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Lifestyles Impact Decisions

This issue of Design|Build magazine was a delight to create and is chock full of great ideas.

Residential space has become increasingly important. Topics such as connective technology, sustainability, health and wellness and streamlining our environment have bubbled to the top of the list of needs for homeowners.

Employing the services of a professional contractor and a certified designer have never been more important, when you consider future home construction or remodel project.

The Design|BUILD magazine will endeavor to offer the latest features in kitchens, baths and construction innovations and materials.

We think you'll enjoy the variety of topics from wallpaper, tile trends, texture makeovers and even touching on BBQing for summer and fall.

We continue our partnership with WestSound Home & Garden magazine, highlighting area builders, remodelers and designers to bring you the latest.

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How to Choose the Right Builder for Your Custom Home Construction Project

Choosing the right builder is essential to the success of your project. Building a custom home will likely be one of your biggest investments, and as with any investment, doing the proper research, trusting but verifying the information, and following your gut will help you make an informed decision.

But where do you start? Here are the steps.

Budget

Determine your desired budget that is comfortable for you and your goals, or

create a budget range. This budget will typically include the land purchase (unless you already own it), site and infrastructure development, design, engineering and permitting fees, and the cost to build.

If you will be working with a lender for the project, talk about your project with three or four banks that specialize in construction loans. Find out how their construction loan program works and what their loan fees are. If you feel it's a good fit, ask to get prequalified for a

loan, so you are confident that the financial component of building a home is secure.

Purchase the Land

Work with a real estate agent that is familiar with purchasing land. Buying land has nuances that are different from purchasing a home. As part of your purchase and sale agreement for the land, there is typically a feasibility period in which you will work to determine the accessibility and cost of water (well or public water), waste water (septic or

COLOR SAYS IT ALL

sewer), utilities (power, phone, cable, fiber, etc.), critical areas and related reports and permits, and to determine if the zoning and CC&Rs (covenants, conditions and restrictions) are appropriate for your desired uses and plan for the land.

Some builders are able to assist with this process. Also, during this period or before, it's good to talk with builders to determine the cost range to build the house you desire. If the cost of the land, site development and infrastructure costs, any necessary environmental costs and all the costs related to building are within your budget, then congratulations on purchasing your property.

Choose a Builder

Selecting your builder will be your most important decision in the custom home building process. You will have a yearlong relationship with your builder or even longer. Referrals from your friends, family, realtor, bank lender and community forum pages are a start for finding a builder with a reputation (good or bad — especially from a community forum page, you will hear about builders to steer clear of and about builders with whom others have had a good experience).

You will also find builders in the area through the local homebuilders association (Kitsap Building Association, kitsapbuilds.com). In Washington, builders are required to be licensed, bonded and insured, although there are no testing or continuing education requirements, so be sure to do your homework completely.

Be sure to verify that the builders you are considering are current with their license, bond and insurance. You can verify this by going to www.lni.wa.gov and click on "Verify a Contractor, Tradeperson or Business." The right builder needs to have the time, financial resources, interest, communication skills, organization skills and experience to build your home. A custom home builder's primary focus should be on building custom homes, not speculative homes, so that the services are tailored to yours.

Reviewing the following eight items during your selection process will help you create a solid shortlist of qualified builders:

- **A current resume of projects** — are their projects a similar scope, size and budget as your project?
- **Track record of projects with scale and detail** — do they work with architects and designers who provide every detail for the build, or do they work with the client to determine the details on a plan?
- **Communication abilities** — this is a biggie. Do you feel heard, understood and confident in your communication? This is your custom home, and the builder is building it for you. It is imperative that you are able to communicate your desires and concerns and the builder listens and understands you.
- **Organizational skills** — managing the custom home building process is a multiple series of hundreds of details, often times deconflicting and juggling multiple deadlines and decisions. Having a builder with the resources to manage the details makes for a smoother building experience. There is a lot of information to track in the construction of a custom home.
- **Client references** — talking with past and current clients gives you an opportunity to learn about the process of building and living in a home built by the builder. Ask if there's a jobsite that is underway that you can view. What are your observations of the site? The condition of the site may be insight into the values of a business, the care that is taken of materials, the quality of workmanship and safety.
- **Time-management skills** — effective time-management skills are essential to completing a project in a timely manner. Everyone, including employees, subcontractors and suppliers, appreciate a builder who manages time well.
- **Workflow description** — effectively managing a project starts with understanding the workflow, what decisions are necessary when, what



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product lead times affect the schedule, how to overcome a delay, how long each trade needs to complete their phase, etc.

- **Specialization** — understand whether they specialize in custom or speculative homes. A custom home builder is accustomed to working with customer-specific details, finishes and specifications, and will know what to ask to ensure that they are building your custom home.

During the interview, remember that you are the customer and it is important to not only listen to the builder's achievements, but also to ask questions and observe whether the builder listens and clearly and completely answers your questions. Ask yourself: Is this someone I can work with? Does the process make sense?

Make sure you are prepared to talk about your project. A good builder will definitely ask questions like:

- What stage of the process are you in?
- Do you have a design?
- Have you established a budget?
- Do you have financing in place?
- What are your priorities in your new home?

Answer these questions as honestly and openly as possible. The more viable your project is, the more interest and expert advice you will receive from the builder. As you have this discussion with builders, you will see their communication style, understanding of the project and their desire to be involved.

Other Details to Consider

Plan development: There is not one right sequence to plan development and then choosing a builder, or choosing a builder and then having your plans developed. Some people find an architect or designer to design their home and then work with the architect or designer to find a builder who is a good fit. Some go through the builder interview process and select a builder and then work with an architect or designer.

The advantage to selecting a builder who then works with you and the



architect or designer is that the builder can bring expertise as it relates to building costs. Many architects and designers have a sense of build cost and may be able to design to your budget. Having a conversation with the architect or designer to get a sense of their understanding of build costs and how that relates to your project will be important if you decide to develop plans before engaging a builder.

Budgeting: With plans in hand, a builder can put together a budget. If the plans do not include details of specifications, finishes and fixtures, your builder should ask you these questions before the budgeting begins. The more specific information you can provide as to the level of finishes and fixtures, the more accurate the budget will be to actual build cost.

Permitting: Some architects and builders will provide the service of preparing and permits. As permitting has become more complex, the days of homeowners submitting plans for permit have become far and few between. Have the discussion with your architect or designer and the builders you speak with to see who will be a good fit to submit the plans for permitting.

Construction agreement: A written and thorough construction agreement will lay out the terms of your build project, relationship of the builder and

client, cost, invoicing, scope of work, specifications, timing of project, legal recourse, etc. The intent of the construction agreement is to clearly outline the project, expectations and deliverables. It may consist of multiple documents (budget, scope of work, specifications, construction drawings, etc).

It's time to build! With all of the above completed, you are well on your way to a successful custom home project.

*Written by Miriam Villiard
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The 'Heart of the Home' Continues to Evolve



The kitchen is the heart of the home — the hub. Once it was just a utilitarian space to prepare and cook meals. Now it's the epicenter of the home for today's busy and varied lifestyles. Meals are created here, whether you're a home chef, family on the go or party central for the neighborhood. It's a gathering place for family and friends.

Influences that make homeowners want to remodel this important room are many but size and flow of the kitchen are often the first consideration. Kitchens in older homes are often small and cut off. People cooked and hid their mess there and then grouped together in the dining room. Today, kitchens are for living, filled





with energy and often open to include a dining and gathering area. Technology and new products also influence the desire to change. How you cook, store and prepare food continues to evolve. Induction cooktops and steam ovens were once considered "new and innovative" but now they are commonplace, as are touchless faucets.

When planning a kitchen remodel, many considerations should be evaluated before you begin. Using a professional to assist you is the most cost-effective means to a successful project. The value of a designer is in the details. The designer will ensure that the space is safe, functional and beautiful. The details make the difference between mundane and extraordinary. Designers know the difference between trendy and timeless design.

There are real dangers in the kitchen such as cuts and burns. Good kitchen design anticipates and minimizes risks to enhance function — such as assuring that pathways are wide enough for two cooks to pass, stoves are away from windows and hot pots have a place to land while cooking. Designers help make your kitchen functional and comfortable, incorporating your wants and needs. The design requires careful and detailed considerations before a final layout and plan are formed.

During the discussion, the designer will ask questions. For example, are there multiple cooks or generations using the space? How often do you entertain? What are your storage needs? Do you want to have an eating area in the

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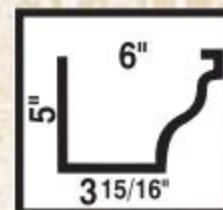
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space? The list goes on. Future-proofing the design with space for wheelchairs is one way of keeping a kitchen functional for years to come.

Wherever your path leads you in a kitchen remodel you need a professional designer. These professionals have advanced training and up-to-date product and technology knowledge. They're experts in their field and will save you from expensive pitfalls. A kitchen is a significant investment — your designer will make your heart of the home safe, functional and beautiful to be enjoyed for many years.

*Written by Nancy Finneson
 AKBD, CAPS, CLIPP, ALLIED ASID
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SOURCES FOR FINDING A PROFESSIONAL KITCHEN DESIGNER IN YOUR AREA:

- NKBA, National Kitchen & Bath Association
- ASID, American Society of Interior Designers
- HOUZZ.com for design and reviews of projects from all over the world

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Valencia Cathedral

2020 Trends In Tile and Bathroom Furnishings

Observations from the 2020 Cevisama International Fair for Tiles and Bathroom Furnishings in Cevisama Valencia, Spain

TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHY BY MOLLY ERIN MCCABE
AKBD, CLIPPS, CGP, CAPS

When one thinks of Spain, good wine, great tapas and flamenco music and dance quickly spring to mind. However, Spain is also known for amazing architecture, both past and present, as well as residential product design.



City of Arts and Science Complex in Valencia, Spain

Nowhere is this more evident than in the design and fabrication of tile and plumbing products. So, it was no surprise that the 38th annual Cevisama International Fair for Tiles and Bathroom Furnishings, which took place at Feria Valencia, Spain on Feb. 3-7, drew visitors from 140 countries. They had an opportunity to view over 100,000 square meters of exhibition space, meet with 800 exhibitors and network with approximately 90,000 of their peers. These are some of the trends observed at this year's event.



2000-year-old tile mosaic, National Archeological Museum Madrid



Outdoor application of tile, Spain

The fair provided much to see and feel. Offerings of tactile and textile-like tiles continue to expand, as do their applications. Tactile and three-dimensional tiles provide a lot of versatility for applications in the home, such as fireplace surrounds, dressing rooms, bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchens and more.

"Textile-like" tiles make for excellent wall coverings in bathrooms, closets, foyers and home offices. Mosaic tiles provide visual interest with the variety of

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Train station, Valencia



Feria main hall

PHOTO COURTESY CEVISAMA

available shapes and added interest depending on the color contract of the selected grout. Not to be left out, plumbing fixtures have also been adorned with a textural effect.

Custom-sized and custom-styled tiles are gaining popularity in commercial applications, especially hospitality, and it may be just a matter of time before they

are offered in the single-family residential sector. This application is only limited by your imagination.

Replicating nature continues to be a trend in the tile realm. Botanical-themed tiles bring the outdoors in and deliver a fresh feel, while natural stone and wood look-alikes bring a sense of grounding and serenity to our fast-paced lives.



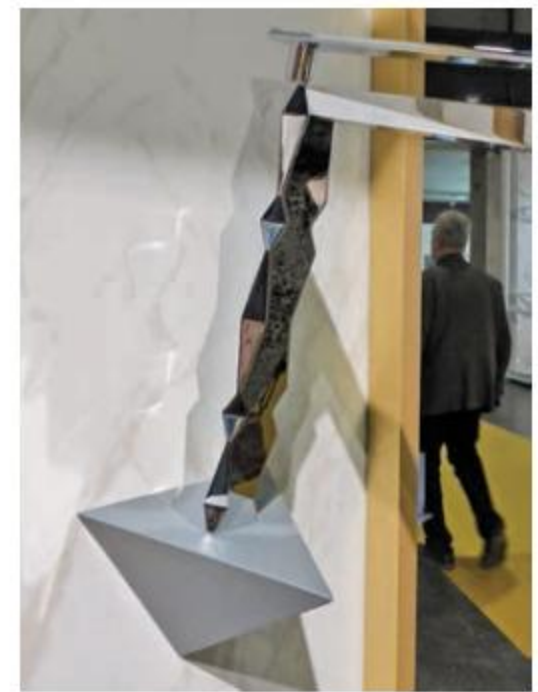
Cevisama venue



Textile as tile



Tufted tile



Texture is not just for tiles.



