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# DIRECTORY & CONTRIBUTIONS

## APPLIANCES

---

Don's Appliances  
donsappliances.com

Robinson Twp. Experience Center  
251 Bilmar Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

Canonsburg  
2335 Washington Road  
Canonsburg, PA 15317

Upper St. Clair  
1759 N. Highland Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

North Huntingdon  
8871 US Route 30  
North Huntingdon, PA 15642

North Hills  
7515 McKnight Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

Hillmon Appliance Distributors  
780 Commerce Park Drive  
Cranberry Twp, PA 16066

East Liberty  
5958 Baum Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

Duggan's Service & Appliance Co.  
3430 Pine Avenue  
Erie, PA 16504

WATERSOURCE by Don's Appliances  
5848 Baum Boulevard  
Pittsburgh, PA 15206

## CONTACT

Don's Appliances  
251 Bilmar Drive  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205  
marketing@donsappliances.com

## APPLIANCE BRANDS

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## PLUMBING BRANDS

Franke  
Galley  
Graff  
Grohe  
Hansgrohe

## DESIGNERS, ARCHITECTS & CONSTRUCTION

Cuvée Kitchen Designs, Inc.  
Evalia Design  
Lauren Levant  
LUXE Home & Design  
Melissa Ferrari  
North Shore Kitchens  
Paul Georg  
Santa's Kitchen and Home  
Sarah Drake  
Sonny Knish, LLC

---

## CONTRIBUTIONS

---

### PUBLISHER

Buzz Publications, LLC

### PROJECT MANAGERS

Steph Churchel  
Mike Gennaria

### DESIGN

Connie Kimsey  
Gina Miller  
Megan Swope

### WRITERS

Karen Bradner  
Steph Churchel  
Rosa Colucci  
Hilary Daninhirsch

Sarah J. Dills  
Mike Gennaria  
Matthew Hillebrand

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

Matt Barba  
Dave Bryce  
April Hubal  
Mike Leonardi  
Leeann Marie  
Craig Thompson





# editor's note

Spring—the time of year for renewal and recharge. Days become longer, lush trees remind us of life and temperatures beckon the congregation of activity to parks and city sidewalks, making our creative aspirations feel tangible again. Aspirations, and how we choose to renew and recharge, can be realized in many different ways—our featured homeowners chose kitchen makeovers.

Creativity is the not-so-secret ingredient that changes a kitchen from a place where food is stored and cooked to an awe-inspiring narrative, an enchanting peek inside the minds of the homeowners and designers. Our food and wine became works of art to be admired with the creativity (and love!) of chefs and vintners who meticulously construct them.

From the melding of old and new styles through contemporary walnut cabinets (page 62), to the converting of vintage Italian vases into pendant lights on a bent monorail track (page 47), to placing exotic Macassar Amaro wood on Gaggenau refrigeration panels (page 27), to the food and wine inside, kitchens are the epicenter of a homeowner's personal style and desire for function. All seven kitchens featured in this edition beautifully illustrate the joint creativity of our customers, designers, architects, builders and appliance manufacturers.

Manufacturers are providing ways to give your kitchen space a facelift without the money and mess of renovating, but with a simple swap of hardware (page 56). Or, perhaps your version of renewal and recharge isn't a kitchen makeover at all, but a spontaneous dinner party prompted by the charm of the spring sun. If so, I recommend perusing What's for Dinner (page 52) and seeing what recipe Innit recommends for your bottle of Chardonnay and fresh veggies.

I hope that our featured stories inspire you to bring creativity into your kitchen, in whatever way holds meaning to you.



Steph Churchel





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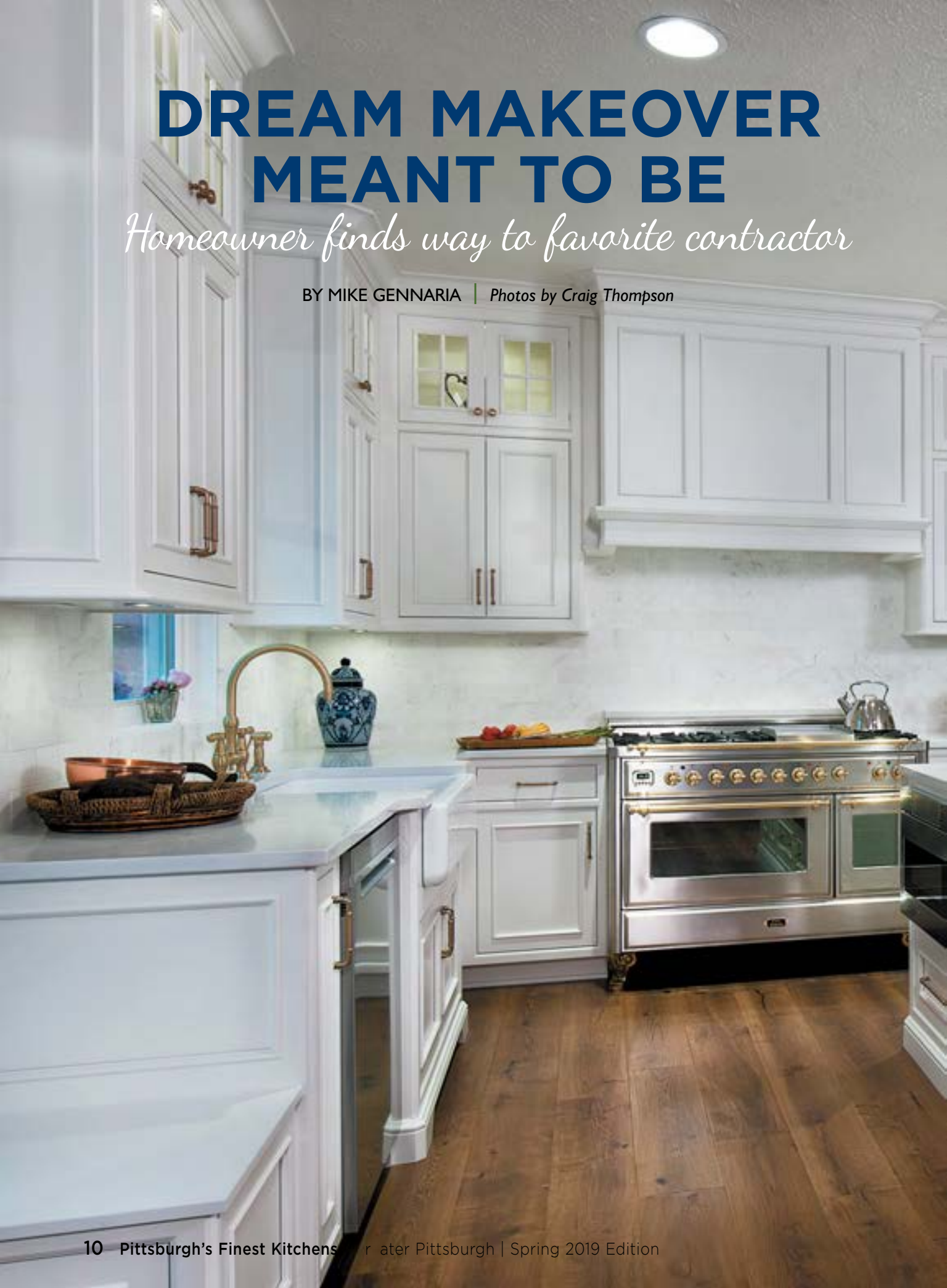
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# DREAM MAKEOVER MEANT TO BE

*Homeowner finds way to favorite contractor*

BY MIKE GENNARIA | Photos by Craig Thompson







*Serendipity can be defined as making desirable discoveries by accident – and a series of serendipitous events helped lead to a gorgeous kitchen remodel in a Gibsonia home.*

Prior to moving into their house in Gibsonia, Megan and John were living in a townhouse in Mars. Megan, a lover of interior design, was perusing a home and garden magazine when she spotted a kitchen project that struck a chord.

