

BY
CAMILLE
LEFEVRE

NATIONAL **KITCHEN & BATH** ASSOCIATION

DESIGN AWARDS



2019 WINNERS FROM NKBA'S
MINNESOTA CHAPTER

EDITORS' CHOICE: MOST DRAMATIC KITCHEN TRANSFORMATION

Laurie Butler, CKD, and Sara Martin
Ispiri, LLC

TO SEE ALL 2019 NKBA WINNERS AS WELL AS OUR OWN "EDITORS' CHOICE" PICKS, VISIT US ONLINE AT MIDWESTHOME.COM/NKBA-2019

1ST PLACE

BEACH VIBES

Adrienne Dorig Leland, CKD
Dorig Designs, LLC

Having purchased an 1895 Victorian, the homeowners (formerly of southern California) yearned for a new kitchen that would capture the beach vibes of their former home—except on a budget. The designer deftly transformed the small kitchen into a space that feels much larger by bringing in lighter colors, open shelving under the stairs, and clear glass cabinets at the new baking center. The beach palette comes in via a sea glass-like backsplash; brushed gold details; and a whimsical fish-scale motif on white tile and in the vent grill above the fridge. More counter space, specialized storage, and new cabinets at a height suitable for the homeowners gave the remodeled kitchen a clean start. A sink relocation, shortened windows, and white quartz counters not only renew the kitchen, but bring more workspace into the heart of the home.



2ND PLACE

CONDO KITCHEN REDO

Carrie Harrington, AKBD
i.d. interior design

After downsizing and moving into a condo, the owners of this space needed greater functionality and improved design sensibility in their new kitchen—without “over-investing” in the building and breaking their budget. By keeping the major components in place, the designer could maximize custom cabinetry with plentiful storage, add new appliances, install designer light fixtures, and add luxury vinyl tile to the floor. Entry-level granite countertops, a unique backsplash tile, and new paint brightened the space, combining splurges with practicality to achieve the perfect kitchen for this couple.



LARGE KITCHEN

1ST PLACE

TRUE TO TRADITION

Claire Teunissen

Mingle, LLC

The homeowner had one primary goal: to move the cooktop off the island. What ensued completely re-defined the kitchen's classic aesthetic. A matching painted-wood hood and full-height backsplash created a focal point on the back wall, soffits were removed to extend stacked glass cabinets up to the ceiling, and crown molding was installed throughout. Straightening the island solved a lot of the space's issues and allowed enough depth for an oven, increased functional seating, and streamlined the space between the island and oven cabinetry. Cream-colored cabinets are warmed by walnut wood countertops and brushed brass finishes. The updated desk area and added storage complete the fresh, airy space.



2ND PLACE

MODERN WARMTH

Carol Kornak

Crystal Kitchen + Bath

The warm wood and distinctive lines of the homeowners' mid-century Haywood Wakefield dining set drove the renovation of their discreetly contemporary kitchen. A limited number of frameless cabinets in high-gloss white and walnut-stained horizontal wood grain were well planned to maximize storage—with dividers and drawers specifically sized to accommodate existing plates, glassware, pots, pans, and utensils. A dramatic “bridge” of cabinets suspends from the soffit that frames the open kitchen and dining areas, providing storage for less-used items. A mid-century-inspired wave tile backsplash and Sputnik-style chandelier enhance the sense of mid-century style with contemporary aplomb.



1ST PLACE

MID-CENTURY MODERNIZED

Megan Dent, AKBD

Mingle, LLC

A 1950's rambler, purchased as a retirement home, needed a dramatic kitchen renovation that would embrace the home's mid-century aesthetic. Elegant walnut cabinets (some that reach to the already-raised ceiling) and matching mini soffits emphasize the mid-century design's signature horizontal lines. The blend of timeless and trendy backsplash materials brings classic and contemporary into alignment. A dumbwaiter was replaced with two large pantry cabinets, and the back entry is now a walk-in pantry. The island was enlarged to incorporate storage on both sides. The oak parquet floor stayed, but a new wall cabinet now functions as a drop-off zone for keys.



2ND PLACE

COLOR POP

Mary Maney, CKD, ASID, CLIPP

Crystal Kitchen + Bath

The family in this split-level home lived a cubicle-like life in its tight and cramped kitchen and dining areas. By removing the wall to the dining room (but leaving the two-sided fireplace as a focal point), the designer enlarged the overall vaulted kitchen space. After replacing the patio door with a large sliding glass door and adding a 10-foot window above the sink, the homeowners were able to enjoy full views of their backyard. Bamboo cabinetry, quartz countertops, and pops of red in the ceiling fixture and chairs provide a sense of balance in the lively-yet-serene kitchen.