Reptile tile

PHOTO COURTESY CEVISAMA



Texture all around



Natural sandstone in a porcelain tile



Botanical tile

What was old is new again in both form and function. Glass block is given a fresh take with brightly colored borders, and traditional Spanish/Moorish tile patterns are given an updated look.

Cementitious tiles continue to trend, comprised of cement rather than clay or porcelain, with patterns both traditional and modern printed on them. They can be used on both floors and walls (as shown in the photo on the next page of the cementitious tile backsplash and floor tiles outside the men's and women's restrooms in a Madrid restaurant).



Shower trends

Custom printed tile



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Colorful, retro glass block

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Large-format tiles continue to be very popular and have been freshened up with style lines that include monochromatic contrast of smooth and textured tiles, as well as stone and wood look-alikes.

Act naturally. Rough-hewn tile and stone sink basins were a common theme, perhaps as a counterpoint to our "smooth," tech-filled lives.

Mixing and matching different types of tiles is not new but there are definitely



Cementitious tile backsplash



Cementitious floor tiles



Monochromatic contrast of shapes



Monochromatic contrast of smooth and textured



Rustic, wood-look shower



Dry stack stone tile



One stone, two looks



Mix-and-match tile



Traditional tile designs gone modern



"I can't believe it's not wood."



Rustic, petrified wood sink




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"Color me a yellow" sink



Colorful shower pans

more bold moves being made with this concept, as illustrated by the shower vignette that includes cementitious tiles and wood look-alike porcelain tiles in harmonious hues.

Grays, beiges and pinks (think Benjamin Moore's 2020 color of the year, "First Light" — a soft, airy pink) have become neutral "backgrounds," which can be punctuated with pops of color. Appliances are available in primary colors such as red, blue, yellow and

green, and now, the new trends are toward a variety of colors in plumbing fixtures such as sinks, shower pans and faucets.

Regardless of which type of tile strikes your fancy, it is in the best interest of both your wallet and your home that you consult with tile professionals before installing tile. A professional can alleviate some of the many pitfalls of working with tile, such as ordering quantities, appropriate applications (not all tiles can



Pretty in pink

be installed on a wall or floor) and installation preparation. This will allow you to allocate your time to dreaming up the right tile look for you and your home.



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How to Become a Barbecue Master

TEXT BY RICHARD WALKER

It's summer. That means long days, fun outings, get-togethers with family and friends — and, of course, barbecue.

Mmmmm, barbecue: bold, smoky, sweet, tangy. The flavors are as much a part of summer memories as the smell of fresh-cut lawn and the feel of beach sand under the feet.

But before you break out the briquettes and barbecue sauce, there are some things you need to know.

One, grilling and barbecuing are not the same. In grilling, food is prepared using high and direct heat, no smoke

and a short period of time — minutes, not hours. In barbecuing, food is prepared using low and indirect heat, smoke and a much longer cooking time — hours and sometimes a whole day.

In short: "Barbecue differs from grilling in that barbecue typically means long cooking over low heat, whereas grilling is done quickly over higher temperatures," Fred Sauceman, associate professor of Appalachian studies at East Tennessee State University, wrote in the "Encyclopedia of Alabama."

Two, barbecue is a cultural

experience. Newcomers to this continent picked it up from the Taino people, indigenous to the Caribbean, who call it *barbicu'*, a meat-roasting process using a fire pit and a four-legged stand made of sticks. The cooking style was adapted in U.S. colonial times and on to reflect the dominant meats, spices and tastes of specific regions.

These are the most prominent barbecue styles.

Memphis — Signature Dish: Pulled pork prepared with a dry rub of garlic, paprika and other spices and served with



a tangy tomato-based sauce.

North Carolina — Signature Dish: Pork shoulder or pork ribs brushed with spices and vinegar while cooking and served with a red sauce seasoned with apple cider vinegar with a little ketchup and red pepper flakes.

South Carolina — Signature Dish: Ham or pork butt prepared with one of four sauces — mustard, vinegar and pepper, light tomato or heavy tomato. “Vinegar and pepper sauce, the most popular style along the coast, is perfect for those who love a bit of heat,” Gwen Fowler wrote for Discover South Carolina. “The acidity of the vinegar works magic with the pork. It’s also the oldest sauce, perhaps the oldest in the nation, and has been traced back hundreds of years.”

Kansas City — Signature Dish: Brisket rubbed with spices, slow-smoked over a variety of woods and served with a molasses and tomato sauce.

Central Texas — Signature Dish: Brisket and ribs rubbed with salt, black

pepper and spices and cooked over indirect heat from pecan, oak or mesquite wood or a combination of woods. Sauce is typically served on the side.

East Texas — Signature Dish: Chopped brisket cooked over hickory wood and marinated in a sweet, tomato-based sauce.

Alabama — Signature Dish: Pulled pork cooked over hickory, oak or pecan wood, then served as a sandwich with white sauce made from mayonnaise and vinegar and often topped with coleslaw.

9 Steps to the Perfect Barbecue

Now, let’s walk through this with some masters of the ‘cue. We’ll assume we’re working in the backyard with a common 40-inch black barrel charcoal grill.

STEP 1

Prepare the meat. When buying meat, invest in higher quality. Look for good marbling, which adds flavor. Keep the seasoning simple — like rosemary, olive oil, salt, pepper, thyme and garlic — to allow the natural flavor of the meat to

come through.

“If you’re brining or marinating, you might need a whole day for the full flavor to develop,” Barbecue Hall of Famer Ray Lampe told Food & Wine. “Even a dry rub needs to be on the meat long enough for the two to get to know each other.”

Betty Walker of Sweet and Smokey Diner in Bremerton prepares her Texas-style barbecue — brisket, chicken, pulled pork — with a dry rub of spices and serves it with a sweet and spicy sauce (more on sauces in a minute).

When cooking ribs, caterer Ray “Bubba” Idell of Silverdale first removes the membrane, gripping it with a paper towel and pulling it off. Removing the membrane results in super-tender meat.

STEP 2

Make sure your grill is clean.

STEP 3

Set up two zones on the grill: indirect heat and direct heat.

STEP 4

Place your charcoal on the direct heat



side and fire it up. Preheat your grill for 10-15 minutes.

STEP 5

Put wood chunks on the glowing embers of the coals; if your grill has a smoker box, you'll place the wood chunks or wood chips there instead. The best all-purpose woods for smoking are hickory and oak. You can use mesquite and pecan for a stronger smoke flavor or fruit woods like apple or cherry for a lighter smoke flavor. Only use wood that is seasoned, and never use softwoods or pressure-treated wood.

For a more pronounced smoke flavor, Idell soaks his wood chunks in water (some use a mixture of water and beer) for one hour, then drains before adding them to the fire. Soaking causes the wood to smolder and generate more smoke.

How much wood to add? "All grills and smokers are different," Lampe told Food & Wine, "so it can be hard to determine the right amount of wood. Start with a small amount of wood and gradually add

more, if needed."

STEP 6

Put your meat on the indirect heat side. Don't overcrowd the grill grate; leave one-fourth of the grill free so you can move food if you get flare-ups.

STEP 7

Close the lid with the vents open. The lid traps hot air and smoke. When cooking thick cuts of meat, you want to use the lid to conserve heat and make sure the food cooks through.

STEP 8

Be patient. "Outdoor cooking has many variables: cooking conditions, equipment, fuel, weather, meat thickness," according to TastyMeat.net, a website dedicated to all things barbecue. "Grilling requires patience, practice and flexibility."

Juan and Yadira Fimbres of Danny's BBQ in Silverdale are too busy to chat. Lunch crowds are drawn in by pulled pork, babyback ribs and smoked brisket with sides of baked beans, cornbread, cole slaw or potato salad. But on their

website, they write about the importance of quality meat, wood and patience.

"There are no cutting corners or time-saving interventions that produce authentic Texas BBQ," they write. "First you have to have the highest quality of beef, pork and poultry (that's chicken and turkey). Next is a hardwood (alder, apple, hickory). Last, we use a match to ignite the real wood to create the heat and smoke for 12-18 hours."

Idell barbecues ribs for three hours at 225-250 degrees. He then removes them and puts them on foil, adds honey and "a little bit" of brown sugar, closes the foil and places the ribs in the smoker for one more hour.

Walker of Sweet and Smokey Diner barbecues her brisket, chicken and pulled pork 12-14 hours. Her advice to backyard grillers: "Cook it slow and make sure you have the right spices."

STEP 9

If you add sauce, don't add it too early. Unlike a brine or a marinade, a tomato-based sauce with brown sugar and



molasses doesn't soak into the meat and can easily burn before the meat is properly cooked. Barbecue masters recommend waiting until the meat is almost finished cooking before adding it. When ready, brush the sauce on and flip the meat. Keep brushing and flipping until you see a glaze.

The Fimbreses of Danny's BBQ prefer the natural flavor of smoked meat and remind grillers that barbecue sauce is a condiment, not a marinade: "Sauce only enhances real barbecue, it doesn't make barbecue."

Honing Your Skill

Keep at it and if you don't know, ask. When you buy meat, ask the butcher for recommendations on how to prepare and cook the meat. Have a friend, neighbor or relative who is consummate at the 'cue? Ask for tips.

"My grandfather loved barbecue, and we would travel together to barbecue joints in Alabama, Tennessee and the Carolinas," said Idell, a native of Nashville.

Idell began barbecuing when he was 14 or 15 and continued studying the flavor profiles of different regions as he perfected his technique. He became a building contractor but catered barbecue on the side. A highlight of his career: Idell built a house for a client, and the client hired him to cater a celebratory gathering. One of the attorney's clients, Wolfgang Puck, was

among the guests.

"He told me the food was wonderful and gave me a pat on the back," Idell said. Today, Idell caters 40-60 weddings a year.

Barbecuing takes some skill. "But you shouldn't be intimidated," Idell said.

With some research and practice, your home will be the go-to place for weekend gatherings. And — "There's nothing better than barbecue that goes from the smoker to your plate," Idell said.



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Architectural texture

Makeover with Texture

TEXT BY CHELSEA TRAVAGLIO

Interior design is an ever-changing industry of color and pattern. It can be difficult to make decisions regarding your home's "new look," particularly if you find yourself quickly getting tired of revolving design trends.

Texture — what may be considered the most interesting element of design — adds variety and depth to each space in a way that can withstand the passing of time. When designers create timeless interior spaces, implementing texture is a well-travelled design avenue.

Texture of interiors is not only about how materials physically feel to the touch, but also how people visually perceive them. These elements have

incredible impact on a space and tend to be extremely versatile, appealing to traditional, transitional and contemporary consumers.

For example, a woven grass cloth wallcovering in a contemporary master bedroom may be the exact same "perfect fit" material for a very traditional powder room. The flexibility of this layer proves time and time again to be an investment worth making.

The following suggestions are various ways you can get started with your texture makeover. These methods range from architectural possibilities to concepts with minimal commitment and investment.

Bold Architectural Techniques

Eager to give your space a new look with the distinction of textured architectural surfaces? Consider a new dimensional material for your fireplace wall as solution.

Travertine stacked stone (also referred to as ledger stone) is a product that not only provides a natural element, but also gives a current aesthetic and quality overall appeal. If you are selecting materials yourself, make sure to lay out several samples together so you can better visualize the pattern your selected material creates.

Many natural stones have a variety of colors, which can result in your new

surface looking too busy. The natural variation of warm and cool tones is preferred only if that combination can partner cohesively with the other components of your interior. If you desire the look of texture but don't want to be overwhelmed with color variation, select a solid stone for better consistency.

Another option for creating impact architecturally is by adding a textural treatment to a wall or walls in a selected space. These treatments can range from a thick, woven wall covering to a rustic, reclaimed barnwood. The outcome is unique and eye-catching. Take the necessary time before making your final selections, as these choices should blend well with the style of your home.

Textural Furniture

A weathered-wood trestle table, shagreen wrapped cabinet, clustered woven rattan dining chairs, or antiqued finishes and fabrics all provide opportunities to add texture into a design plan through the use of furniture. These unique applications are developed with care and consideration.

Furniture ("the fun stuff") is what a consumer truly "connects" with. These pieces should be a reflection of personal style and expectations. When selecting new products, consider how you would like them to perform and what functions are most important for each space.

Distressed and rustic surfaces are often appealing for the ability to withstand (or absorb) wear and tear. Textured surfaces, like a distressed or weathered-wood dining table, are more forgiving than refined surfaces when it comes to dings and dents — a feature that's consistently attractive to families with young children or consumers who often entertain.

When making over your space, upholstered furniture is an effective route for implementing visual interest. Consider applying a focal fabric with great visual texture to your living room chairs. You can customize new chairs or reupholster an existing set.