“I said, ‘J, look at this kitchen. If we ever buy a house or do a renovation, I want this guy, Mike Santa, to do the kitchen,’” she says.

Fast forward a couple years and they are a family of three that is looking for daycare. At a work meeting, Megan meets someone who is sending her child to a daycare center in their neighborhood. They start sending their son to this daycare, and one day the center’s owner, Linda Santa, mentions to Megan that her son does kitchen remodels.

“And then it clicked – that’s the Mike Santa I saw in the magazine,” Megan says. “And then, ironically, Mike was walking in to pick up his daughter. I said,



“Hi Mike, it’s nice to meet you.  
Listen, some day I’m going to hire you.”



### Santa delivers something special

That some day came this past June. Mike and his crew from Santa's Kitchen and Home, along with designer Raneé Edinger, went to work just three days after the family moved into their outdated home in Gibsonia.

"From the moment I saw his work in that magazine years ago, I knew that's who I wanted to work with, just because you can see the attention to detail," Megan says.

Having a look that will stand the test of time, the ability to efficiently cook on a regular basis and the space to entertain guests were some of the homeowners' goals going into the kitchen overhaul.

"One of the biggest things for us was that in five years we don't want to look at it and say, 'I wish we didn't do that because it's out of style now,'" Megan says. "Everything we picked, from the cabinets to the countertops to the backsplash to the appliances, aren't going to be out of style or look dated in a few years."

### A showpiece in the kitchen

For the appliances, Megan wanted the range to be a showpiece – and she got just that with a 48-inch ILVE range from Don's Appliances. The range was very customizable, allowing her to choose the knobs, decorative feet and color.

Megan's creation, a stainless steel range with brass hardware, summons a vintage look and plays well off the brass hardware and faucet in the kitchen.

They also selected a Sharp microwave drawer and a Whirlpool dishwasher. Both items don't have outside handles, creating a more seamless look. A Maytag refrigerator rounded out their appliance choices from Don's.

### Completing a classic look

Megan cooks at home every night, calling herself and John "health nuts," so they wanted something that would last when it came to the countertops.

"There's a lot of cooking going on and a lot of entertaining.





I wanted something durable,” she says. Santa recommended quartz countertops because of their durability and the homeowners agreed. Frosty white cabinets and a marble backsplash pull together a final look that Megan calls “classic.”

The last goal – having the necessary space and equipment to entertain – perhaps was the most important.

“We’re so excited to have all of our family here. I get to really use these appliances,” Megan says. “It’s a really great entertaining space and we have enough room for everyone to be here, so we’re really excited about that.” 🏠



Michael Santa launched Santa’s Kitchen & Home in 1997. He quickly established himself as a company unparalleled to any in his industry. His goal is to use the client’s ideas to guide him in designing the perfect use and functionality of the space all the while creating a stunning room in the home that is above and beyond what the customer envisioned.

**Appliances:** Maytag 36” French Door Refrigerator (MFF2558FEZ); Whirlpool 24” Top Control Dishwasher (WDTA50SAHZ); Sharp 24” Microwave Drawer (SMD2470ASY); ILVE Majestic Series 48” Dual Fuel Range (UM120FDMPIX-SS) with Decorative Scroll Feet (G42212-16); Faber Pro Plus Series 42” Hood Insert



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# MODERN CONVENIENCES

Up-and-Coming Technology for the Lifestyle Aficionado

BY MATTHEW HILLEBRAND



## 1 Thermador Glass Care Center

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Dust doesn't stand a chance against the new Miele Bagless Vacuum with Vortex Technology. With a dust filter that cleans itself automatically, hygienic emptying, a comfort handle for easy maneuvering, as well as a complete array of integrated accessories, your floor will be as clean as the day it was installed. Model #SKCE0







# NEW KITCHEN for Newlyweds

BY MIKE GENNARIA | *Photos by Leeann Marie Photography*

It didn't take long for a recently married couple to realize the kitchen in their Greater Pittsburgh condo — the first home they shared together — wasn't cutting it. It wasn't as functional as it needed to be and the flow wasn't practical when friends gathered.





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“The goal was to open up the space so people could all hang out together.”



To help overhaul their kitchen, the couple connected with April Spagnolo, owner of Evalia Design.

“With a wall between the existing kitchen and dining room, the kitchen was cramped and congested,” Spagnolo says. “To make matters worse, the kitchen was a galley style with an eat-in area that literally cut the kitchen in half.”

Spagnolo decided to remove the wall between the dining room and kitchen, and the homeowners were grateful for her expertise.

“April took care of all the things we were not capable of and didn’t have any experience in,” he says. “My wife had a pretty good idea of what she was hoping the kitchen would look like, but April took us through the process one step at a time.”

### Blue and brass

A blue island and antique brass lights were used to add drama to the space and create a focal point that reflected the clients’ personal style, Spagnolo says.

“The colors really worked out beautifully,” the husband says. “One of our priorities, other than making sure the space was very functional and nice, was making sure everything stayed in style.”

The wife chose brass hardware, which adds another pop of

color on the white cabinets and blue island.

“My wife has an amazing eye for these things. April has a great eye, too, and they did a great job working together,” he says.

Spagnolo’s advice extended to other selections, including appliances.

“Since this is their first home together as a newly married couple, we chose products that were great quality and in line with their budget,” she says. “Fabuwood, full overlay semi-custom cabinetry, quartz countertops by Ultimate Granite and Stone, and Jenn-Air appliances were a few of these amazing products.”

A love for cooking and baking helped drive the decisions on the appliances. The wife wanted an oven she could use to cook or bake two things at once and a Jenn-Air oven from Don’s Appliances was the best choice. In addition to finding the perfect oven, another item from Don’s has been a hit for the newlyweds.

“The biggest surprise for us is how much we’re enjoying the hood,” the husband says. “It has a really clean look to it. It also has down lighting and up lighting, so it added a lighting element to the kitchen that was sort of unexpected and something that has been really exciting.”

## Perfect gathering space

The result of the project was an undeniable success.

“My wife is an amazing cook, and she loves it,” he says. “Having this new space is a joy for her.”

And space no longer is an issue, as the couple now can fit more than 20 guests without feeling crowded.

“It’s been great because everybody just gravitates toward the kitchen and that’s what we wanted,” the homeowner says. “We wanted to be able to spend time in there. What’s nice is that when we’re cooking or doing dishes, everybody can still be in there together and nobody is excluded from the group.” 🏠



**Appliances:** Jenn-Air 36” French Door Refrigerator (JFC2089BEM); Jenn-Air 30” Electric Range (JES1450DS); Jenn-Air 36” Canopy Wall Hood (JXW8536DS); Jenn-Air 24” TriFect™ Dishwasher (JDB9000CWS)

April Spagnolo is a Certified Kitchen Designer with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design. She has studied at the Art Institute of Pittsburgh, La Roche College and The American University of Rome. Spagnolo has 13+ years of experience working on both remodeling and new construction residential projects, custom cabinetry and interior décor. She can be reached at [april@evaliadesign.com](mailto:april@evaliadesign.com).



