

# THE RETAIL observer

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Our presentation of  
the NKBA Kitchen & Bath  
Design + Industry Awards  
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award winners

# NKBA

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## KITCHEN AND BATH AWARD WINNERS

Our presentation of the NKBA Kitchen & Bath Design + Industry Awards sponsored by:

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**K**BIS 2024 in Las Vegas, NV, kicked off with the highly anticipated Kitchen & Bath Design + Industry Awards, a celebration of the rising stars and luminaries of K&B.

Sponsored by Platinum Sponsors Material Bank and Miele, Diamond Sponsors Cyncly and Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery, Gold Sponsor Kichler Lighting, Mobile Tap Sponsor Perlick, and Student Design Competition Sponsor Fisher & Paykel, the annual event was held at the Lafite Ballroom at the Wynn Hotel on Monday, February 26th.

During the awards ceremony, NKBA announced its 2024 NKBA Design Competition winners. The design competition received more than 600 entries this year, and winners were selected based on factors including presentation, innovative design, creativity, super function, and safety and ergonomics — and adherence to NKBA Planning Guidelines.







BEST OVERALL KITCHEN



BEST OVERALL BATH





**Bahar Zaeem and Shima Radfar**

RZ Interiors

*Photo: Ryan Fung Photography*

**Ultra Modern Kitchen** — Stemming from the client's aspiration to a clutter-free environment with abundant storage, our objectives were centered around attaining a sleek modern aesthetic while upholding practicality.

A central challenge lay in the asymmetry resulting from accommodating a bay window within the kitchen layout. Our solution embraced the asymmetry, ingeniously channeling it into a distinctively positioned breakfast table. To integrate seamlessly with the rest of the living space, we strategically established a focal hood at the heart of the kitchen. This element was underscored by intricate ceiling details that drew attention seamlessly upward to harmonize the composition. Despite the challenge of an 11-foot ceiling, we tenaciously preserved it, adhering to the design's core.

Our design philosophy celebrated the timeless allure of enduring interiors. This was embodied by the juxtaposition of full-height graphite-toned cabinetry alongside white oak base cabinets – a deliberate contrast that reverberates throughout the room. The island and cantilevered breakfast table, draped in porcelain slab, emerged as a captivating focal point. An ingenious illusion made the breakfast table appear to emerge from within an island cavity, weaving a narrative of unity and intrigue.

Innovation stamped our design decisions, evidenced by the incorporation of discreet metal structures to integrate the cantilevered breakfast area while ensuring unwavering stability. An accent cabinetry, strategically positioned behind closed doors, introduced a dynamic interplay between concealed and revealed spaces, marrying functionality with aesthetics. Internally, the presence of drawers and adjustable shelves synchronized with the family's lifestyle to promote an organized environment.

The cantilevered breakfast table, the guiding ceiling design, and our meticulous spatial arrangement have become defining elements of this unique design. The seamless fusion of aesthetics and functionality culminates in a space that resonates with both visual allure and practicality.

# 9 INNOVATIVE DESIGNS THAT CAPTURE EMERGING KITCHEN TRENDS

These designs by NKBA 2024 Design Competition winners feature the upcoming shifts in kitchen spaces expected over the next few years.

At KBIS 2024, held in Las Vegas from Feb. 27-29, the winners of NKBA's 2024 Design Competition were unveiled at the Kitchen & Bath Industry Awards, sponsored by Diamond sponsors Material Bank and Miele, Platinum sponsors Cynclly and Ferguson Bath, Kitchen & Lighting Gallery, Gold sponsor Kichler Lighting, Custom sponsor Perlick, and SDC sponsor F&P.