Soft Goods and Accessories

It is wise to invest in materials that perform well under the use of everyday

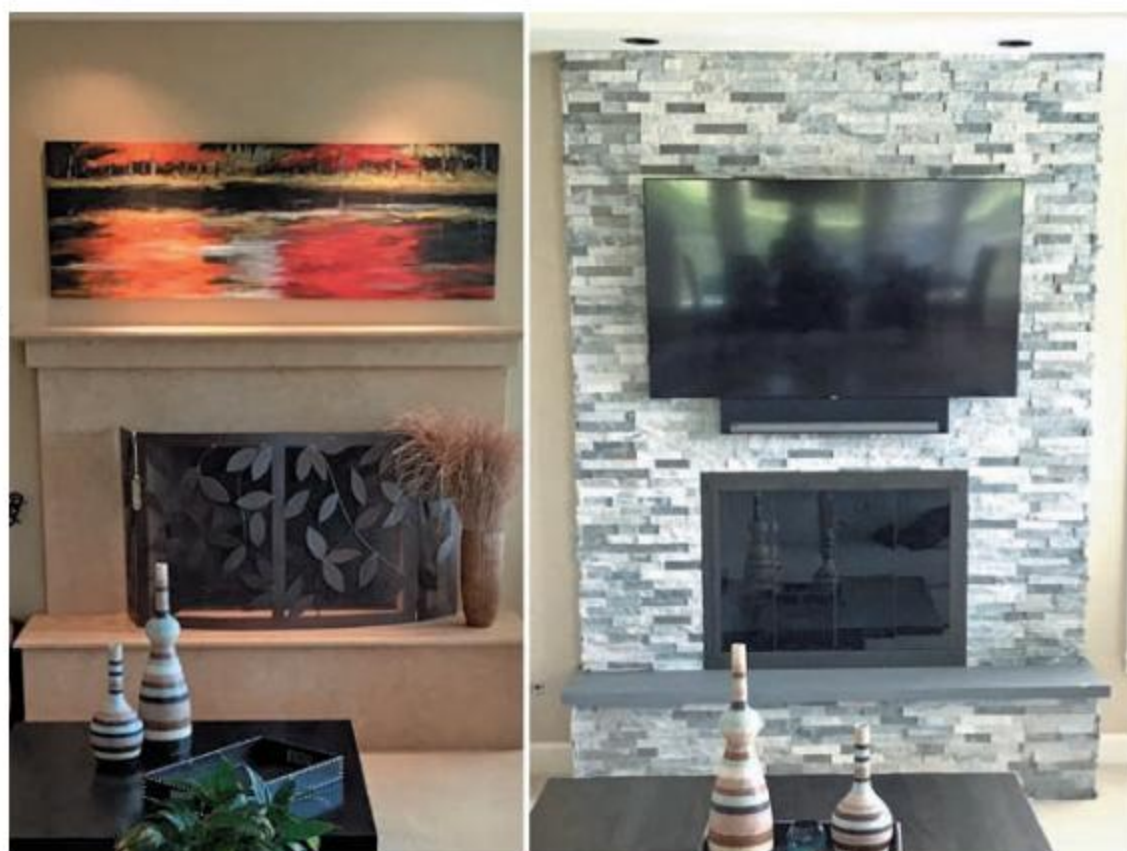
Fabric texture



Wall texture



Before and after





Architectural texture



Window texture

life. A natural material like wool inherently holds up to spills and rapid use. Chunky, wool area rugs are unquestionably a “go-to” when it comes to adding texture to floors, for not only the immense comfort and visual interest, but also the level of warmth and coziness this provides to a space.

Placement for this style of area rug is best in rooms where people congregate to relax. Great rooms, family rooms and dens are the ideal location. This look can be expensive so if you are making decisions without a design professional, it is worth purchasing a large sample to make sure it works well with your surrounding interior furnishings.

Don’t overlook the impact your window treatments can have. Many current products from vendors such as Hunter Douglas and Hartmann&Forbes provide privacy, translucent properties and UV protection, which can be essential for consumers. Draperies, roman shades or solar shades are excellent opportunities for selecting a textural fabric or material to increase visual interest in your home. Don’t hesitate to bring in a consultant to assist with this important decision, precise measurements and installation logistics.

If you are on a budget, but this concept of a textural interior environment is activating some interest, not to worry. Accessories are a fun and easy way to introduce new variety to your space.

Accessories are the layer of design



Soft-goods texture



Furniture texture

that create visual texture and dimension simply by grouping contrasting materials like metal, wood and ceramic. A seagrass tray on the coffee table and an oversized matching basket filled with extra throw blankets are an accessible and noncommittal route. Thick, nubby throw pillows or burlap-covered lamp shades are also effective and easy options.

Surrounding yourself with an environment built on the foundation of texture provides a sense of balance and depth. If you have been looking for a way to add more interest into your interior spaces, a new relationship with texture might be the right thing for you, and a concept worth some consideration. Start by collecting inspirational images — and let the transformation process begin,



Chelsea Travaglio is the principal interior designer for The Grey Door Design & Build, Inc., a full-service design and remodel company developed by her and her husband, Chris. Travaglio focuses on creative projects for luxury interiors from Bellevue to Port Ludlow. She is a Washington native, passionate designer and gardener, and proud mom. thegreydoor.net.

Fabulous Baths

These pages of brilliant baths are filled with inspiring ideas (and incredible photographs) that will have you rethinking the form and function of your own baths. We're highlighting styles ranging from quiet and modern to timelessly traditional. But, they all have one thing in common — luxurious touches that turn a simple bathroom into a private escape.



Master Bath Featuring Delightful, Clean Design

Vanities, lighted
mirrors, skylights
and transom
windows



Cris Beattie and her husband, Rob, were ready for an upbeat change for their master bath.

Beattie worked with her daughter, Maegen Curry, who is a senior designer in Southern California, to decide on the design and look she wanted to achieve, including many functional features.

They didn't change the footprint or move the plumbing, but everything else is new. From her beloved digital thermal valve in her curbless shower, to the heated floors, wonderful lighting and the rain showerhead, to the charging station in a bottom cabinet that keeps the electrical cords hidden out of sight — Beattie loves her new bath. Most

importantly though, she says her husband loves the bath, too.

Beattie would like to recognize the people who made this project a reality. Smallwood Design and Construction, Inc. stepped in and coordinated the job. She says they were fortunate to have found such wonderful craftsmen here in Kitsap County.

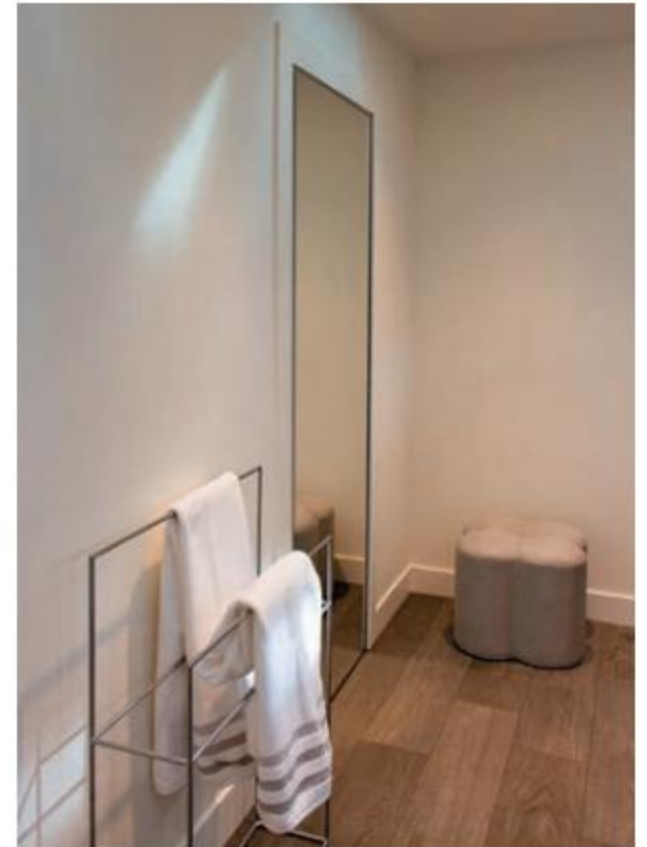
SMALLWOOD DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION, INC.



Heated towel bar



Skylight keeps bath and curbless shower bright



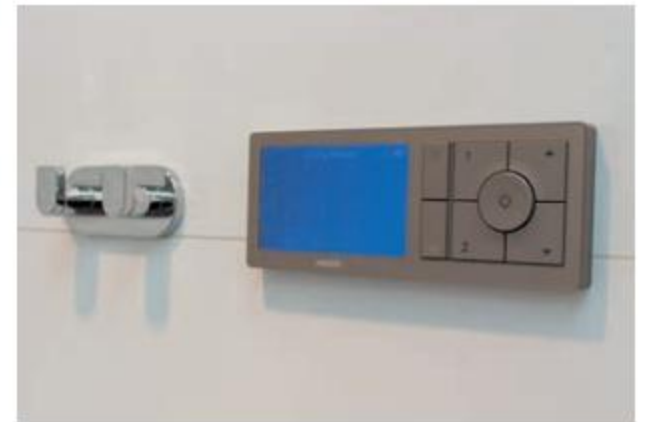
Large mirror and seating area



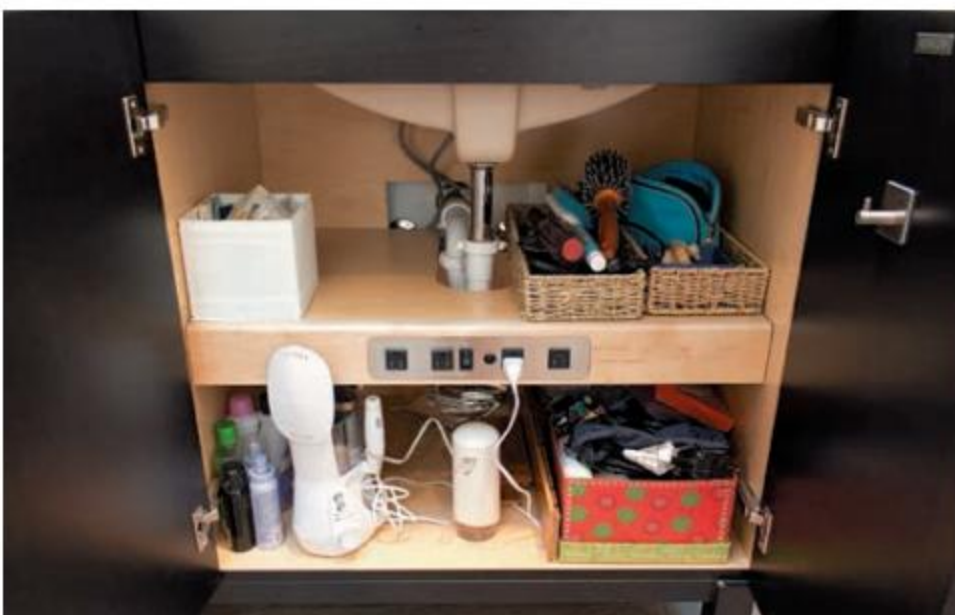
Decorative drawer pulls



Layered section in vanity drawer



Water temperature is individually controlled with a digital thermometer valve.



Charging station in cabinet



Seamless tile work

A Bath to Suit Couple's Modern Needs and Style

Denise and Les Franks wanted to change everything about their bathroom — from the size and configuration of the shower to the lack of door between the two. Les Franks' parents built the home decades ago, and it didn't reflect the looks and need he and Denise had. The couple hired Molly and Clive McCabe of A Kitchen That Works, LLC to facilitate all facets of the project.

A Kitchen That Works, LLC chose all the subcontractors, which included Wagner Plumbing, Creative Countertops (tile, granite countertop and solid surface shower surround), Agatepass Electric, Nyman Construction (finish carpentry) and Aqua Painting.

Molly McCabe worked closely with the Frankses to ensure the materials and design features met both of their needs and desires. The room was taken down to the subfloor and most of the stud walls. A window was installed for natural light and ventilation, the wall behind the shower was pushed back a foot to provide space in the shower for a built-in bench, and decorative grab bars were installed for the



A KITCHEN THAT WORKS, LLC



future along with dual shower heads.

Additionally, a wall with pocket door was erected between the bedroom and vanity area to provide mitigation of sound and light leakage from the bathroom to the bedroom. A linen storage cabinet was added to alleviate the need to walk down the hall for fresh towels.

Les and Denise Franks had done remodels before and were quite adept and expressing their preferences, which made McCabe's job of presenting material and design options super easy. The couple are happy with the results. They were also pleasantly surprised at

how smooth the whole project went and how genuinely dedicated each member of their team was to the tasks at hand.