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Don's Appliances' Executive Chef, Anthony Marino, favors the Condiment Serving Board, 2" Chef's Block and the Utensil Caddy, saying "The Galley Ideal Workstation brings a kitchen to life with its functionality and design. We host a lot of events in our WATERSOURCE by Don's Appliances showroom and The Galley seems to be the centerpiece of the party with the ability to display food with many ingredients (like kabobs!) and drinks in a functional and inviting way."

The Garnish Board and Serve Set are also a staple when entertaining at WATERSOURCE— drinks are kept cold, garnishes and ingredients stay organized and drink options are written directly on the chalkboard!

Optional Culinary Tools used  
(from left to right):

- 12" Upper Deck Section in Graphite Wood Composite
- Garnish Board in Graphite Wood Composite
- Serve Set in Graphite Wood Composite
- Condiment Serving Board (includes 6 tins, 3 shallow and 3 deep with clear lids) in Graphite Wood Composite
- Utensil Caddy in Natural Golden Bamboo
- Aluminum Half Sheet Pan





## GRILLED STEAK KABOBS

*Serves 6 people*

<i>Ingredients</i>	<i>Preparation</i>
<p>           ¼ cup oil            1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar            1 pineapple cut into 1 inch chunks            1 red bell pepper cut into 1 inch chunks            1 green bell pepper cut into 1 inch chunks            1 yellow pepper cut into 1 inch chunks            1 green zucchini cut into 1 inch chunks            1 yellow squash cut into 1 inch chunks            1½ lbs. steak cut into one inch cubes            2 tablespoons Montreal steak seasoning         </p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cut all ingredients and let marinate for 30 minutes</li> <li>2. Thread pineapples and veggies along with steak and chicken</li> <li>3. Remove any excess marinade</li> <li>4. Grill kabobs over medium heat 5 minutes on each side</li> <li>5. Finish in 350 degree oven for 15 minutes</li> <li>6. Serve with additional seasoning and optional garnish of fresh lime and chopped herbs to season</li> </ol>



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# KITCHEN GETS SLEEK AND SHINY UPDATE

Luxe Home & Design, Don's Appliances team up for transformation

BY HILARY DANINHIRSCH | *Photos by Craig Thompson*

After 25 years living with the same kitchen, Dennis and Kathy Kolsun of South Fayette knew it was time for an upgrade. Working with Don's Appliances and Tyler Folsbee, kitchen designer with Luxe Home & Design, the couple transformed a traditional kitchen into one that was more modern, complete with a line of Gaggenau appliances and Eggersmann cabinetry.





“When we built our home, we bought the original appliances from Don’s. We had a good history with them. We put in all KitchenAid appliances for the most part, which still worked fine after all these years,” Kathy says. However, the couple wanted to upgrade to newer appliances to go with a sleek look for the kitchen.

### Cabinetry offers unique look

While shopping for new cabinetry, the couple was drawn to the Eggersmann line the instant they walked into the Luxe showroom. One of the most unique aspects of the newly redesigned kitchen is the veneer that covers this cabinetry.

“It is called Macassar Amaro, an exotic wood that seems to have more depth than a more traditional Macassar Ebony,” says Folsbee. “There are multiple shades of red and black throughout it and less two-tone.”

The grain of the veneer is matched to make it look like one continuous piece of wood that extends across the length of the cabinetry—all 21 feet of it. “I don’t think many people realize how much work it takes to stitch all that wood together,” Folsbee adds. “It is really amazing.”

The cabinets are finished in a glossy lacquer, giving it a rich, deep look that is not only striking, but also makes the room feel bigger. “The wood is so beautiful and highly lacquered that I would like to have this in my car,” jokes Dennis. With the exception of the double oven, they also covered the appliances with the same finish.

To contrast the deep tones of the Macassar wood, Folsbee applied a glossy white acrylic to the upper cabinetry.

A waterfall island gives the appearance that it was made from one giant block of granite because it is all mitered together with no visible seams. “The leathered finish on the island gives you more texture than a matte finish,” Folsbee says. The backsplash is the same granite material as the island, which he says was shaved down to be only one centimeter of thickness, making it more lightweight. The porcelain floors tie into the marble-looking Caesarstone quartz countertops with its large-format tiles.



LUXE is an award-winning home design and project management firm. Co-founded by John Nicklas and Brent Hugus, LUXE is based firmly upon a foundation and commitment to innovative products and unmatched design integrity. We provide a complete project platform that includes design, product resource, installation and project management.



## Gaggenau appliances get results

The Kolsuns say the design project was a collaborative effort between Luxe and Don's Appliances. "The two of them worked as a team to pull it together for us," Dennis says. "Having worked with Don's before, we felt comfortable that we were getting good products," Kathy adds.

The Kolsuns chose Gaggenau appliances and couldn't be happier with how they look and how they work. Folsbee notes that one of the nice things about the Gaggenau brand is how it is capable of integrating with the European style cabinetry. "Both Eggersmann and Gaggenau are German companies, and they both have a super-clean, unique look to them," he says.

The integrated refrigerator and freezer columns have stainless interiors, something that is more common in commercial kitchens. "No one else is doing a stainless steel interior integrated column," says Folsbee. The Kolsuns also have a separate integrated 18-inch wine column.

They also installed the Gaggenau combination steam oven and a full-size oven, along with a warming drawer. The couple initially hesitated before selecting the Gaggenau induction cooktop.

"We've always used gas cooktops, so I was concerned how my big pots would fit on the induction cooktop," Kathy says. "Matt Hillebrand of Don's Appliances told me to bring pots and pans to the showroom to lay them out on the induction—everything fit! Then he demonstrated how fast water would boil, and I think that sold us, along with the sleek look. We really are amazed at how easy it is to cook on that. It's fantastic."

Another unique element of the kitchen is that none of the appliances have handles. "There is a polished stainless steel channel that is recessed into the cabinet, which allows you to pull from the backside of the door or drawer, eliminating the need for handles and really streamlining the design," Folsbee adds.

"When you look at the kitchen, it is simple but elegant, modern and sleek, but fits in the traditional atmosphere of our home," Kathy says. "It is such a joy to cook in this kitchen with appliances that have the newest and best technology that makes cooking a breeze, and with a design that is so beautiful. The combination makes cooking every day such a pleasure." 🍳

**Appliances:** Gaggenau 36" Induction Cooktop (CX491610); Gaggenau 24" Refrigerator Column (RC462701); Gaggenau 18" Freezer Column (RF411701); Gaggenau 18" Wine Column (RW414761); Gaggenau 30" Combination Steam Oven (BS464610); Gaggenau 30" Single Electric Wall Oven (BO480611); Gaggenau 30" Warming Drawer (WS482710); Miele 24" Lumen Series Dishwasher (G6880SCVI); BEST 36" Range Hood (PKEX2239)





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# 100 YEARS IN THE BEAN BUSINESS

Nicholas Coffee  
marks its  
centennial  
celebration

By Karen Bradner



## There are grounds for celebration

at 23 Market Square this spring. That's because the purveyor at that particular location, Nicholas Coffee, is celebrating 100 years in the brew business.

"We're still in the early stages of planning," says Jordan Nicholas, "but we're definitely going to have a rollback day in the fall. We'll be selling a pound of coffee at the 1919 price—47 cents a pound."

