By Anita Shaw

NKBA Selects Year's Best Desi

Finalists for the 2013 NKBA Design Competition included distinctive kitchen and bath designs that incorporated bold colors, tactile materials, functional simplicity and custom touches.

Through the years, studies have shown that design trends shift toward simpler styles and muted, neutral colors during a down economy, with bright hues and more personalized choices returning only when the economic outlook begins to brighten.

If this year's finalists for the National Kitchen & Bath Association's Design Competition can be used as an indicator for the economy, the future is bright indeed.

Bold colors – whether used as an accent or as a mainstay in the space – were everywhere. When neutral tones were used, there was an energy to them that has not been seen in a while, with rough-hewn edges, honed and pitted surfaces, and interesting character throughout.

Individual personal style was reflected in many of the designs through the use of custom cabinets, sinks, faucets, tile and accessories. And the mix of old and new was prevalent, as antiques were mixed with ultra-sleek pieces and original and recycled surfaces contrasted with modern metals and glass. Retro is also gaining interest, as more products are being developed that reflect the appeal of the 1950s and 1960s kitchens many grew up with.

White painted surfaces remained a classic mainstay for kitchen cabinets, providing an ideal backdrop for the statement-making pops of color. In the bath, wood tones continued to add elegance and calm for the popular spa-inspired spaces.

Natural influences were seen in both the kitchen and bath, with stone products making a statement in countertops, flooring and tile. Glass was also a popular choice, with mosaic tiles, countertops and even faucets providing glamorous accents.

DETERMINING THE WINNERS

Some 500 submissions are received from across North America each year for the Design Competition. Entries for the 2013 contest were evaluated by a panel of eight highly respected judges in the industry: Lyndell Kline, CMKBD; Robin Rigby-Fisher, CMKBD, CAPS; Becky Sue Becker, CMKBD, CAPS; John Torelli, CMKBD; LeAnn Randolph, CKD, CBD; Nancy Blanford, CMKBD; Alena Capra, CKD, CBD, and Leslie Holland, CKD, CBD. Projects were scored on safety and ergonomics, design planning and principles, creativity and presentation.

The winning designers will be announced during the NKBA's Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS) at New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, April 19-21, 2013.

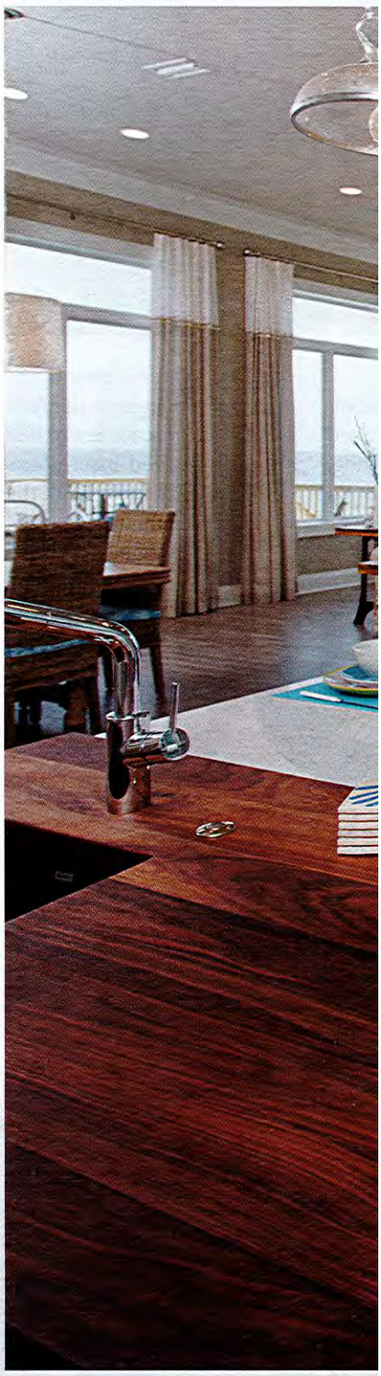
Sponsors for this year's Design Competition included Jenn-Air, DuPont, Waypoint, Delta Faucet, Hafele, HGTV Remodels, Home Depot, KWC, Miele, SieMatic and 20-20 Technologies.

COMPETITION DESIGN CATEGORIES

Design categories for this year's competition include: Category 1: Small Kitchen (less than 150 square feet); Category 2: Medium Kitchen (150-350 square feet); Category 3: Large Kitchen (more than 350 square feet); Category 4: Powder Room (sink and toilet required, no tub or shower); Category 5: Small Bathroom (less than 55 square feet) and Category 6: Large Bathroom (more than 55 square feet).