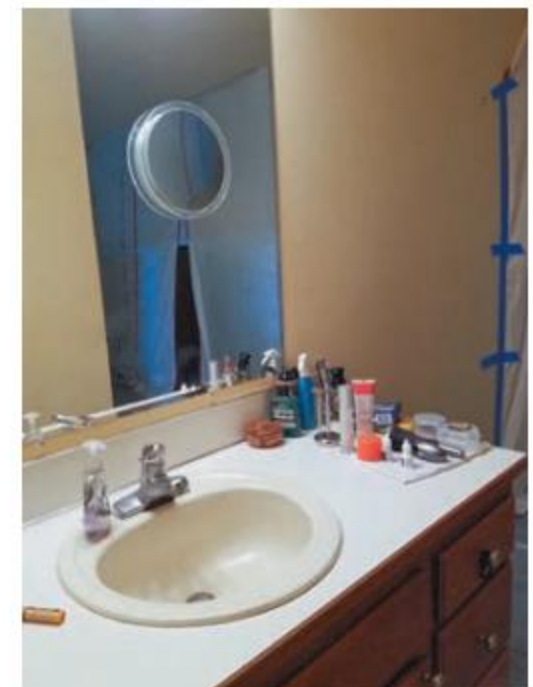
Their favorite parts include the size of the new shower, the pocket door, the heated floor and, most of all, the window.

RESOURCES:

- **General contractor** | A Kitchen That Works, LLC
- **Tile, countertops, solid surface surround** | Creative Countertops
- **Carpentry** | Nyman Construction
- **Electric** | Agatepass Electric
- **Painting** | Aqua Painting
- **Plumbing** | Wagner Plumbing



— BEFORE PHOTOS —





A Bath Designed for Comfort

When Kris and Janna Nakagawa purchased their new home built by Pioneer Builders, Inc., they noticed the soaring ceilings and openness of the floorplan.

The attention to detail was evident in the carefully designed master bath, with custom tile in the shower and tile designs throughout.

The granite countertops and slab were chosen by Pioneer Builders and the freestanding tub was selected from Water Concepts in Tacoma. Canyon Creek provided the cabinetry, while lighting was supplied by Seattle Lighting. The mirror and shower door enclosures were installed by Harbor Custom Glass.

The home is the Nakagawas primary

residence; however, they were so pleased, they sent the builder a Hawaii gift basket in appreciation.

PIONEER BUILDERS, INC.



RESOURCES:

- General contractor | Pioneer Builders Inc.
- Electric | Green Line Electric
- Cabinetry | Canyon Creek
- Glass | Harbor Custom Glass
- Tile | JD Tile and Marble
- Tub | Water Concepts

- Furnishings | Contract Furnishings Mart
- Lighting | Seattle Lighting
- Paint | Sherwin Williams
- HVAC | DC Heating
- Moldings/doors/windows | Western Pacific Building Materials



A Beautiful, Yet Practical Bathroom

The homeowners of this Bainbridge Island home wanted to update their drab, early-1990s master bathroom to better fit their needs. They wanted to remodel not only for resale purposes, but also to bring new life to their family home, now that they are empty nesters.

They worked with Kitsap Kitchen & Bath Co. to complete the project from start to finish. One of the first main changes was to remove the carpet and replace it with a durable tile floor. Next, a curbless shower with built-in bench was installed to expand and update the showering and bathing experience. It has a large recessed niche and a shower

column with both rainhead and hand shower. Additionally, a freestanding soaking tub includes a custom recessed niche for décor or bathing accessories.

The crew needed to rework some of the electrical and lighting in the space. They added wall sconces, a tower

cabinet at the vanity with power inside, an LED-lit magnifying mirror, new exhaust fans and updated recessed can trims and receptacles. They selected materials that were not only durable and beautiful, but also provided a timeless charm.



KITSAP KITCHEN & BATH CO.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY MARTIN BYDALEK PHOTOGRAPHY

The bathroom looks as though it took a deep breath of fresh air. A main goal with the design was to lighten the feel as soon as you walk through to door, and create a space that allows you to let go of the day's stress. Everything worked in its original location, keeping cost down and utilizing any extra space available.

Keeping with the new feel of "light and bright," the perfectly functional vanity was refaced, professionally spraying the cabinet boxes a white paint and adding new doors and drawer fronts with a factory finish. Countertops were chosen as a quartz to mimic white and gray marbling.

The tiles within the shower and wainscoting around the tub are large-format, glazed subway style, reflecting not only light with their glossy finish, but also providing a timeless charm. The new, beautiful, feminine and petal-shape mosaic tile complements the countertops, an accent in the shower at the pan, plumbing wall, niches and a small strip through the wainscoting.

The home has a cottage feel, and the flooring and tower cabinet at the vanity needed to ground the space with the warmth of wood. The tile on the floor gives the look of wide planks with a grayish wash, and the tower cabinet was designed to match.

All the plumbing fixtures were selected through Kohler for their classic lines and functionality. Selecting chrome as the finish for the plumbing, light fixtures and cabinet hardware added a little "bling" to the space.

To complete these stunning remodels,



Kitsap Kitchen & Bath Co. works closely with some of the best subcontractors and suppliers in the area, including Swift Plumbing, Sunset Electric, FloForm Countertops, August Artisans, Keller Supply and Kitsap Custom Coatings, among others. The company also employs skilled carpenters who pay close attention to the fine details on every job.

The homeowners are very pleased with the finished product, enjoying their new master retreat every day. Having materials that are both beautiful and durable allows the clients to ease back into their normal routine without having to worry about damaging their shiny new bathroom.

Their favorite new part of the bathroom is, of course, the shower. It's easy to access with the zero-threshold entry, pivoting glass door and wet-set application enclosure. The niche and

bench have added great storage. The niche inside the shower has a glass shelf for bar soap or razors, while shampoo bottles remain on the lower tile ledge and the bench doubles as towel storage on the backside.

This bathroom remodel was a special project for Kitsap Kitchen & Bath Co. as well. Originally from Bainbridge, lead interior designer Natalie Collins Shaw and her sister, Lacey Collins — who tackles inside sales and assists with project management — attended high school with two of the client's children. It made for a special connection and comfortable relationship throughout the entire project, helping transform a home that has connection to their childhood. The company says the homeowners were an absolute joy to work with and is thankful for the wonderful opportunity to serve them.





Note: The general contractor came in to find poor construction work by an unlicensed, uninsured, undocumented worker who did not follow Washington state or national standards. The work the unlicensed worker completed was totally unsafe for the homeowners.

Complete Master Bath Transformation

This Gig Harbor remodeling project started out as a simple regrouting job. As it turned out, the bathroom needed a lot more work — tiles were barely attached to the walls, a 300-pound glass wall was only held in place by three screws and was unsafe, heated flooring did not work, tub deck was unlevel and water would not drain properly. The list goes on.

Once the contractor, Ryan Smith of Above and Beyond Custom Tile and Quartz, started pointing out all the issues, the homeowners decided it would be best to fix what was wrong. Smith created the design and completed the job from start to finish with help from his

apprentice, Joshua Laundry.

Some of the many changes included:

- Removing the glass and building a 3/4-wall with a beam running through the floor and ceiling, anchoring it in both places.
- Installing a custom soap niche with a bottom shelf for razors.
- Rebuilding the tub deck to perfectly level.
- Installing NuHeat heated flooring with a Wi-Fi thermostat, a new Cambria quartz countertop with two luxury sinks, and new Moen hardware throughout the bathroom.
- Painting the ceiling and walls.



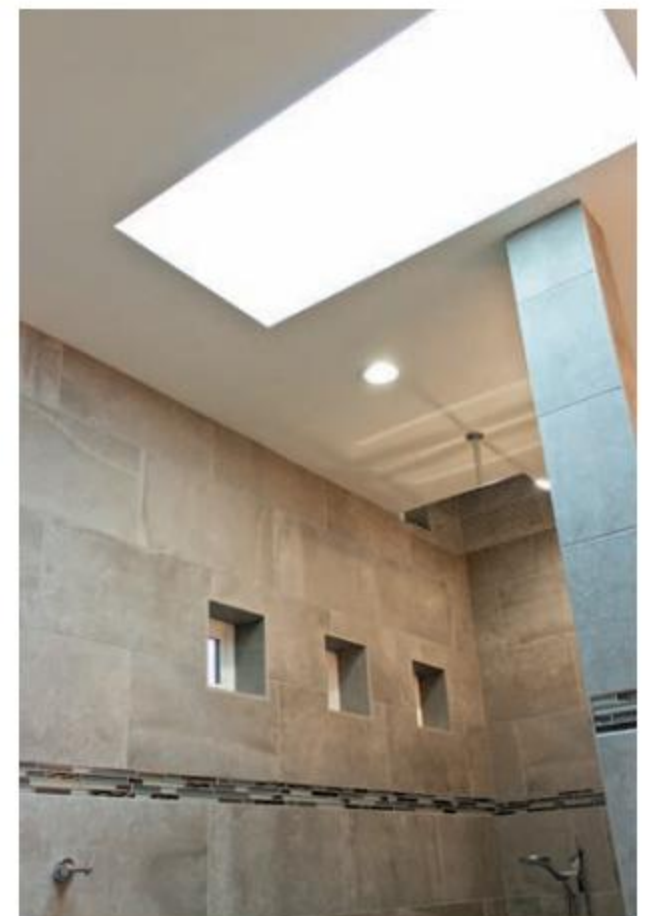
ABOVE AND BEYOND CUSTOM TILE & QUARTZ



The homeowners are extremely happy with their new master bathroom. They both love the large shower. The bench doesn't hold water now, so they can sit on it and not feel like they're sitting in a cold pool. They also love their properly draining tub, heated tile floor and secure shower pane glass.

RESOURCES:

- **General contractor** | Above and Beyond Custom Tile and Quartz
- **Countertops** | Creative Countertops
- **Plumbing** | Great Western Plumbing



Remodel Successfully Achieved

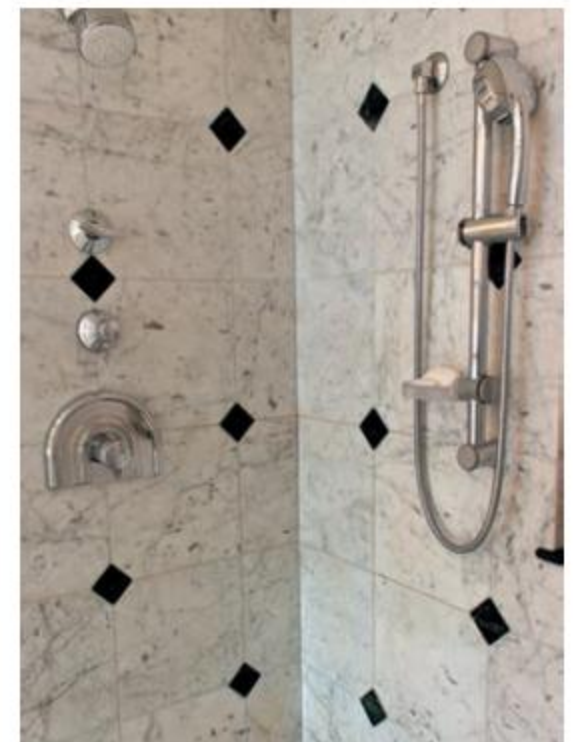
The homeowners wanted a more welcoming bathroom in their beautiful home. Desired features included a double sink, better lighting and storage, and updated fixtures.

A Kitchen That Works, LLC assisted the owners in creating the design and specification of the project and built it with assistance from Stonehenge Tile and Stone, Agatepass Electric, Northwest Tile & Stone Care (who did a full deep cleaning of the marble tile throughout as well as the glass block), Nyman Construction and West Sound Plumbing.

The goal was to preserve the extensive marble tile throughout the bathroom and glass block shower while truly changing the look, feel and functionality of the bathroom. The original tile (including countertop) had been installed over the vanity and bathtub, and the deco tiles were no longer available on the market. With attention to detail and a well-seasoned crew, the homeowners' desire — to have furniture-style bathroom cabinetry that looked as if it were original to the space — was achieved.



There were many "surprises" in the walls and framing of this bathroom. When you hire qualified design and build professionals, you can feel confident that irregularities in the way your home was originally built — which may impact your design goals — will likely be overcome with ingenuity and experience.



A KITCHEN THAT WORKS, LLC

The homeowners wanted to change out the roman tub filler but due to an unusual framing and despite opening up the wall from the closet behind the bathroom, the valves could not be accessed for replacement. Four strong men attempted to lift the cast-iron tub out to provide access to the valves but despite all the effort, changing out the tub filler was not possible. Instead, the spout and handles were refinished to better match the finish of the new plumbing fixtures.