### A Pittsburgh introduction

It was Jordan's great-grandfather, Nicholas Constantine Nicholas, who emigrated from Greece to Pittsburgh. Along with his Mediterranean roots, he brought to our city a love of all things coffee, which has been passed down through four generations.

Nicholas hung the Nicholas Brothers Coffee shingle long before lattes, skinnies, and grandes were in fashion. Back then coffee was sold by the pound, not the cup.

The founder's son, Constantine, who was known as Gus, took over the business after serving in World War II and was known to many in the area as "Mr. Coffee." His son Nick took the reigns during the 1970s, and Nick's son Jordan—who worked weekends and summers at the shop as a teenager—is at the helm today. Although, as a father and co-owner, Nick still weighs in from time to time.

"As long as he is breathing, he will be involved," says 34-year-old Jordan.

The store looks a bit different than it would have in Jordan's great-grandfather's days. The Nicholas product line has grown to include imported candies, syrups, snacks, and beverage accessories. But the latest member of the family in charge fires up roasters that have been around as far back as the 1920s, processing several thousand pounds each week—one batch at a time.

Passing the business down from son to son has been a long-standing tradition for the Nicholas family. But Jordan admits that tradition just might be changing. "It's really about who's most interested in the business. I have a niece who loves coming here," he says, "she might be the one to take over."

Or the next generation might be led by the son Jordan and his wife Laura are expecting in March. As for names? "His first name will not be Nicholas," says Jordan, whose formal name is George Nicholas Nicholas. But they're definitely going to work it in as a middle name.

"I have to do that," he says. "It's tradition. And I think it's sort of cool."

For a bit more Nicholas Coffee history and celebration details, visit [nicholascoffee.us](http://nicholascoffee.us).



Nicholas C. Nicholas



Gus Nicholas in 1957



Nick & Jordan Nicholas

Photo by April Hubal for the *"Icons of Pittsburgh"*







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# Basement Goes From Basic To MODERN & CLASSY

BY HILARY DANINHIRSCH

*Photos by Dave Bryce Photography*

Lauren Levant, owner of Lauren Levant Interior in Shadyside, transformed a Sewickley family's basic basement into a functional family space with the help of high-end appliances from Don's Appliances.

The basement in Jen and Paul Palguta's home in Diamond Run walks out to the back yard, rewarding guests with a stunning view of a golf course. Now, what was an ordinary basement is an extraordinary space, featuring an almost full kitchen and wine bar along with a comfortable, homey place to entertain.

## Maximizing space

The homeowner's goal was to be able to create a living space on the lower level, both as a hub for entertaining friends as well as for family time. Not having to go up and down the stairs to the main kitchen was essential.

"We wanted something with a modern and comfortable atmosphere, where we can enjoy the yard, basement, and host people easily," Jen says.

The designer had to do a little reconfiguring of the downstairs space, making sure to use every square inch. "We were short on space and laying it out in the most creative way — including making use of space underneath the stairs and every little corner of the space — was the key to it being successful," says Levant.

She kept the original powder room and coat closet, but moved things around to create a comfortable lounge featuring a spacious living area with ample seating and a new LED fireplace. "The fireplace is striking visually, but also provides important supplemental heat in winter. That is a nice addition to the project that solved a problem and creates a lot of ambiance," Levant says.





The area also contains a table banquette, perfect for eating, playing games or watching television.

### Modern conveniences

The basement-level kitchen has everything that a full kitchen has other than a cooktop, but Palguta doesn't miss it.

She especially loves her Wolf warming drawer, which she said keeps food crisp and fresh for as long as needed. "It truly

keeps food the way it is supposed to taste. I can get ready for a party, put food in the drawer and I can pull it out and it will taste like I just made it," Jen says. She also appreciates her Bosch dishwasher, as dishes emerge "perfect and super clean."

The kitchen also contains a microwave and a full freezer and refrigerator, in addition to plenty of space for food preparation and storage for both food and beverages, including a space for wine preservation.

“ We wanted something with a modern and comfortable atmosphere. ”



### A transitional modern kitchen design

Palguta wanted clean lines in a space that combined modern elements with all the comforts of home. This was accomplished in part by the integrated appliances and a subdued color scheme.

The Sub-Zero refrigerator/freezer is fully integrated and is paneled with high-gloss bronze. “We love integrated refrigerators because you don’t know you’re looking at appliances,” says Levant. “The appliances can take on a furniture-like appeal visual-





ly, which was very important to the success of the design. The convenience pantry also is integrated and hides a microwave and blender. By hiding these in plain sight, Levant says they take on the look and feel of an armoire. And under-counter beverage refrigerators with glass doors are simultaneously hidden away while convenient to access. A sink area is nestled in an alcove.

The waterfall island blends elegance with practicality. The perimeter is natural granite with a wavy texture, while the island countertop is quartzite.

Levant refers to the finished product as transitionally modern. “It has a sophisticated color palette with bronze and espresso and natural marble surfaces. The materials are very muted so that they feel restful and not severe. That is what warms the space,” she says, adding that in a basement the use

of warm tones helps to make the space feel welcoming.

Lighting choices add to the feeling of warmth, such as the bronze fixtures, which reflects light, as well as the metallic textured wallpaper. The metallic subway tile is iridescent, flashing different colors depending on your position in the room.

And it is no coincidence that the chandelier over the island is reminiscent of champagne bubbles, as it serves as a reminder to celebrate happy events. “This is a piece that defines the space and yet doesn’t take up a lot of visual room,” says Levant. “It gives it an elegant and striking look.”

She added that the basement feels modern and classy and is reminiscent of something you might find in a Manhattan high-rise apartment. 🏠



**Appliances:** Sub-Zero 30" Integrated Refrigerator/Freezer (IT-30CIID-LH); Sub-Zero 30" Integrated Wine Storage (IW-30-RH); U-Line 18" Integrated Refrigerator (U-2218RGLINT-00B); Bosch 24" Benchmark Dishwasher (SHV7PT53UC); Wolf 30" Warming Drawer (WWWD30)