SMALL KITCHEN

1ST PLACE

WOODLAND INDUSTRY

Claire Teunissen

Mingle, LLC

Reclaimed barn wood, honed quartz countertops, slate-finish appliances, and matte-black hardware and light fixtures bring an industrial, loft-style look to the formerly drab, cramped kitchen in this 1960s-era home. Keeping the existing terracotta tile floor, the designer introduced complementary materials, opened up the space, and relocated the peninsula and range. New walls in the dining area double as pantries, while a new pantry stands tall adjacent to the barn wood pipe chase. Abundant prep areas and space-saving appliances give the kitchen room to breathe as it blends into the nearby dining room.



ARTISAN MATERIALS



2ND PLACE

URBAN VIBE

Laurie Butler, CKD, Courtney Johnson, and Sara Martin

Ispiri, LLC

How do you add an urban vibe to a showroom without disrespecting adjacent wood features? Add a floor-to-ceiling metal panel fireplace surround crafted by a local artisan. Seam locations, color, pattern, and finish were all taken into consideration to ensure a sleek, smooth appearance. Beautifully handcrafted with a subtle blue finish, the panels add a stunning urban edge to the walnut shelves and painted cabinetry. The juxtaposition is naturally appealing.

ABOVE: SCOTT AMUNDSON
BELOW & OPPOSITE MIDDLE: SPACECRAFTING
OPPOSITE ABOVE: ELIZA PORTER BELOW: ANDREA RUGG



2ND PLACE - TIE

WHITE OUT

Adrienne Dorig Leland, CKD

Dorig Designs, LLC

Blending SoCal beach vibes (the homeowners are transplants) with bright white cabinetry, this redo in an 1895 Victorian kitchen enlarged the space with a splash of seaside panache. Shortening the windows created a continuous flow of counter space from range to fridge, while moving the sink to the window wall created more prep space. Specialized storage within lower cabinets accommodates specialty cooking and baking items, and the baking center's low counter is perfect for rolling dough. Blue-green sea glass tile, brushed gold hardware, and a fish-scale motif create a seaside feel year round.

2ND PLACE - TIE

CLEAN SWEEP

Carol Kornak

Crystal Kitchen + Bath

A total refresh was needed in this 100-year-old farmhouse's kitchen, which lacked necessary storage, built-in appliances, wall space, and room to expand. By relocating the appliances, the designer opened up cooking areas and counter space. New cabinets maximize storage with roll-outs and drawer dividers. A new breakfast bar was made from locally sourced, recycled elm wood. Cambria countertops and painted white cabinets (in conjunction with a soft gray backsplash, walls, and flooring) add tasteful accents.



2ND PLACE - TIE

CRAFTSMAN CREATIVITY

Kate Roos

Kate Roos Design, LLC

Three adults, two high-schoolers, and three dogs could no longer manage in the tiny kitchen of this 1920's home. Desperate for a reno, the family now enjoys space for cooking and cleanup on one side of the kitchen (for uninterrupted cooking and unimpeded access to the basement and fridge). Storage accommodates everyone's must-haves, including high cabinets for tall family members, easy-to-grab magnetic steel walls for spices, and even a tea pull-out located under the seating area. Quarter-sawn white oak, lots of Craftsman detailing, and hand-glazed tile creatively complete the Craftsman appeal.



LARGE BATHROOM

1ST PLACE & EDITORS' CHOICE

PRETTY IN PINK

Liz Schupanitz, CKD

Liz Schupanitz Designs, LLC

An unfixable leak led the homeowners to a bath remodel. They wanted to keep the rosy-pink color palette, which conjured the look of the old-world hotel they stayed in during their honeymoon. To make it happen, Italian Rose Portogallo was selected for not only the counter-top, but the marble walls' accent trim and mini brick floor tiles. The plaster walls are finished with a light coating of Venetian paint. A new vanity (with carvings and curved doors and legs) is complemented by an Art Deco mirror and antique lights. The laundry chute was relocated for convenience, while a wall was eliminated and replaced with a freestanding linen cabinet that boasts organized storage solutions. Elegant and sophisticated, the new bath is a study in softness and self-care.