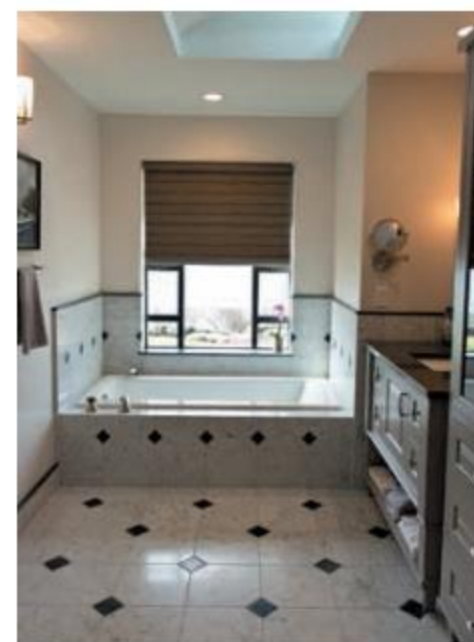
After demolition, it became painfully obvious why this master bathroom had only one sink. The waste pipe came up out of the floor (not the wall) and the concrete stem wall that comprised the first 16 inches of the vanity wall had been altered in a noncode-compliant manner. In the end, careful and code-compliant piping provided the requisite slope to connect the two sink drains.

The list of little extras includes:

- A hot water recirculation pump (the master bath was the farthest point in the home from the hot water heater);
- A charging station in the top drawer of the linen cabinet;
- Outlets in the back of the linen cabinet for charging grooming appliances, which keeps clutter on the countertops down to a minimum;
- A lighted, magnifying make-up mirror;
- A heated towel bar and specially selected mirrors.

The owners are enjoying their “his and hers” vanities, which ensure that they no longer have to dance around each other — at least not in the bathroom. Towels can now be stored in the bathroom rather than the closet down the hall and the improved lighting makes for ease in grooming.

The top-favorite item is the recirculation pump — as avid year-round gardeners and after eight years of living with tepid showers, they now can soothe overworked muscles with nearly instant hot showers. The second favorite improvement is the overall aesthetics of the space that brings the bathroom in line with the rest of this beautiful home.



— BEFORE —



RESOURCES:

- General contractor | A Kitchen That Works, LLC
- Countertops | Stonehenge Tile & Home
- Deep cleaning of existing marble tile and glass blocks | Northwest Tile & Stone Care
- Carpentry | Nyman Construction
- Electric | Agatepass Electric
- Plumbing | West Sound Plumbing



This Old House

19th Century Home Gets 21st Century Bath Updates

This old house — built in the 1870s — got a much-needed bathroom remodel. There was a combination of necessity and longing, going forward with plans to update the only full bathroom in this historic brick home.

With a house that's over one hundred years old, it was evident that it had been through many updates over its long history. It had good bones and potential to be grand. When the homeowners moved in, they had a lengthy must-do list and another list of want-to-do items.

Old brick homes can have their challenges. The windows were drafty, but were replaced with period-appropriate,

energy-saving ones, keeping the home warm and reducing heating costs. The floors were worthy of keeping. They were refinished and the local hickory floors now glow.

The front parlor was one of the rooms tackled first. It had a drop ceiling that was probably done in the '60s to cover up prior ceiling damage. Removing it gave the room a breath of fresh air with the now visible, original high ceilings.

It also had a fireplace (originally coal heated) to greet and entertain guests. The fireplace is adorned with a lovely wood mantel and surround that the owners' cats love to sit on for an

outstanding view of the room. Today, it has an efficient gas insert that warms the room, allowing one to enjoy a cup of tea while reading a book in the cozy setting.

A kitchen remodel was implemented a few years back, giving it new life and much-needed storage. So, the homeowners were excited when it finally came to remodeling the bathroom.

The bathroom was long and narrow, common for the era it was built in. In the planning stage, it was decided that the space was too small to accommodate the updates the homeowners desired.

The bath was enlarged by stealing 2 feet from an adjacent room to make the

DEMANE DESIGN, LLC.

remodel work. Luckily, the other room's sacrifice of space had a minimal impact.

The bath had a cast-iron tub that was difficult to get into and wasn't in the best shape, and a corner pedestal sink left no storage for the usual everyday bath items. The homeowners decided to forgo a bathtub for a comfortable shower.

The new shower has a curved, glass, sliding-panel door. The subtle bowfront curve gives extra inches at the curve, making it roomier than a standard, rectangular shower design. The new shower was also large enough to allow a drop-down seat, great for any age of user.

To maximize the space and accommodate all their showering soaps and goodies the homeowners use daily, two side-by-side niches were placed. A handheld shower head on a shower pole allows for smooth height adjustments when needed.

New cabinetry in warm tones was selected, keeping with the feel of the home. A tall linen and storage cabinet has ample room. Adjacent, a stack of "cubbies" gives quick access to towels and bath accessories. The vanity also has a handy pull-out hamper to keep the floor clear of clutter.

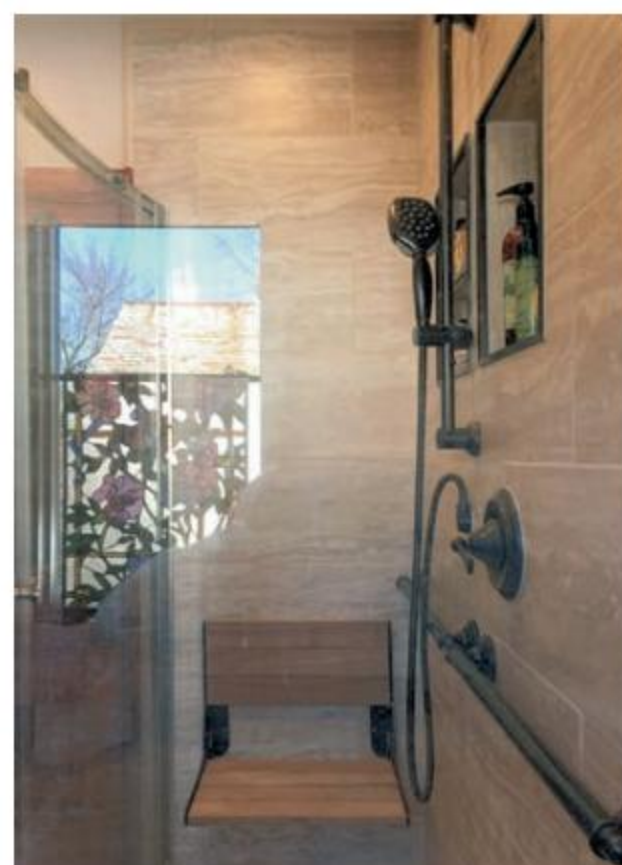
The floor was enhanced with an in-floor heat system, enjoyed all year round, but especially during cool winter months. Porcelain tiles in a travertine look complement the wood and warm tones desired.

Luminous, glass mosaic tiles were used as an accent in the niche and above the vanity. For the fixtures, oil-rubbed bronze was the perfect addition. A favorite family heirloom mirror fit perfectly between two sconces at the vanity. The sconces had a nice balance of whimsy and style with a soft petal-shaped glass shade.

This old house had a bathroom update that brought it into the 21st century while keeping the charm of the house.

RESOURCES:

- Designer | DeMane Design, LLC
- Lighting | Crescent Lighting
- Plumbing | Keller Supply
- Paint | Sherwin Williams





An Updated Bath

The owner of this Bainbridge Island home felt the bathroom and fixtures were dated and hired Smallwood Design & Construction, Inc. to complete the project.

The remodel included new fixtures, flooring and wall tile. The materials' selection was a collaboration between the designer, project manager and homeowner. The owner enjoyed being part of the design team, and especially loves the new shower.

RESOURCES:

- **General contractor** | Smallwood Design & Construction, Inc.
- **Carpentry** | Glenn Freeman
- **Flooring** | Artisan Tile & Marble
- **Countertops** | Creative Countertops
- **Plumbing** | Silverdale Plumbing
- **Shower door** | Sound Glass

SMALLWOOD DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION, INC.



A Master Bath With a View

This was a new construction project and the owners worked with Smallwood Design & Construction, Inc. to help their design vision come to fruition. The homeowners made all the design choices, and are extremely happy with the results.

Their favorite parts of the master bath are the natural light from the large window and the view from the deep soaking tub.

RESOURCES:

- General contractor | Smallwood Design & Construction, Inc.
- Tile | Ceramic Tile Services
- Cabinetry | Westside Cabinets
- Flooring | Genesee Woodworking
- Countertops | Creative Countertops
- Plumbing | Silverdale Plumbing
- Shower door | Glass & Mirrors Outfitters

SMALLWOOD DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION, INC.





Take Your Kitchen Out of Doors

Creating a great dining space for all seasons...

TEXT BY RICHARD WALKER

An outdoor kitchen can be a stylish and comfortable space that makes the out-of-doors a functional part of your home. Designed with all seasons in mind, it can be a comfortable gathering and dining place in spring, summer, fall and winter. And, according to a report by Zillow, an outdoor kitchen can bump up the value of your home by about 24.5 percent.

Here are 10 design tips gleaned from experts.

1: Determine your budget, space and style, then have fun planning. Depending on your budget, your project can be a contractor build with conveniences and features you'd find in an indoor kitchen; or it can be DIY with a gazebo or pergola, a fireplace, string lights, outdoor wicker furniture with





cushions and pillows, and an outdoor rug.

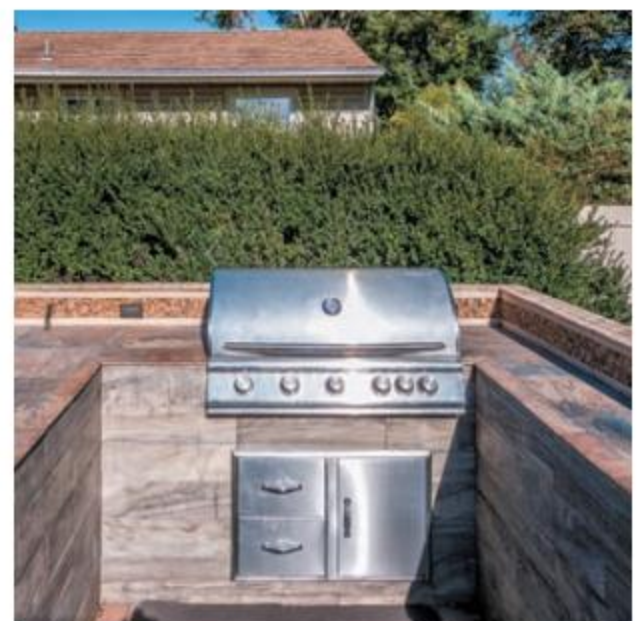
No matter your budget, think comfort and convenience. (By the way, a house with a pergola sells an average of 10.7 days faster than a house without one, according to Zillow).

2: Locate the outdoor kitchen close to the house. This will provide easy access to electricity and water, and make bringing supplies to and from the house much simpler.

3: Outdoor furniture and rugs help create a gathering space that is comfortable and stylish. Outdoor wicker, for example, is timeless, durable and easy to care for. Add cushions and pillows for more comfort and style.

4: Small space? No matter. Consider installing an awning window or casement window that opens the indoor kitchen to an outside counter with bar seating. Your indoor kitchen is now an outdoor kitchen as well. The addition of a pergola can add to the comfort of guests and provide





weather protection for your outdoor furnishings.

5: Use materials that are weather-resistant and can be wiped down easily for quick cleanup. For countertops and other surfaces, stay away from porous stone, like marble, and unsealed wood that can absorb liquids and stains. Hot drinks and hot plates won't mar countertops made from concrete, engineered quartz and stainless steel.

6: Install an outdoor cabinet for glasses, plates, utensils and grilling accessories. Many outdoor kitchen cabinets are attractive and durable — for example, a stainless-steel frame and UV-resistant, louver-style doors in a wood-grain finish. And most outdoor kitchen cabinets can easily be moved.

7: A bar can be a great place from which to serve refreshments and store glasses, blender and other barware. A bar doesn't need to have plumbing to be convenient: Add a small refrigerator, an insulated cooler and an outdoor water cooler or on-table drink dispenser (many stores carry shatter-resistant drink dispensers that have an elegant, hammered-glass look).

8: String lights add a magical touch to any outdoor space. Outdoor speakers are durable and weatherproof and are available in a variety of shapes and



**Staying Home
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colors. Electric and propane patio heaters can add comfort during cool nights.

9: Speaking of magical touch, make a rainy day a great time to be outside. Use corrugated tin for gazebo or patio roofing — for visual interest and a beautiful rain-on-a-tin-roof soundscape.