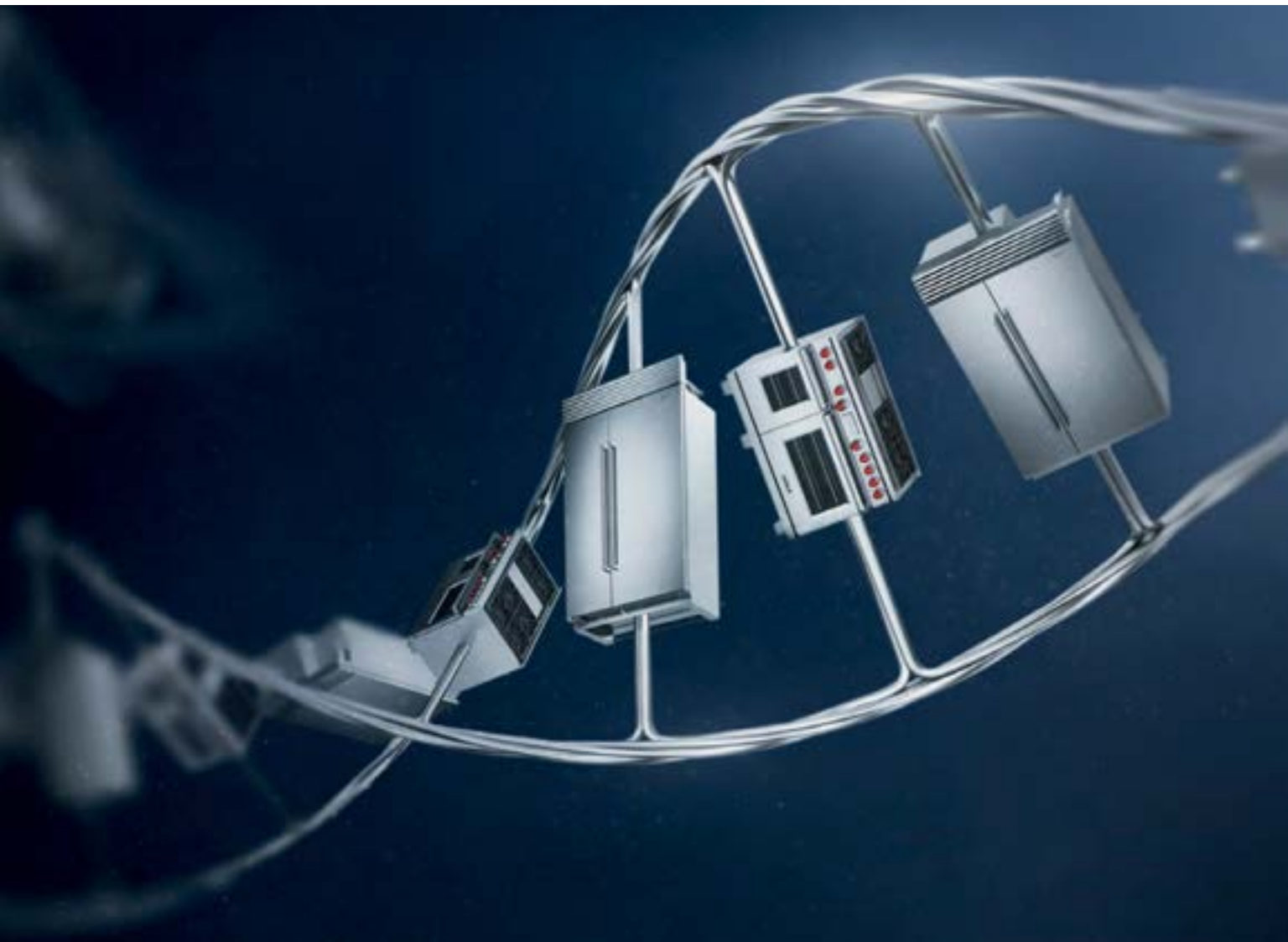
Lauren Levant is an emerging leader in luxury kitchen design. With a distinctive portfolio of work, the firm and its team have claimed more than twenty international, national and regional awards in the past five years. Lauren Levant is particularly known for its creative collaborations with local craftspersons, fabricators and artisans. Projects often feature one-of-a-kind, signature pieces that are created especially for each client, with their unique set of qualities and priorities in mind.

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# APPLIANCES HELP DEFINE STRIKING REMODEL

Blue abounds in vibrant new kitchen

BY HILARY DANINHIRSCH / Photos by Craig Thompson



Paul Georg's kitchen is as unique as it is colorful. But it's not solely the vibrant turquoise color that makes it extraordinary, nor the handmade, turquoise, vintage Italian vases that have been converted into pendant lights that hang over the island in a bent monorail track system. In large part, it's due to the new high-end Dacor appliances that elevate this already-inspired kitchen to a new level.



Paul practically despised his former kitchen, which, while spacious, was drab and outdated with predominantly oak cabinets, Formica countertops and limited space to work, as the cooking surface was on the center island. For someone like Paul, who enjoys cooking and entertaining, this setup was not ideal.

Though he already knew how he would like his renovated kitchen to look (a “club” atmosphere), Paul worked with Sara Doliboa, owner of North Shore Kitchen Design Center, as well as Don’s Appliances, to transform his ideas into reality.

### Details of the design

Paul and Doliboa rebuilt the kitchen

from the ground up, literally, starting with marble floors that display a black zebra-like pattern with movement to it. They also moved the doorway to the pantry over by several inches to accommodate the floating cabinet under the 65-inch television.

“The main prep and work station were a big priority, as well as the ability to entertain a large crowd,” says Doliboa. They moved the cooking surface from the island to an exterior wall; this enhanced ventilation for the 48-inch Dacor range and gave Paul the large island he was hoping for.

The island and perimeter countertops are Amazonite, which Doliboa says was hard to find. “Amazonite is a quartzite, a material that has inconsis-

tencies and the possibility of fracturing, so the fabricator suggested to install steel plates underneath,” she says. The island top has a unique detail, as it is paired with an absolute black granite countertop in a custom shape, inspired by a favorite artist of Paul’s.

Paul jokes that since childhood his favorite color in a box of Crayola crayons was always blue-green. So perhaps it was inevitable he’d end up incorporating turquoise into his living space, including the wall cabinets and the unit under the television, custom painted in a high-gloss finish.

One standout feature of the turquoise wall are sliding bypass doors, which also were installed in the cabinets beneath the television.





To tone down the vibrancy of the cabinetry, he used a warmer-hued backsplash, a 3-by-6-inch subway tile with a custom glazed finish.

“There are no straight lines on the countertops, including the windowsill and the ends near the desk area. Even the island has a slight bow around the entire perimeter,” Doliboa says. “The hardware was an inspiration from another piece in

the living room. He had a sofa recovered and they had gigantic circular buttons, so he decided to incorporate this same circular accent into the kitchen.”

Paul says he uses his kitchen as an office, making use of the desk—a floating cabinet that holds office supplies and a printer hidden away in the pantry.



## Perfect appliances for Paul

"I wanted professional appliances and they had the best looking ones out there. It was a visual appeal—I wanted the black stainless. Everyone hit the black stainless bandwagon, but Dacor is the only one I could tell was real stainless. It is the nicest finish out there on the market," he says.

Plus, he is finding the quality of the Dacor appliances is second to none, with lots of cool technology to complement with the sleek look. For example, the range is digital and can be programmed ahead of time. Paul bought a dual oven, which includes a steam oven. He also has a Dacor microwave, which while hosting a Christmas party, he discovered doubles as a warming drawer. A matching Dacor 48-inch hood ties everything together aesthetically.

The 36-inch column refrigerator and adjacent 36-inch column freezer run floor to ceiling and are perfect for Paul. He also is partial to the two icemakers, one of which puts out regular moon-shaped ice cubes while the other produces larger cocktail ice cubes. Wanting a dishwasher that ran on heat, he chose a pair by Jenn-Air—one at the island and one by the main sink.

Doliboia says she would describe the finished product as one of the most unique and "fun" kitchens she's ever done. 🏠



**Appliances:** Dacor Modernist Graphite 48" Stainless Range (DOP48M96DLM); Dacor Modernist Graphite 24" Stainless Microwave Drawer (DMR24M977WM); Dacor 36" Refrigerator Column (DRR36980RAP); Dacor 36" Freezer Column (DRZ36980LAP); Dacor Modernist Graphite 48" Wall Hood (DHD48M987WM); Jenn-Air 24" TriFecta™ Dishwashers (JDTSS243GX)

North Shore Kitchen Design Center is a full-service kitchen and bath design/remodeling center that takes you step-by-step through the design process and has access to some of the best materials in the industry. North Shore Kitchens can offer you design solutions that will fit the demands of your lifestyle and reflect your personality. They have been remodeling kitchens for Pittsburgh families for more than 35 years.