Entries were also eligible for several "Specialty Awards" including Green Design and Universal I continued to include two designations – en ($40,000 or less, inclusive of all d and materials costs) and Budget-Frier less) – in light of some of the continue being faced in the industry.

On the following six pages, *Kitche* provides a brief look at the finalists in



1 Large kitchen by Brigitte C. Fabi, CMKBD, Drury Design. Photo: Eric Hausman

2 Large bathroom by Lori W. Carroll, NCIDQ, Lori Carroll & Associates. Photo: William Lesch

3 Medium kitchen by Karen Swanson, New England Design Works. Photo: Evan White

4 Medium kitchen by Cheryl Kees Clendenon, In Detail Interiors. Photo: Greg Riegler Photography

5 Small kitchen by Mark White, CKD, CBD, Kitchen Encounters. Photo: Phoenix Photographic

6 Large kitchen by Wendy F. Johnson, CKD, CBD, Designs for Living. Photo: Dennis Martin

7 Large kitchen by Bryan Reiss, CMKBD, Distinctive Designs. Photo: John D Smoak III

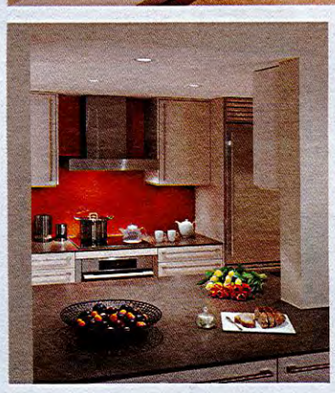
8 Powder room by Lori W. Carroll, NCIDQ/ASID, Lori Carroll & Associates. Photo: William Lesch

9 Small bathroom by Jon Crabtree, Inspired Spaces. Photo: sphotodesign.com

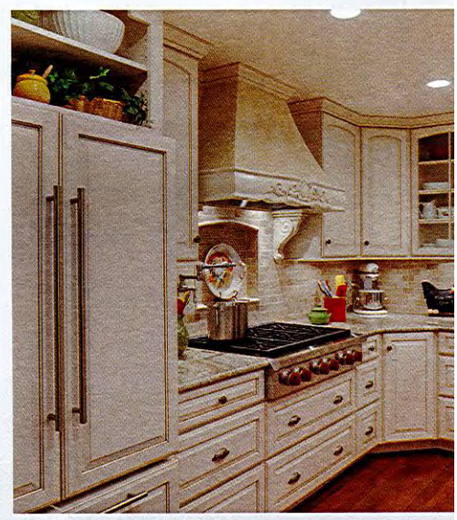
CATEGORY 1: SMALL KITCHEN
(less than 150 square feet)

Designer Elina Katsioula-Beall, CKD of Pasad
Dewitt Designer Kitchens, contrasted bold shad
turquoise and red Formica with wood in this ret
modern kitchen. A Miele Futura Diamond dishw
refrigerator and linear cooktop, Vent-A-Hood ra
TurboChef double oven add optimum function
overall aesthetic. Cabinets from Serrao and Col
with Matrix Granite, Cosentino Silestone Blanco
and Café Countertops' wood countertops. Corr
Ultraglas adds shine, as does the beverage cent
U-Line refrigerator drawers and glass shelf. Cus
Kohler Park faucets add balance in the main pre
alkalizer water station.

Photo: Anice Hoachlander



The move to a retirement community posed the need for a new kitchen that blended modern amenities with classic design. And that's just what Jonas Carnemark, CR, CKD and co-designer Michael Stehlik of Carnemark in Bethesda, MD delivered to clients, complete with stainless steel cooktop, dishwasher and apartment-sized speed cook oven from Miele, and Zephyr range hood. Gray, flat-panel cabinets are paired with thin slate countertops, both from SieMatic. Reduced-height counters, bottom-freezer Sub-Zero refrigerator, Kohler Karbon faucet and long, sleek cabinet handles address accessibility issues, while the InSinkErator disposal and Julien sinks provide added functionality. The painted glass backsplash adds a generous pop of color to the space.



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countertops. Custom cabinet touches inclu
with detailed valences, over-the-sink plate
doors. The hearth showcases a custom-buil
ventilation, carved corbels and recessed ni
A paneled Miele dishwasher, KitchenAid ref
warming drawer blend with the design. A W
oven, GE Monogram microwave oven and F
Kohler faucet finish off the space.