10: Use citronella candles and torches to keep your outside kitchen free of mosquitoes and other pesky flying insects.

One last bit of advice: Enjoy your investment of time and creativity — and the years of memories to come.

Sources include Houzz, HomeDNC and Zillow.

Richard Walker is a journalist and mariner. He is former managing editor of Kitsap News Group. His latest book is "Point No Point" (Arcadia Publishing, May 2019).



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A Timeless Kitchen Remodel

The owners purchased the home from the estate of a dear friend, who built it in 1991 and lived alone there until his death in 2014. His passion in his later years was composing and recording music; he had little time or interest in maintaining his home. The kitchen was designed to meet the needs of a bachelor — one who loved cooking and offering hospitality and worked alone in the space.

Several areas had major deferred maintenance and the new owners had planned to live in the space before undertaking a kitchen remodel. But it made sense to address the remodel and the deferred maintenance issues at the same time. The homeowners enjoy cooking and entertaining.

“No matter how nice other spaces are in our home, people gravitate to and love being in the kitchen,” one of the homeowners says.

They wanted to maintain the wood-burning cookstove in the kitchen. The former owner used the kitchen as his dining room, but the couple turned his office space into the formal dining room so the kitchen could be a place full of people and aromas.

The former kitchen was very sad, outdated and terribly dysfunctional, the designer notes. As you enter the home, you are directed through the kitchen, which previously was lacking in hospitality.

General contractor Glen Haines of

Custom Haines Construction Inc. introduced the homeowners to interior designer Cheryl Bloom of Bloom Design Group, who created the interior planning and design concepts. Their relationship added much value to the project and the possibilities were made larger by their differing strengths and experience.

The kitchen went from a one-man shop to a key hospitality area of the home, and from a closed space to an open space. The addition of a perfectly placed, large island encourages guests to hang out in the space.

As guests enter the rest of the home through the kitchen, it is a wonderful welcoming space and lets them know

Bloom Design Group

that the home is casual, grounded and full of love. A highlight of the kitchen is the “hidden refrigerator,” pantry and ovens, and the homeowners love the warmth the hickory exudes.

The materials were selected with the test of durability in mind. Equally important, they all needed to speak the language of the home’s architecture and land it sits upon.

The grounds and views surrounding the home are amazing and the kitchen steps out to an intimate patio and sitting area that is nestled into a spontaneous-style, Japanese-designed garden. This exterior feeling had to be read consistently throughout the interior of the house. You can see that in the stone that was selected to wrap the wood-burning cookstove, as well as the thoughtful selections of natural and comfortable finishes.

The couple’s favorite part is the openness and sense of “handsome casual” because that reflects how they live. The island, soapstone, refrigerator/stove/pantry and the extra-large farmer’s sink signal that this is a place of respite. And they love the flooring, especially the fact it was laid down on an angle.

The owners feel the changes they made, with the expertise and support of Haines and Bloom, make their home and kitchen timeless. They love their home — and so do their friends. As one of the homeowners says, “Does it get better than that?”



RESOURCES:

- Interior design | Bloom Design Group
- General contractor and custom-built cabinets | Custom Haines Construction
- Soapstone countertops and custom sink | Western Tile and Granite
- Electrical | Onsite Electric Co.
- Fireplace stone | Maranakos
- Appliances | Tacoma Albert Lee Appliances



Before



Functional and Aesthetically Beautiful

This kitchen remodel was part of a whole main floor remodel of this Gig Harbor home. The flooring and cabinetry both had an orange-red-toned wood. The homeowners wanted a lighter and brighter kitchen, as well as a larger island. The remodel brought many other gains, such as a refreshed butler's pantry turned into a bar, a more functional customized pantry with Miele espresso machine, and another coffee area in the large, open kitchen.

The contractor, Harley Wanaka of Wanaka & Sons, had a project manager on the jobsite daily. The company also has its own custom-cabinet shop and built the cabinets.

The designer, Stefanie Brooks, worked closely with the homeowner and the cabinet designer to achieve the most functional layout for this busy family of five. Finding out how the family uses the kitchen was the first step, asking questions such as: How often do you cook and entertain?

The entire kitchen was gutted and everything went, except for the desirable Sub-Zero fridge and freezer units. The previous island was a nonfunctional, odd shape with many angles, so it was transformed into a very large rectangle.

The location of the sink and the range/hood was swapped. Doing that allowed for a range on a wall rather than

having a cooktop on the island. A coffee station was also added in a corner of the kitchen.

To select the materials, Brooks gets to know her clients first, including their likes and dislikes. Most people know what they like and what they don't but have a difficult time putting the pieces together for a cohesive and clean look. Typically, she breaks the selection process into stages in the following order: cabinetry, flooring, countertops, backsplash, plumbing, lighting, hardware, paint.

To ensure the remodel process and experience go smoothly, Brooks also recommends to have the majority of the materials selected, priced out and

SB Interior Design

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY MATTHEW WITSCHONKE

budgeted before the start date of the project. This allows a smoother, less stressful process for all involved as well as fewer surprises for the homeowner. She suggests checking on Houzz or Pinterest and pulling a couple of inspirational photos to help share your likes and dislikes with the designer.

The homeowners are extremely happy with the outcome of the remodel and are enjoying it. After the remodel, they hired Brooks to help with artwork, accessories and some furniture pieces to complete the look. They feel that the kitchen is a wonderful place to hang out and be a family. Their favorite part of the new kitchen is the way it functions while also being aesthetically beautiful.



RESOURCES:

- Interior designer | Stefanie Brooks, SB Interior Design
- Stone fabricator | Harbor Stone Works, LLC
- Flooring | Innovative Hardwood Floors
- Furnishings | Contract Furnishings Mart
- Millwork | Johnson Millwork
- Electrical | Dynamic Electric
- Painting | Martinson Painting
- Plumbing | Burton Plumbing
- Sheet metal | Schneider Simpson
- Lighting | Crescent Lighting





Transformation of Light and Life Completes This Kitchen Remodel

This Fletcher Bay, midcentury house on Bainbridge Island went through a complete kitchen renovation to bring it back to its former glory.

The homeowners had two things that were important to both of them. The husband wanted a place for the Tupperware containers and their lids to be stored together. The wife wanted at least one burner on the cooktop to work.

The project began with the countertops, using Fantasy Brown quartz. The durability and beauty of the quartz complemented the bamboo flooring. A Blanco resin, undermount sink was

installed, along with a Blanco faucet and soap dispenser, in Anthracite finish. A black walnut countertop was added for the island.

The countertops were paired with a mosaic tile backsplash that has a combination of red onyx marble, absolute black granite, travertine and glass in its mix. With the challenge of a structural post near the cooktop, and finishing off the backsplash right there, the decision was to wrap the post with the mosaic tile and turn the challenge into some functional art.

The cabinets are a combination of

painted maple for the kitchen and natural cherry for the tall pantry. The tall-pantry cabinet is right next to the dining room area, so the cabinet helps with food goods, as well as fine dining essentials.

On the back side of the kitchen, a raised countertop was added with barstool seating. These cabinets are also made of natural cherry and help to create a backdrop for the adjoining living room. The cabinets range from 12 to 24 inches deep to accommodate specific inventory, as well as a small beverage refrigerator for entertaining.

LaMont Design

New appliances include an induction down-draft cooktop and double convection ovens that have steam and microwave capabilities. The full-size refrigerator is at cabinet depth to keep the aisles tailored and not encumbered by the refrigerator's size.

The hallway wall was opened to access the dining room a bit easier. The midcentury design table and chairs were inherited by the homeowners. The chairs were reupholstered and a built-in storage bench was added. For durability and longevity, the bench has a type of Sunbrella material from Perennials Fabric.

The house has a vaulted ceiling of natural cedar, which can rob environments of the feeling of light. New light fixtures can ramp up the amount of light needed or wanted within the home. Modern, yet vintage glass pendants hang over the cooktop and bar area. A Hoppla chandelier in the dining room, as well as their stairwell, can be seen both from the bar area and the living room.

The melding of natural woods, painted cabinetry, quartz and glass all create the feeling of style and life. The yin and yang of the materials gives the sense of a tailored, yet artistic flair that the homeowners love.

They are more than pleased that there is a place for all the Tupperware, all of the burners work, and then some. The transformation looks like the home has always been this way, but the amount of storage, light and function has more than doubled. With the new feeling of life, the space has been the perfect place for all of their gatherings of friends and family, and they look forward to many more years to come.





Kitchen Remodeled to Sparkle

This home had been a rental for a number of years while the owners lived out of state. It had never been remodeled, and when they returned, it was obvious that was time for a kitchen “facelift.”

The home is located in a lush, wooded section of Poulsbo. This woodland setting had a major impact on the homeowners’ decision to embrace the country-modern design aesthetic.

The homeowners worked with designer Kae Rosenberg to turn their project into reality. They gave her the freedom to create and implement a vision of the project. Rosenberg selected the materials

and the subcontractors, made design decisions and oversaw the work.

The homeowners had two specific requests: a gas stove and a farm sink. Because they liked the existing layout, the designer worked within those parameters. Structural changes were minimal. A built-in desk area was demolished and replaced with a beadboard-lined alcove that has small banquette seating and storage area for shoes. In addition, cabinets above the stove were removed and a custom “barnwood” hood was installed. Crown molding was installed around all upper cabinets.

The original cabinets remained and were painted white and fitted with oil-rubbed bronze hardware. In some cases, the interior drawers were replaced and organizational compartments were added for convenience.

The laminate countertops were switched out for granite, and a backsplash of tiles imported from Spain was added. New appliances were installed, in addition to running a pipe from a propane tank to interior for the gas stove.

A farm sink replaced the old sink and faucets. The new, polished-chrome faucets give the space a little “sparkle”

Kae Rosenberg Interior Design

AFTER PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY DAVID W. COHEN

and lead the eye upward to the greenhouse window, which was installed above the sink.

There's new lighting above the bar area, the sink and the shoe banquette. The walls were painted a soft gray and all the wood trim was painted in crisp white.

The existing table and chairs remained in the kitchenette nook, but slipcovers were added to the chairs in bright red cottage prints to add a splash of color in the neutral space. A coordinating cushion was added on the shoe alcove bench. The shoe alcove is the favorite space in the new kitchen. Not only is it functional, but it is a little design detail that sets their kitchen space apart.

The owners are extremely happy with the remodel. As a result, they decided to redesign the master bath, master bedroom, family room and the downstairs bath/powder room. Next is the living room and an upstairs guest room. All the spaces are designed in the country-modern aesthetic.

RESOURCES:

- **Interior designer** | Kae Rosenberg Design
- **Painting** | Moran Painting and Construction
- **Flooring** | 1 Crown Flooring LLC
- **Electrical** | Empire Electric
- **Plumbing** | Swift Plumbing
- **Upholstery** | Little Bad Bird Upholstery
- **Lighting** | Seattle Lighting



— BEFORE PHOTOS —





A Bright, Open, Family-Friendly Kitchen

This kitchen remodel started with the idea of a simple update or refresh. Originally, the intent was to save the kitchen cabinets and paint them, but a closer look revealed that the quality was not high enough to justify it. Once that decision was made, it really opened the possibilities.

The kitchen layout was redesigned while reusing the existing appliances. The existing hood and island were painted in Benjamin Moore Abyss. Pantry storage and a coffee station were added, and new engineered-stone countertops and subway tile were selected for their look as well as ease of maintenance.

Before
remodel



Alinda Morris Interior Design

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY WILLIAM FLANAGAN PASH-UHN PHOTOGRAPHY

Part of the mezzanine was also removed and opened up and to make the space functional without compromising on aesthetics.

Alinda Morris Interior Design provided the conceptual floorplans, cabinet drawings, surface materials and lighting design as well as overseeing the project's completion. The firm worked with the homeowners to select the finishes color scheme and flooring paint color that they loved. From the provided options, they choose an engineered oak floor with a gray stain, and this served as the starting point.

The interior color — Benjamin Moore Snowfall White — is a crisp white that adds radiant warmth to almost any space and was a great choice because this space has good natural light. Black accents add depth and dimension to the space. The light fixtures were selected because they are statement pieces.

The homeowners are thrilled with the kitchen. They love the open layout and the lightness and brightness of their new space. The home is designed to accommodate large family dinners and seasonal entertaining. The open concept and family-friendly surfaces are perfect for this busy family with young children.

RESOURCES:

- Interior designer | Alinda Morris Interior Design
- General contractor | Vedere Construction





A Perfectly Remodeled Kitchen for the Baker



TN Miller Remodeling, LLC



One of the owners is a passionate baker and had a poorly designed kitchen that was cut up into several nonfunctioning work spaces. The appliances were also extremely out of date. The owners also wanted to open up the space to take advantage of the lake view. Additionally, they wanted to rearrange the function of the attached rooms by changing the existing sitting room into the new dining room and the existing dining room into the new sitting room.

