fixture, oversized mirror, and extra long (not to mention useful) bathroom surfaces.

SHOWROOM

Installed showroom displays

1ST PLACE

OUTDOOR OASIS

Laurie Butler, CKD, and Ami Johansson

Ispiri Design-Build

If you thought mixing Midwest with a twist of West Coast wouldn't work, think again: This outdoor, full service showroom (designed for event hosting, landscape inspo, and highlighting luxurious kitchen selections) pulls it off effortlessly. The client needed a large space—something that was equally intimate and relaxing—that created a fall-inspired, woody feel while still managing to leave a bold and modern impression. The result? A large, backyard kitchen patio with mod materials, playful pops of orange, and open-air elements including a towering stone fireplace, fully functional kitchen, brick pizza oven, outdoor cabinetry, and natural wood pergolas. This custom, one-of-a-kind showroom provides a promising slice of paradise.



2ND PLACE

TEXTURE TAKEOVER

Lacey Ahlbrecht

Sawhill Custom Kitchens

This sophisticated showroom display floods the floor with a timeless, textured, and transformative touch of what we know today as the “modern farmhouse.” To showcase some of the hottest trends and most popular “musts” of kitchen design, the designer features nothing but the best: Via Lattea granite; black, rustic, patina oak cabinetry; lime-washed, vinyl wood plank floors; and, as the five-star focal point, a custom-designed hood set against glossy, brick-like tile that shines among matte trim and the latest in kitchen appliances. Swarming with splashes of white, black, and antique brass, this unique design carries creative and classic style into a world of wood, wicker, and white-clad wonders.

ABOVE SPACRAFTING BELOW LACEY AHLBRECHT
OPPOSITE SPACRAFTING (2)

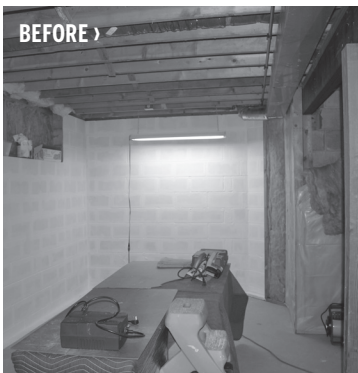
1ST PLACE

UNFINISHED
TO UNDENIABLE

Calie Pierce and Tracy Hains

Che Bella Interiors

When you're starting from scratch, opportunity soars. The client wanted a space fit for function and chock-full of flair, but their requirements were unique. The room needed the ability to fit three separate purposes: a guest bedroom; a work-from-home office; and closed-off storage space. Overcoming structural challenges galore, the designers managed to nail every one of the client's desires by sectioning the area into two hubs—first, a work station backed by gorgeous wood cabinetry, and second, a pullout Murphy bed nestled between more custom, floor-to-ceiling storage areas. What started as an unfinished, insulation-exposed lower level transformed into an elegant, functional space full of rich tones.



2ND PLACE

CHERRY AND STONE

Laurie Butler, CKD, and Becca Hall

Ispiri Design-Build

The clients' needs were simple: keep the wood floor and windows; minimize the stone and cherry details; and find a better location for the TV and audio-video equipment. In turn, the designers removed a wall-to-wall soffit to install built-ins and remodeled the stairs—generously glazed to match the custom cabinetry and stained cherry floor. The biggest, most notable addition? A two-story, floor-to-ceiling paneled fireplace with “X” patterned cabinetry. 🏠

KATELYN BLOOMQUIST is an editorial intern at *Midwest Home*.

FOR INFORMATION ON PRODUCTS AND SUPPLIERS, SEE PAGE 76.