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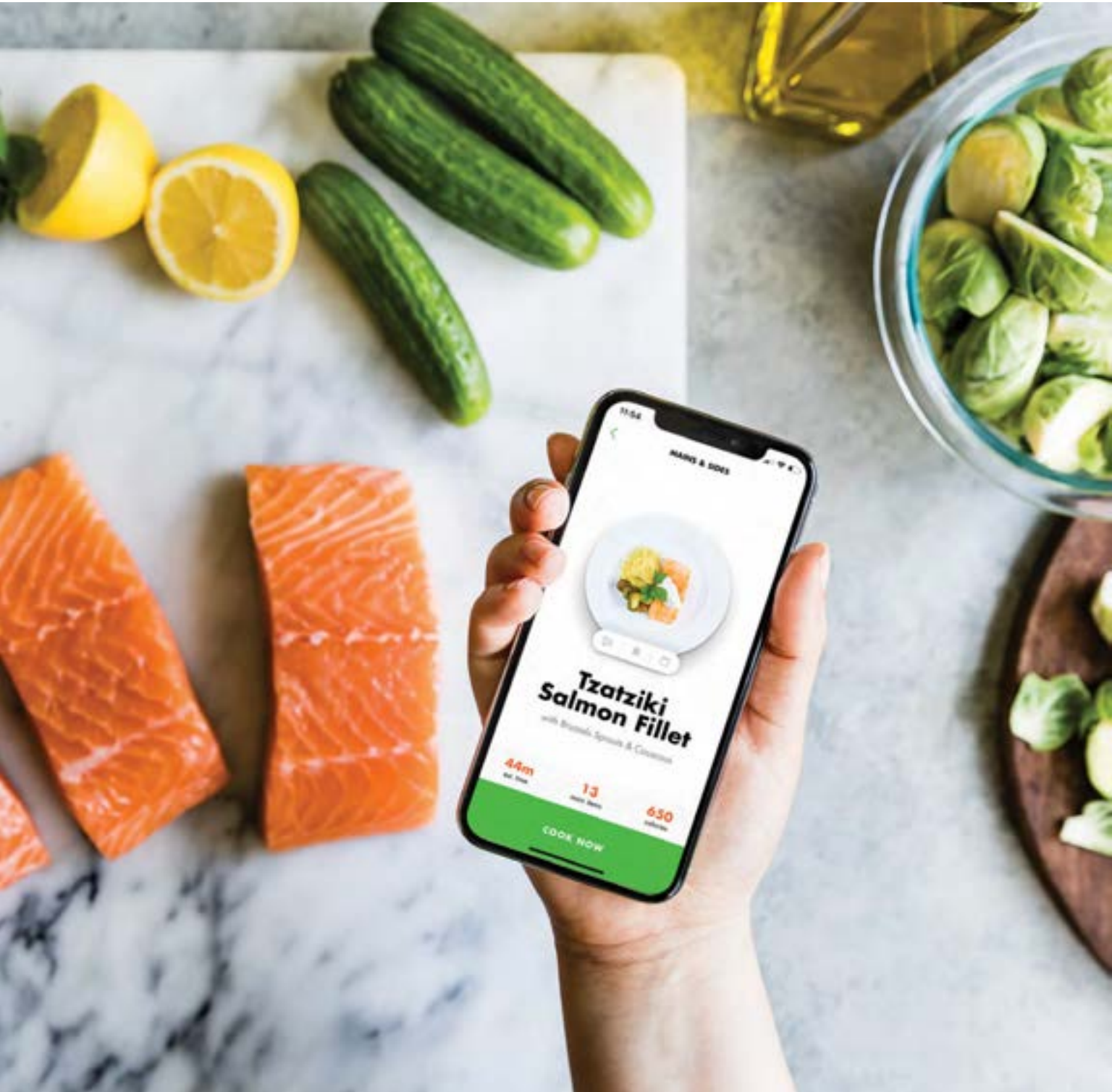
"Two dryers in one" lets you dry delicates and everyday garments at the same time or independently. By combining a conventional large capacity dryer with a delicate dryer, you can dry everyday clothes and delicates that need gentle care separately to keep your clothes in great condition.





# WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Innit app can help answer age-old question



BY MIKE GENNARIA

Not sure what to make for dinner? What meal can be made with what you already have at home? How do you go about cooking that meal?

The answers to these questions and more can be solved by the Innit app, a revolutionary culinary tool that can make even the most modest of home chefs look pretty good.

As many companies across various industries successfully digitized their products, Innit CEO Kevin Brown and his team asked how they could do just that for food and cooking.

Through five years of heavy research and development on how to automate cooking with smart appliances, the Innit app was born.

“We put together food and tech and said we’re going to build a new kind of company to try to help people with cooking,” Brown says.

The app provides a one-stop solution for something that previously involved finding a recipe online or visiting a nutrition blog or watching a video – or perhaps doing all of those steps.

With an increase in the number of smart appliances in homes, the Innit app has come around at the perfect time.

“We have built a system that can automate precision cooking using the connected features of appliances,” Brown says. “So we can reach from the cloud into that remote control and send a Michelin-star recipe with 14 different steps to your appliance.”

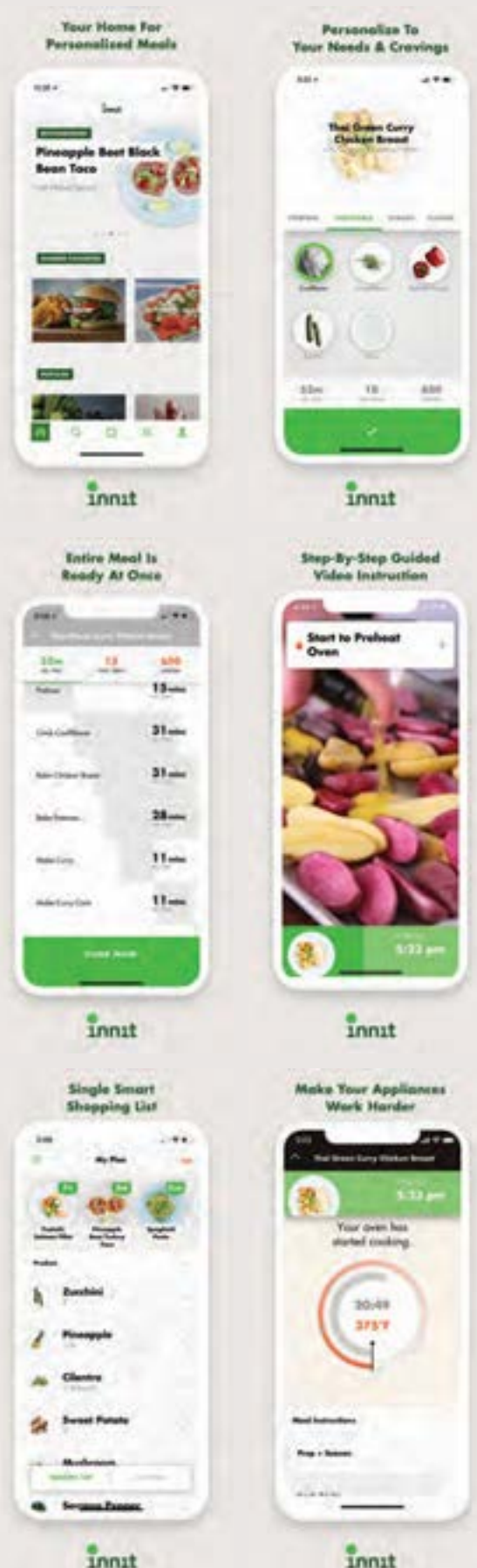
Innit works with four of the top appliance companies – GE, Bosch, LG, and Electrolux – and now the app can be bundled when these brands are purchased from Don’s Appliances.\*

“Lots of people struggle today to use their kitchens and to get a great result,” he says. “Through working with Don’s and working with many of the top manufacturers, we’ve come in with a set of solutions. Now you can essentially program your kitchen with a single click.”