TN Miller Remodeling & Custom Homes, a design-build firm, provided the work. The existing interior kitchen walls and post were removed to open up the space. All existing cabinets, countertops and old flooring were removed.

A new, reclaimed-hardwood flooring was installed to unify the dining room, sitting room and kitchen into one continuous space. The remodel included all new cabinets, countertops, plumbing

fixtures, lighting and appliances.

The owners were very satisfied with the project. They especially liked the color of the cabinets and the reclaimed wood. The floors were reclaimed from roof beams of old warehouses in Seattle.



RESOURCES:

- **General contractor** | TN Miller Remodeling, LLC
- **Plumbing** | Port Orchard Plumbing
- **Electrical** | KC Electric
- **Countertops** | Inca Marble and Granite



Before remodel



Functional Yet Aesthetically Pleasing



Janet Weber Interior Design

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY RICK LANDER

The owners built a new house and then decided that blending function and aesthetics was more than they wanted to do themselves. They worked with designer Janet Weber and Lander Construction, LLC to bring their project to life.

Weber modified the architectural floor plan and helped position the cabinets and the flow of the work space to meet the owners' ideas and needs. The kitchen needed to accommodate not only daily use but also large gatherings for friends and family throughout the year.

The design had to consider where to prepare and serve drinks and hors d'oeuvres while maintaining the main cooking area free of congestion. This was accomplished by raising one end of the island, placing the bar out of the way but close to both the great room and the kitchen, and adding a pass-through from the kitchen to the great room for ease of entertaining.

The owners' favorite part of their new kitchen is the gas cooktop, as well as the other new appliances. They also love the dual-level island that incorporates both the oven and a 48-inch TV that faces the keeping room.

RESOURCES:

- **Interior designer** | Janet Weber Interior Design
- **General contractor** | Lander Construction
- **Plumbing** | Kimco Plumbing
- **Electrical** | Fredrickson Electric
- **Flooring** | Great Floors





Extensive Remodel Offers Light, Serenity and Functionality

The genesis of this project was two-fold. The owners wanted to “age in place” by adding an elevator to their small, two-story home. The only place for the elevator that would line up structurally was the area occupied by a small, dark, out-of-date, dilapidated kitchen, which the owners wanted to update anyway. They had a studio apartment above the garage, so they could escape the noise and mess of the remodel, while still being close by to answer questions and observe progress.

Fairbank Construction was the general contractor on this project and performed all the demolition, construction, cabinet installation and finish work.

The architect was Russ Hamlet of Studio Hamlet on Bainbridge Island. He reimagined the entire first floor to accommodate the elevator placement.

A woodstove was moved from near the stair landing in the former family room into a new niche that was created in the adjacent dining/living room. The French entry door was scrapped and its location filled with windows. A salvaged door was restored and moved to a new location for the entry, and the former kitchen location became an entry hall with a rebuilt staircase featuring hidden cabinetry with powered drawers, so no hardware is necessary.

The kitchen was moved into the former family room on the south side of the house and more windows were added to bring in light. The mix of flooring throughout the main floor was all torn out and replaced with quartersawn white oak with a Swedish finish to bring continuity and visually expand the small space.

The owners were heavily involved in the design process and selected all the finish surfaces, plumbing and electrical fixtures, appliances, flooring and cabinetry. The cabinets are by Siematic, a brand imported from Germany, and required a fair amount of adaptation to make them work with the extra-deep (28-inch) countertops the owners wanted. The counters and full-height backsplashes are 2-centimeter-thick “Misterio” by Pental. The appliances are all by Wolf, with the exception of the SubZero refrigerator.

The owners are thrilled with the difference in the feel and function of their home. Where previously it was dark and closed-in, with awkward and nonfunctional spaces, it is now full of light, with a refined serenity and functionality that make it a pleasure to come home. Their favorite part of the

Fairbank Construction Company



remodel, besides having an elevator that allows them to age in place, is the low-maintenance aspect of the kitchen and the elegant feel that now permeates the home.

A word of caution from Fairbank Construction about European cabinets that are actually from Europe, as opposed to European-style cabinets made for the American market. European cabinetry is typically smaller, only 20 inches deep, so on this project, there is quite a bit of missing storage space behind the cabinets that would be available with American-made cabinetry. In this instance, custom cabinetry could have been made 28 inches deep — 4 inches deeper than normal — providing more storage at less cost and carbon footprint, than importing cabinetry with all of its attendant shipping cost and copious packaging.

RESOURCES:

- **General contractor** | Fairbank Construction
- **Electrical** | Mathews Electric
- **Plumbing** | Approved Plumbing
- **HVAC** | Sullivan Heating & Cooling
- **Elevator** | NW Elevations
- **Roofing** | Hanley Construction
- **Windows** | Cherry Creek Windows & Doors
- **Flooring** | Washington Wood Floors
- **Drywall** | Judkins Drywall
- **Paint** | Action Maintenance and Painting
- **Cabinetry** | Siematic and Mortise & Tenon Woodworks
- **Countertops** | Silver Bo Stone
- **Appliances** | Nilsen's Appliance (now Albert Lee Appliance)





A Modern, Open Kitchen Look



Works Granite & Stone, LLC

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY RACHEL JOBST PHOTOGRAPHY

The owners, Matt and Trudy Thuring, wanted to open the rooms and create a new, modern appearance with improved function. Len Whalquist with L.A.W. Construction engineered and built the changes they wanted. He removed walls surrounding the kitchen area, removed a soffit that had lowered the ceiling and changed a peninsula into an island. He installed a beam and column that integrated into the island rather than the soffit that was originally there.

The couple visited Sunlight Woodenworks for cabinetry, where they were given options for stains and materials. They were able to find exactly the look they wanted for their cabinetry. They also selected countertops stone distributors in the Seattle area.

The Thuring's are very happy with the remodel. They especially love the openness of the kitchen and the focal point of the island.

Remodeling takes a lot of coordination, so they recommend ongoing communication with the builder. This was very important in their project. The couple had concerns about what portions of the kitchen were load-bearing and what the column would look like once finished. Whalquist was able to help them decide what the final look would be and what would look best for the room overall, while making sure everything was structurally correct.

RESOURCES:

- **General contractor** | L.A.W. Construction
- **Countertops** | Works Granite & Stone, LLC
- **Cabinetry** | Sunlight Woodenworks





Lakefront Renovation Created Light and Opened Up the View



TN Miller Remodeling, LLC

The owners bought their lake house for their retirement home and needed to upgrade the kitchen to fit with their family's lifestyle. They wanted to change the kitchen from being dark and enclosed to a light, open concept.

They hired TN Miller Remodeling & Custom Homes, a design-build firm. The kitchen had to be opened up into a great room, and the project included the removal of the interior wall between the kitchen and family room. The builder also had the opportunity to create a vaulted ceiling to let more light in from the waterfront, as well as add a larger sliding-glass door and windows to improve the view of the lake.

The homeowners, Jan and Terry Ray, love their new kitchen, especially the large island.

"We were very pleased with the project — from design through the 'rough spots' and to conclusion. We love our new space," Jan Ray says.

RESOURCES:

- **General contractor** | TN Miller Remodeling, LLC
- **Plumbing** | Port Orchard Plumbing
- **Electrical** | KC Electric
- **Countertops** | Inca Marble and Granite
- **Cabinets** | Parr Cabinets





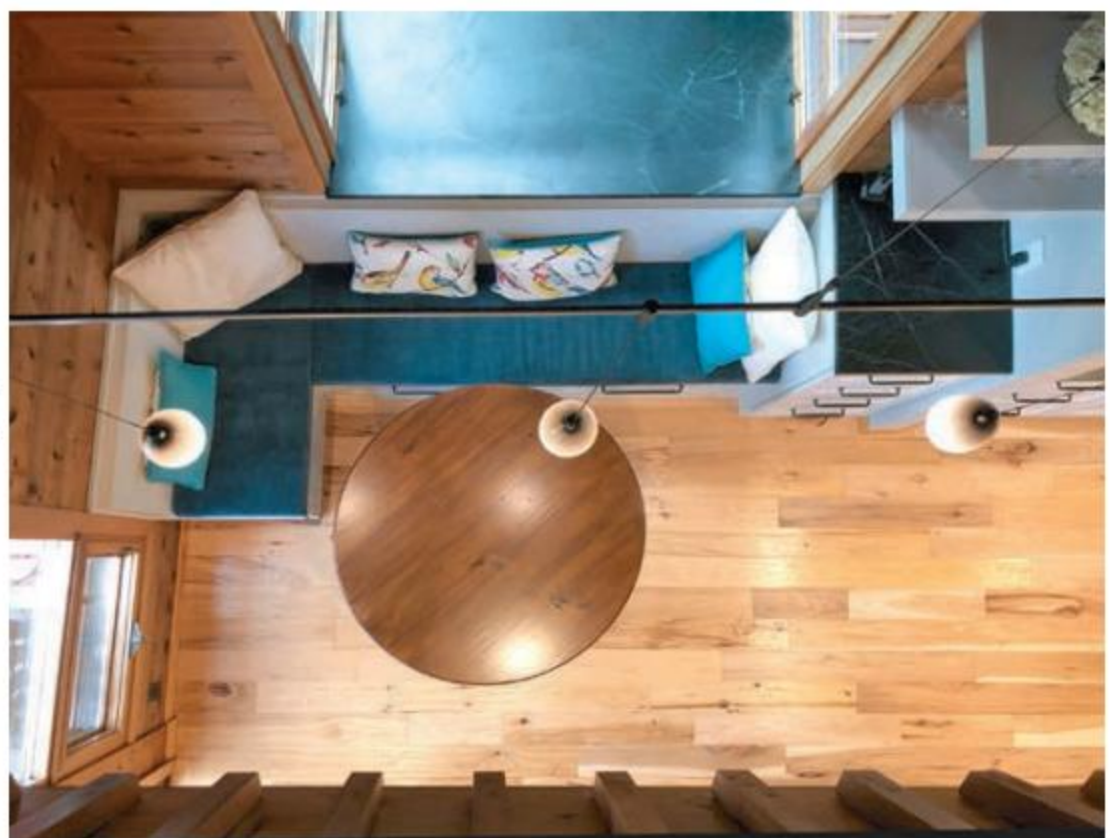
Modern Day Meets Rustic Charm

This home boasts a wonderful custom kitchen and all the amenities that you can only dream of in a log home. The combination of the exposed timbers and new cabinetry truly brings this kitchen to life.

Log homes can have some challenges, and power and plumbing are sometime difficult to incorporate with the log structure. These challenges were solved and a plan was in place for a new, happy space.

The layout of the kitchen and dining spaces was changed. A peninsula and hanging cabinets were removed, all the appliances moved, and the entire space was essentially gutted. The new, soft-

Overview of kitchen



DeMane Design

gray cabinetry and a built-in banquette replaced the dark wood cabinets. It helped the home feel more spacious and offsets the exposed log walls.

Many custom touches were integrated into the design with the owner's lifestyle and cooking styles in mind. Although not a large kitchen, every inch was maximized. Two tiered pull-outs for silverware, spices and coffees were used. A blind corner unit that's not your old-fashioned lazy susan makes sure everything is accessible and organized. A pull-out with a knife block is handy, close to the range.

A visual trick to make a small space look larger is to panel the front of the dishwasher so not to break to line of cabinets. On the backside of a door, measuring spoons hang within easy reach. A farm-style sink, one of the homeowner's longtime desires, fits into the new plan wonderfully. It even has a removable cutting board.

A coffee center with a multilevel drawer was custom-made to accommodate a large selection of coffees, teas and hot chocolate.

Technology in cabinets makes doors open and close with a touch of the finger. A microwave was placed in the wall cabinet above the coffee center. Opening a standard swing door would be awkward. Instead, a motorized lift system opens the door out of the way, allowing the cook to easily see and use everything in the upper cabinet.

Keeping the kitchen cozy and warm in





the Northwest climate presented another challenge. An efficient convection heater was incorporated into the side of a cabinet, taking up only 3 inches of depth.

The homeowner enjoyed having a TV available in the space. A niche was designed for watching favorite shows while cooking, washing dishes or relaxing at the banquette with a cup of coffee.

The finishes selection gave the log home an updated vibe while keeping its rustic charm. The cabinetry was done in a soft gray.

The countertops and ledges in the garden windows are natural soapstone. A natural beauty, some of soapstone's characteristics are that it doesn't stain, it is heat resistant and it can stand up to acidic foods like lemon juice.