2ND PLACE

RAMBLER RESPITE

Megan Dent, AKBD

Mingle, LLC

Having recently purchased a 1950's rambler, the homeowners wanted a bathroom remodel that would accommodate changing needs in their retirement. Removing the existing drop-in tub was a requirement, as was adding his-and-hers sinks and storage. The designer increased the length of the center vanity (which is now flanked by two linen cabinets) to address the homeowners' requests. The toilet was relocated to enlarge the shower area, which has two glass sides to capture natural light. The simple, clean lines of the cabinetry, a palette of natural materials, and pops of color via green glass tile create a contemporary feel, yet mid-century elements remain firmly intact.

1ST PLACE

MUSIC BOX BATH

Laurie Butler, CKD, and Courtney Johnson

Ispiri, LLC

The homeowner had taken good care of the 1880's home built by Swedish immigrants for decades, but the time had come for a new bathroom that incorporated existing features with contemporary luxuries. The millwork and china lavatory top were saved, and a new vanity was created to complement carved walnut doors and hardware the homeowner had purchased in France. Installed beside the new shower is a pull-out cabinet with antique mirrored insets, plus plentiful storage for cosmetics and toiletries. Swarovski sconces, in-floor heating, and a heated towel bar add to the luxe elements. Birds take flight beneath the new skylight via the toile wallpaper, cabinet door carvings, and antique pull-on-the-pocket door.



2ND PLACE

LIGHTEN UP

Evangeline Fitzpatrick, AKBD, and Kate Roos

Kate Roos Design, LLC

Transforming a cramped bathroom into a space with greater flow, ample storage, and a relaxed mid-century aesthetic was met with several challenges. Original plumbing in the 1961 home had to stay in place, the budget was tight, the bathroom's entry restricted vanity depth, and a hinged door created a bottleneck at the sink. Thankfully, the addition of a pocket door resolved most of the issues, and repurposing a hall closet solved storage problems. Rift-sawn white oak cabinetry, toe kick lighting, and a framed area bracketed with brass sconces blends style with utility in the light-filled, streamlined bath.



POWDER BATHROOM

1ST PLACE

TRADITIONAL UTILITY

Carrie Harrington, AKBD

i.d. interior design

Located off the front entry inside this historical home, this powder room inexplicably housed a claw-foot tub, drab wood paneling, and a slider window. After gutting the space, the designer inserted a French casement-style window to usher in some sunlight. Reproduction William Morris wallpaper, white-painted wainscoting, a porcelain console sink, and an aged brass faucet all bring the powder room back into the home's original timeline, but a whisper pink ceiling, whimsical mirror, and contemporary light fixtures lighten the weight of tradition.



2ND PLACE

MODESTLY MOD

Megan Dent, AKBD

Mingle, LLC

To contemporize a powder room in a 1950's rambler, the designer brought in natural materials like wood, slate, glass, and rock; pops of color via green glass tile; and a simple, unfussy geometry. Mixed metals in plumbing, hardware, and lighting add interest through shape and line. The space itself was only minimally modified: The entrance was relocated, but the layout and plumbing locations were both retained.



1ST PLACE

FIRESIDE COASTAL RETREAT

Laurie Butler, CKD, and Becca Hall

Ispiri, LLC

With the family room looking directly into the master bedroom, the layout of this lake home was far from ideal. The family’s wish list included a stone fireplace (instead of the oak mantel), built ins for storage, and space for a TV—but not above the fireplace. By reconfiguring the bedroom doorway to create a hallway to the master suite, the designers produced an expansive wall for the new fireplace made of soft gray stone. Off to the right was new space for a TV, and to the left were built-in bookcases painted a crisp white. The fireplace chase was finished in shiplap to coordinate with other rooms on the main level, creating a continuous aesthetic throughout the home—one of relaxation and tranquility.



2ND PLACE

MUDROOM MAKEOVER

Mary Maney, CKD, ASID, CLIPP

Crystal Kitchen + Bath

Within the 1920’s home, the family was desperate for a drop-off zone where coats, backpacks, and shoes could be left. New windows and a new brick and stucco façade allowed the addition to blend seamlessly with the existing exterior. Geometric tile adds pizzazz while shiplap paneling creates a cozy feeling—a perfect welcome home after a long day away. 🏠

CAMILLE LEFEVRE writes about architecture and design for *Midwest Home* and other regional and national publications.

FIND PRODUCTS AND SUPPLIERS AT MIDWESTHOME.COM/RESOURCES