And the question that seems to arise almost daily in many homes now has a great solution.

“Ask Innit what’s for dinner, and you’re getting personalized suggestions,” Brown says. “The way people can use their smart kitchens is going to enable them to deliver much better results – and tackle something new with more confidence.” 🍴

\*Exclusions apply. See store for details.







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# Gems IN THE KITCHEN

Custom hardware,  
rich colors add  
level of luxury

BY ROSA COLUCCI

*Take note - luxury is back.*

In big ways and small, timeless metals, saturated gem tones and lavish fixtures have marched their way forward in home design, moving the farmhouse trend into our collective rearview mirrors.

Consumers are pursuing more conscious luxury and are looking for colors, metals and textures that are timeless. To that end, we are seeing lots of brass, bronze, copper and blackened metals in hardware selections. These finishes play well and add a sense of elegance when paired in traditional, modern or vintage design.

Appliance manufacturers have been taking note as well, introducing handle, knob and finish detail options that we haven't seen for many years. Think of it as jewelry for your kitchen.





In August, GE Appliances launched the new Café brand with the Matte Collection. It was the brand's initial leap into customizable products. The company hailed it as "disrupting the industry's sea of stainless" with finishes of brushed bronze, copper and luxury matte black.

Custom handles and hardware are stunning additions. In the Café line, range knobs in copper stand out. The pieces look hand-honed with sleek metal cuff design accents. Refrigerator handles are outfitted against appliance body colors of matte white and black to stunning effect. Consumers can switch out handles and knobs if tastes change, adding flexibility to the initial purchase.

When choosing custom statement hardware, homeowners need to consider the interplay with other elements in the space. Paint color also is an important unifying factor. For example, cabinets and walls in jewel tones of emerald, sapphire and onyx create a grounded space for the reflective light of the metals.

Think about the cohesiveness of the space and where the eye is drawn. White walls with black cabinets have a classic look that will allow for counter surfaces with lots of movement. Pulling a warm element from the quartz or granite allows for the perfect pop of warm metals to repeat in the faucet, cabinet knobs, appliance handles and even in

more unlikely places such as counter stools, small countertop electronics and light fixtures.

When PPG Paints released their 2019 color palette, it named Night Watch (PPG 1145-7) as the color of the year. The deep emerald green is an alternative to black and speaks to the forward-thinking biophilic design and consumers longing to be one with nature.

Additionally, the company named Aspen Tan as the stain color of the year. The clean neutral of the shade allows for light to emanate from flooring, echoing a freshness that has been absent with all of the recent dark flooring choices.

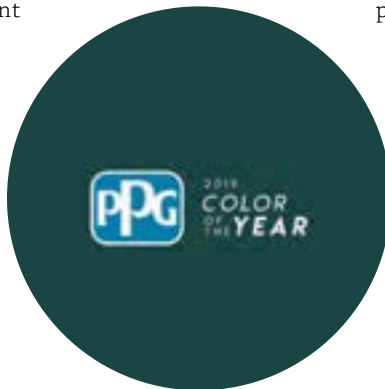
Color also is showing up in more unusual places, such as copper backsplashes and open shelving with metal brackets. These touches elevate the overall design and give an added depth of visual texture.

Kitchens are the heart of the home and the importance on aesthetics in these spaces cannot be denied. Take some time to meet with the experts, fashion a good budget and don't be afraid to take the plunge into your kitchen remodel in 2019—you will be glad you did.

To learn more about this year's palette and for inspiration visit [www.voiceofcolor.com](http://www.voiceofcolor.com). You can play "The Color Game," a quick photo quiz that will have you living in color in no time. 🍷



Aspen Tan



Night Watch

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Rosa Colucci is a color consultant with PPG Paints in Pittsburgh. She works in residential and light commercial design. She can be reached at [rosa.colucci@ppg.com](mailto:rosa.colucci@ppg.com).

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“U Line offers excellent quality at a reasonable price and its Nugget Ice rivals anything I’ve see in the market.”

- Louise Pascale, CKD & Owner, Willow Design Group

## Breaking The Ice: Nugget Ice Designed With In Mind

More and more, ice makers and machines are making their way into the category of “must-haves” for luxury homeowners. Whether it is for colossal cubes for the avid whiskey drinker, ice chips for homemade frappés, or crushed ice for cocktail connoisseurs, people are making room to include these machines in their homes.


Some call it pellet, snow cone or flake, while the more hip crowd refers to it as shaved, Sonic™ or simply, “That Good Ice.” U-Line has entered the Nugget Ice arena with products that wow! Its industry exclusive features, including the highest ice production and storage, interior water dispensers and U-Choose™ ice adjustability – which allows for specificity in ice size, ranging from dense and compact to soft and

chewable – make U-Line the standout and true leader of the pack.

And talk about seamless integration: Designers never have to compromise to accommodate the units. They’re beautiful and many models are panel ready to sit flush with custom cabinetry. So the bar in the man cave can don reclaimed wood, the outdoor kitchen can keep its stone facade, and the workout room can mirror the ultimate in style.



- Louise Pascale  
CKD & Owner, Willow Design Group

The Whirlpool logo, featuring the brand name in a white sans-serif font with a yellow swoosh underlining the 'o'.A stainless steel Whirlpool microwave hood is mounted above a kitchen stove. The microwave door is closed, and the digital display on the right shows the time 8:20. The hood is integrated into the kitchen cabinetry, with a light strip visible below the microwave door. The background shows dark wood cabinets and a backsplash of small, round, metallic tiles.

8:20

A stainless steel pot is placed on a gas stove burner. A blue flame is visible beneath the pot. Steam is rising from the pot, partially obscuring the microwave hood above. To the left, a wooden spatula is visible in a white container. The backsplash consists of small, round, metallic tiles.