Marble tile was used for the backsplash, bridging the light and dark colors together. Appliances were done in

stainless steel, adding a modern feel, and hardware was done in a matt black. The finishes complemented each other, giving the room unified harmony.

Lighting updates make this space inviting and now the brightest place in the house. The kitchen is covered by a loft, which is open above in the dining section. Strategically placed recessed cans offer good overall lighting. For a touch of drama with function, a rail system with suspended cables let three pendants float in the dining area.

Keeping a clean visual look while adding smart technology was done with a combined modular component that tucks neatly away under the wall cabinets. It takes some planning, but the modular system is worthwhile with the interchangeable system. Undercabinet lighting is great task light while preparing meals. Outlets, smart phone docks and

device cradles can be moved around as needed.

The dining section now has a built-in banquette with comfy cushions. You can lounge and read a book or enjoy dinner with friends. And the family pet was not forgotten — a hidden feeding section is tucked away at the end of the seating in the banquette.

The goal was to combine modern day with rustic charm — creating a place to gather with friends.

RESOURCES:

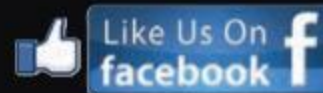
- **Interior designer** | Nancy Finneson, DeMane Design
- **General contractor** | Newaukum Builders
- **Custom cabinetry** | Hyland Cabinetworks
- **Countertops** | Soapstone
- **Lighting** | Crescent Lighting
- **Appliances** | Ferguson's Appliances





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French-Country Elegant Kitchen

A Capodimonte Chandelier Is at the Heart of It All

TEXT BY WENDY TWETEN

Every big project must start somewhere. For Craig and Nicole Downey of Poulsbo, their perfect kitchen began with a chandelier. It was not, however, just any chandelier; this was a classic beauty passed on to the couple by Craig's parents, who found the splendid confection of Capodimonte porcelain on a trip to Italy in the early 1970s. Elegantly crafted, the romantic piece has 10 lower and five upper arms set with pink roses, tiny yellow-and-blue flowers, and drops of pink roses. Dating back a hundred years or more, it originally held candles.

The Downeys, owners of Liberty Bay Canvas and Sails, purchased their Virginia Point waterfront in 1996. At the time, it had a dated 1940s cabin. The couple moved in immediately and, in 2000, began their planned overhaul of the two-bedroom single-story. Although they retained the cabin's footprint, they would take the structure up another story to make room for their growing family.

The new house would be a very personal project for the Downeys; not only did they have specific ideas about the décor, but they would do much of the construction themselves — from the



Nicole and Craig Downey

structure to the flooring. Rebuilding in phases over the course of 18 years, they saved the kitchen for last.

Piecing Together the Look

The French-traditional ambiance suggested by the chandelier is found throughout the home, but nowhere more than the kitchen. It was a style with which both husband and wife felt at home: Nicole owing to a childhood lived in a semiformal, East Coast-style home and Craig from growing up in a Tudor-design house filled with timeless dark hardwoods.

As the remodel progressed and the kitchen makeover grew closer, Nicole Downey scoured magazines such as *Veranda* and *Traditional Home* to collect ideas and gather clippings. She and her husband wanted not just a kitchen, but a comfortable room for gathering.

Appliances would be hidden. All upper shelving would be open, furniture-type pieces, in contrast to the more usual kitchen-style lower cabinetry. The Downeys created the look of their kitchen themselves, with a little help from family friend Marilyn Richardson and her background in design.

Art and accessories are an important part of French kitchen décor — an ideal the Downeys kept in mind. The chandelier may be the star, but it doesn't have to carry the theme alone.



For years before the kitchen remodel commenced, the couple traveled to Texas, New York and Louisiana, as well as France and Italy, to collect their décor. Antique dealers, estate sales and brocante (French flea markets) provided everything from the ornate, antique brass escutcheons of the cabinet hardware to the hand-painted, bird-themed, French dinnerware.

Other pieces were found close to home, such as an antique Belgian pipe from Red Plantation of Poulsbo and, from Silverdale Antiques, a century-old French Salamander fire stove, built on wheels to be moved from room to room.

Painstaking Design

Every piece needs a place, and with that in mind, the Downeys were painstaking with the kitchen design. Once again, the chandelier led the way, dictating how big the center island would be. After sketching a rough design on paper, they took a sharpie to the raw floor to draw out the placement of the island, cabinets, furniture and amenities right down to the site of the trashcan.

When the time came for cabinetry, Craig Downey brought his woodworking skills to bear, crafting runs of clean-lined inset cabinets. The couple painted the cabinets in deep, Gauntlet Gray from





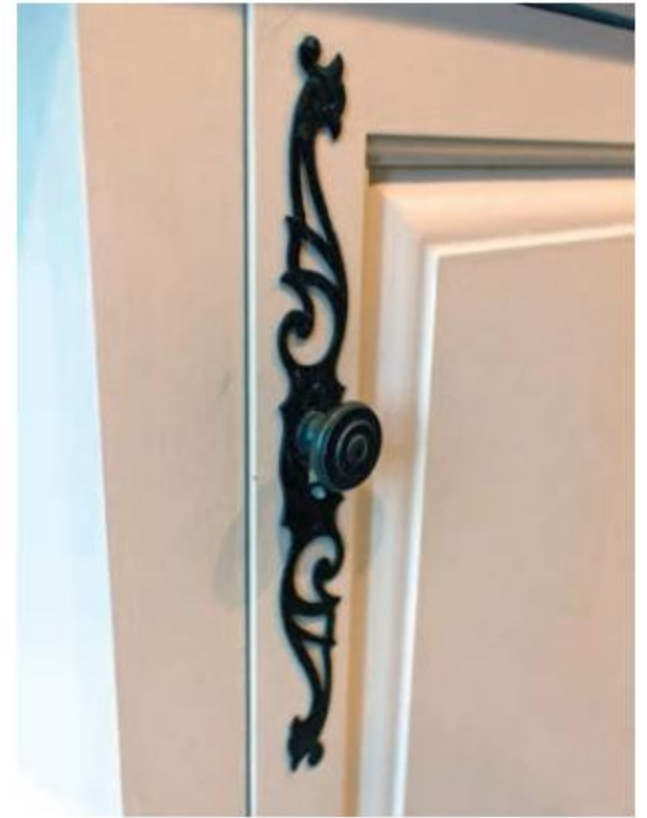
The centerpiece of the kitchen is the Capodimonte chandelier.



Peninsula Paints of Poulsbo.

For contrast, they chose white for the island cabinetry. Before choosing the gray as a rich accompaniment to the kitchen's dark woods, Nicole experimented with several colors, paying close attention to how each appeared throughout the day with the changing light.

For the island top, the Downeys went with a handsome, black walnut slab, fashioned and installed by Dave Tripp of NW Millwork and Door of Kingston. The wall cabinetry was topped with Calcutta Gold marble from Whittington Tile and



Stone of Gorst. Nicole selected this marble for its warm look, a welcome change from the stark white of most marble.

The upper cabinetry would be different. Rather than the more customary box cabinets, the Downeys opted for two pieces of furniture, one new and one old.

The new was an open display cabinet designed by the couple and built by Craig. After drawing the pattern and sizing it to fit the length of the dishes it would hold, they bought black walnut for it from Edensaw Woods of Port Townsend. The older upper is in fact the top half of an elegant china hutch. The Downeys acquired this ornate, 1800s grand dame at a Texas estate auction. The piece currently holds, among other treasures, a lovely Majolica rabbit tureen and accompanying ceramic vegetables. Once again, the Downeys thought ahead, setting the height of their kitchen counters to fit the half cabinet.

An Old-World Aesthetic

They chose all the elements to complement the Old-World aesthetic. The farmhouse sink is of Fireclay by Whitehaus. The ceiling has exposed beams. Stone flooring is heated and was set by the Downeys in a traditional French pattern. An industrial zinc counter under west-facing windows is a favorite napping spot for the family cat, Henry, an antique in his own right.

Two additional fixtures add the final je ne sais quoi to this fine kitchen. The

marble range hood was hand-carved in Italy to the Downeys' specifications. This 400-pound showstopper required a beefy superstructure to hold it aloft. The second substantial component, a grand and graceful armoire of quarter-sawn oak, is an 1800s French piece that the couple purchased in Baton Rouge. Once again, the furnishings dictated the architecture: The couple extended one wall of the kitchen to accommodate the 8-foot-tall by 8-foot-long cabinet.

After more than two years of hands-on remodeling, the Downeys put the final touches to a kitchen that is now everything they want it to be. Nicole appreciates how welcoming and user-friendly the room is. Craig admires how all the parts and pieces came together cleanly to create a harmonious whole. Together, the couple cherishes the memories of the places they've been and the people they've met as reflected in their kitchen.



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRIAN LAFRIENE

Trendy Wallpaper

TEXT BY ALINDA MORRIS

Looking for a way to add visual interest to a master bedroom wall? Wallpaper offers an opportunity to make a statement.

Top trends in wall coverings range from natural motifs, glamorous maximalism and colorful whimsy, just to name a few. What is right for you and how do you get started? Like most things in life, you will be more successful if you have a plan from the beginning.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY
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PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATTHEW WITSCHONKE

Consider what you're trying to accomplish and the other elements in the space. Are you looking to breathe new life into your guest room? Update your laundry room with a cheerful, patterned or botanical print? Or maybe your master bedroom is in desperate need of an update. Painting is a simple solution, but wallpaper can take your project to the next level.

Location Is Everything

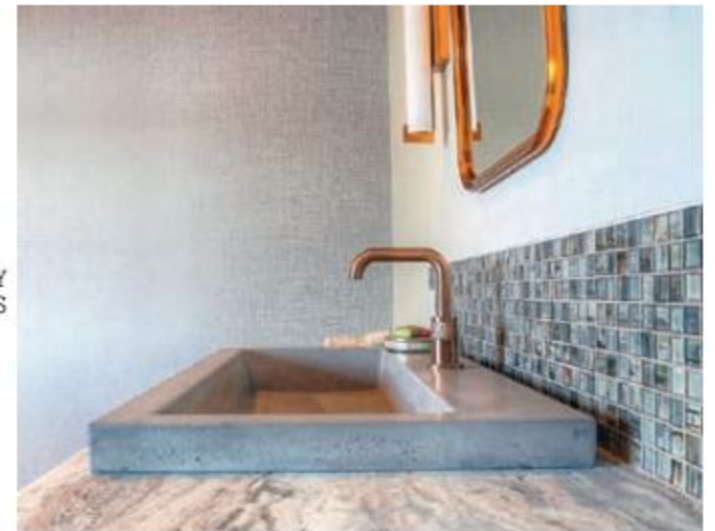
If your room (and budget) can take it, paper all four walls. If you are on a budget or perhaps the pattern you want to use would be overwhelming on a large scale, a feature wall may be the statement you're looking for.

Accent walls can be lovely if they are done in confidence. The texture of grass cloth is preferable over an (outdated) painted accent wall. This is true even for your ceiling, the (often neglected) fifth wall. Give some serious consideration to your focal point and let your architecture and personal style guide you.

Design Therapy

Be bold if you love color and you don't tire of things quickly. If you're working with a bold print, you may want to start with a powder room or a spare bedroom. Even a walk-in pantry or the back of a kitchen island could be striking with the right pattern.

A room bathed in natural light is going to handle bold colors better than a space



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT FRANCIS

Advertisement for Sound Glass featuring a window view of a tulip field. The text on the window reads: "Sound Glass Quality You Can See", "New Year New Doors", and "Quality you can see."

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with less light. If you love the trend but are not ready for the commitment, consider a peel-and-stick option like tempaper.

Stay neutral if your style is more sophisticated than whimsical — you will want to add texture to a monochromatic space. Think high-contrast neutrals and layers of texture. If you are looking to create a high-end, custom feel, use different custom wall coverings in different areas.

Prep and Install Considerations

If you're looking for a weekend DIY project, installing wallpaper may sound like a great way to spend a Saturday. But installing wallpaper takes some skill, and you should consider leaving the installation to a professional.

If your walls are not perfectly flat, you are probably going to need a liner. Are your seams pre-cut? Do you need special equipment like scaffolding for tall areas? These are all things to consider. Remember, this is not your grandmother's wallpaper — it is not inexpensive and can be tedious to remove.

If you're looking for something truly unique and curated exclusively for your space, you may want to work with an interior designer. Working with a designer means you have access to high-quality, custom wallcoverings, and a full-service firm will manage the logistics and install for you.



Alinda Morris is a nationally published, award-winning interior design professional, habitual remodeler, adventurous creative, entrepreneur, wife and mom, specializing in full service, luxury residential interior design. Follow on Instagram @alindamorris.

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