In addition to representing the best and brightest of the K&B industry, the designers honored at the event demonstrated through their creations many of the emerging trends found in NKBA's recently released 2024 Kitchen Trends Reports. Here we'll explore how the winners in the three kitchen categories reflected the Kitchen Trends in their designs:

## 1. HARD-WORKING ISLANDS

With its built-in sink, room for seating and plenty of storage, the island in this kitchen design, "Oak Oasis," by second-place Small Kitchen category winner Angel Yalda, designer at Two Tone Interiors of Bradford, Ontario, is built for function and form, serving as the space's central focal point. Designers in the report said the kitchen island is a focal point for most activity, and over half said their clients prefer an eat-in kitchen area instead of a formal dining room; and a slightly smaller number identified large islands as a top priority for serving and dining. *Photography by Arnal Photography.*

## 2. QUIET APPLIANCES

"Tranquil Terra Cotta," designed by second-place Large Kitchen

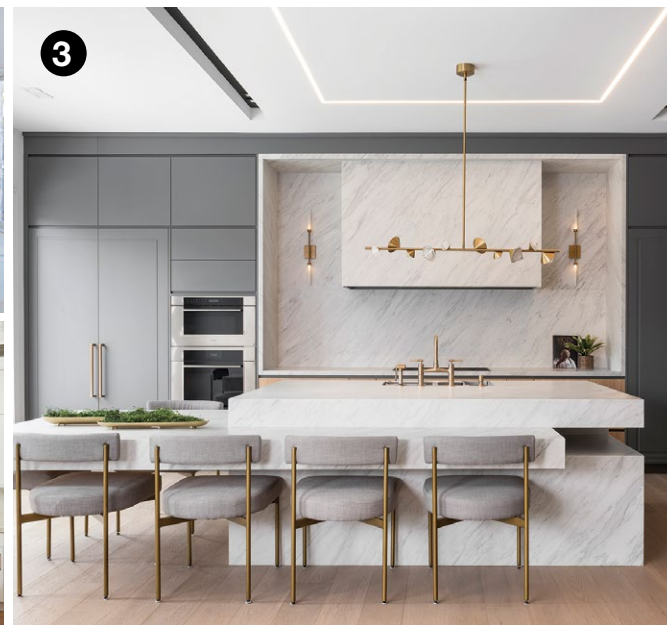
category winner Hannah Hacker, CMKBD, owner and lead designer at Adapt Interior Design in Beaverton, Oregon, has various appliance solutions, including a range, wine refrigerator, and French door refrigerator with a glass panel. As homeowners increasingly enjoy the kitchen as part of their daily life, making it a center for socializing, work, food prep, and enjoyment, they prefer appliances that produce less noise. Some designers said their clients are ditching noisy trash compactors in favor of traditional pull-out receptacles, while others reported clients want ultra-quiet dishwashers. *Photography by Meagan Larsen Photography.*

## 3. WELL-CURATED LIGHTING

The various lighting solutions in this design, "Ultra Modern Kitchen," designed by Best Overall and First Place winners in the Large Bath category Bahar Zaeem, partner, and Shima Radfar, principal designer at RZ Interiors in Toronto, Ontario, reflect the well-curated lighting trend observed by designers in the report. According to report respondents, multiple layers of lighting are being used to support different functions: decorative statement lighting to showcase design elements, ambient lighting to create various moods, and nighttime lighting for aesthetics and safety. *Photography by Ryan Fung Photography.*

## 4. ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS

"Respect for History," designed by third-place Small Kitchen category winner Karen Swanson, owner/designer at New England Design Works



# NKBA | KBIS

## AWARD-WINNING DESIGNS

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NKBA | KBIS announced the winners of its 2024 Kitchen & Bath Design Competition at KBIS 2024 in Las Vegas.

The winners of the top two awards — Best Overall Kitchen and Best Overall Bath — along with their designs, are featured here.



*To learn more about the winners, finalists and their impressive kitchen and bath designs, scan the QR code.*





**BEST OVERALL KITCHEN**

*Design: Bahar Zaeem & Shima Radfar | Photo: Ryan Fung*



**BEST OVERALL BATH**

*Design: Jaque Bethke | Photo: Phil Johnson*