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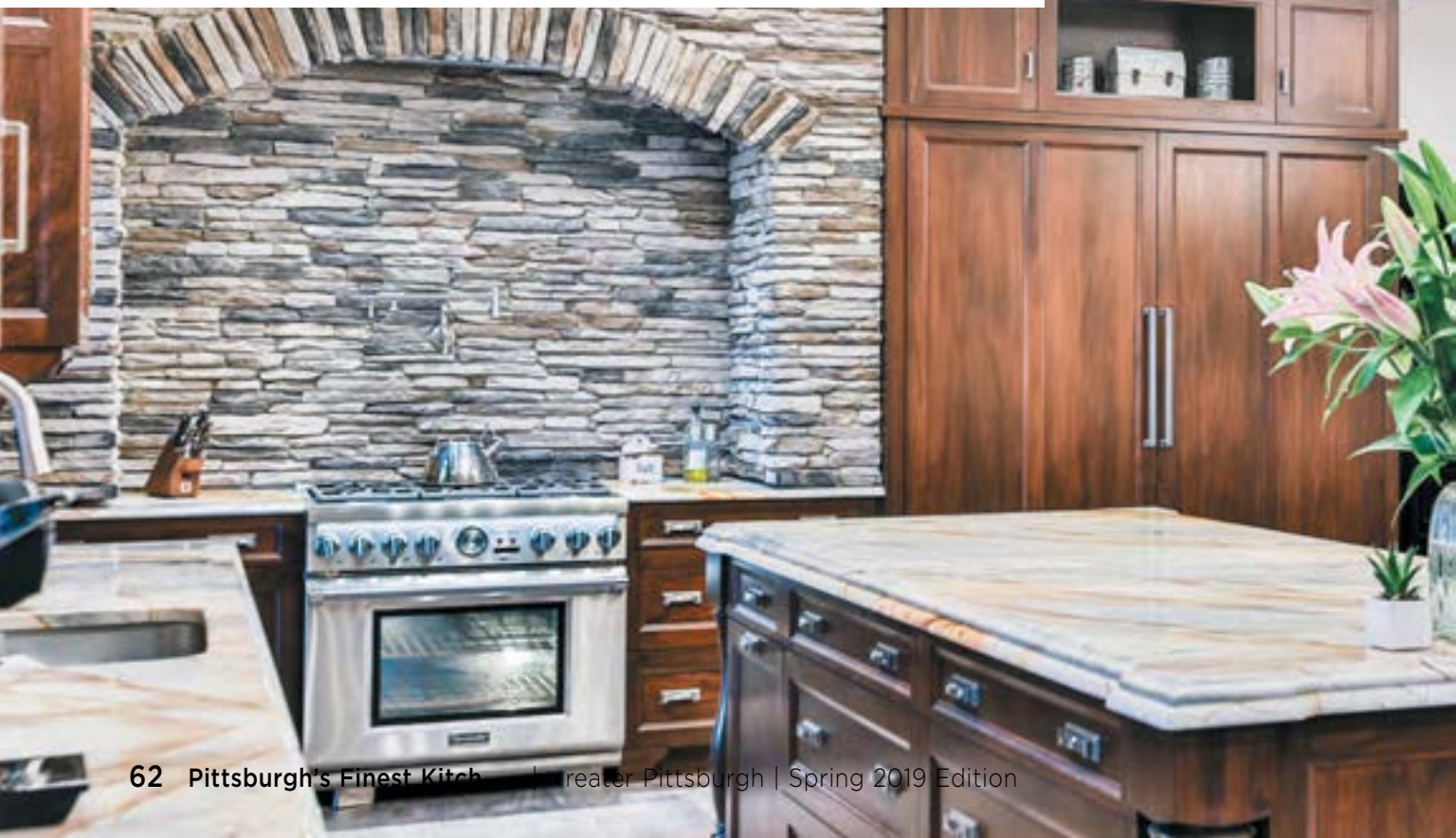




# TWO KITCHENS

*with a* **COMMON THEME**

BY SARAH J. DILLS | Photos by Mike Leonardi, Candidly Yours Photography







In kitchens, homeowners' style tastes vary as much as the foods in them. But whatever the look, those wanting high-end kitchens all have flowing floor plans and fast, functional appliances on their must-have list.

When Ida McConnell, CKD and Joyce Cessar, co-founders of Cuvée Kitchen Designs, set out to design a kitchen they have two areas of focus: How are the homeowners going to live in the space? And how is the kitchen going to blend with the rest of the house?

Over their 26 years in business, the designers have seen a multitude of improvements, but they agree the largest leaps are in the appliance category.

"Sub-Zero has always had paneled appliances, but they had frames around them," McConnell explains. "Now integrated appliances look like cabinetry. People literally can't find the appliances in the kitchen, which makes them so easy to work into designs. Refrigeration drawers placed by prep sinks create more cooking stations, and the microwave drawer gets the appliance off the wall."

Another advancement has come from computer renderings, says McConnell. "They help our clients visualize the outcome." This technology helped two Pittsburgh families plan their dream kitchens.



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Celebrating its 26th year of business, Cuvée Kitchen Designs is women-owned and operated by partners Ida McConnell and Joyce Cessar. Specializing in mid to high-end luxury kitchen, bath, laundry, study and closet remodeling, as well as new construction, they have a renowned design service with a high degree of personal attention. From the initial consultation to final stages of installation, Cuvée provides a wide range of knowledge and skill to every project.







## Sleek style

When deciding to renovate their Squirrel Hill home, a multigenerational family's main goal was to open up the narrow galley kitchen.

"Because I'm Italian, the kitchen is the heart of the home," the homeowner says. "My mom lives with me and we cook a lot. We wanted an open space where we could interact with friends while we cook. We wanted a huge island and a lot of storage."

McConnell worked with architect Sarah Drake and interior designer Melissa Ferrari to create a space with "European sensibility."

"We melded old and new by using a traditional wood with a contemporary style," she says. "Using the grain of the walnut horizontally on the cabinetry added so much character."

To help create the clean and sleek space, McConnell worked with the experts at Don's Appliances to select an integrated Sub-Zero refrigerator and a gas range, wall oven and speed oven by Miele.

"What makes the speed oven so great is the microwave element and convection fan work together to create a faster cooking technology called speed convection," explains Erin Slattery of Don's Appliances.

The family loves their new kitchen in their quaint, older home. "Ida is extremely meticulous," the homeowner says. "She is very responsive and has great taste. I've already referred her to a very close friend."



**Appliances:** Miele 24" Wall Oven (H6100BM); Miele 30" Convection Oven (H6780BPSS); Miele 36" Range Top (KMRI134GSS); Sub-Zero 36" Integrated Freezer/Refrigerator (IT-36CI-LH); Bosch 24" Benchmark Series Dishwasher (SHV7PT53UC); BEST 42" Built-In Range Hood (CP55IQ429SB)





### Lodge look

When planning their dream home, Steve and Jodi Lech wanted a lodge-style floor plan and drew inspiration from out West. As owner of the construction company, Sonny Knish, LLC, Steve knew he could handle production, but the couple wanted an expert when it came to designing their kitchen, so they contacted Cessar.

“The Lech family is full of cooks,” Cessar says. “The main objective was to create a large prep area for people to spread out and work. They truly enjoy cooking and baking, so I made sure the island was one level and large enough for everyone to be comfortable and productive.”

The island includes trash and recycling bins that open handsfree. Clean up is aided by two Bosch Benchmark dishwashers – an idea Steve admits he fought “tooth and nail.”

“I just thought it seemed a bit over the top,” he explains. “But they get used all the time.”

Jodi jokes that her husband, the primary cook, is very territorial. “When we cooked together in our old house we were constantly bumping into each other,” she says. “We basically created a second prep kitchen in our pantry where I have a sink and plenty of counter space to make salads and chop fruits and vegetables.”

Cessar was able to take large appliances – including the Sub-Zero 36-inch refrigerator and freezer columns – and have them appear warm and furniture-like. She says, “The house has a very comfortable zen-like feel through the use of natural materials.” 🏠



**Appliances:** Thermador 36" Pro Grand Series Gas Range (PRG36JG); SHARP SuperSteam+ Convection Oven (SSC3088AS); Wolf 30" E-Series Electric Oven (MDD30PE/S/PH); Sub-Zero 36" Refrigerator Column (IC-36RID-RH); Sub-Zero 36" Freezer Column (IC-36FI-LH); Bosch 24" Benchmark Series Dishwasher (SHV7PT53UC); TRUE 24" Under Counter Refrigerator (TUR-24-D-OP-B)



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