

27th Annual *Kitchens* of the **YEAR**

BY EVA DITLER

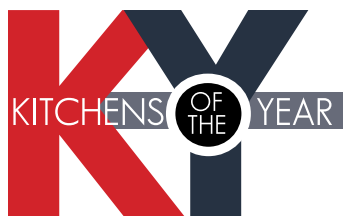
WHITE, BLACK and **GRAY** played leading roles in the winners of our 2018 Kitchens of the Year contest while **TURQUOISE, TANS** and **BRASSES** made up the supporting roles. Our trio of judges applauded the **FUNCTIONALITY, LAYOUTS** and **CLASSY STYLES** of their five top picks. New this year, we gave readers a chance to vote on all 50 entries. Their number one choice? A **HOMEOWNER-DESIGNED** kitchen that the judges also praised.

JUDGES:

Bonnie Bagley Catlin, Signature Designs

Traci Taylor, Arise Interiors

Megan Siason, M Studio Interior Design



WINNERS, PROFESSIONAL DESIGN

Rosella Gonzalez,
Jackson Design and Remodeling

Corine Maggio, CM Natural Designs

Susanna Samaniego, Design 4 Corners

Kelly Smiar, Kelly Smiar Interior Design

Jeff Jertberg, VanBerg Design + Remodeling

WINNER, HOMEOWNER DESIGN: *Melisse & Jason Mossy*



“Woods, rustic elements and bright white surfaces lend an original interpretation to mid-century modern style,” Rosella says. “By getting rid of walls, the kitchen, dining and living spaces are open and integrated.”

The update has transformed this cook’s space into the center of Ben and Stacy’s life at home.

“The kitchen is where we spend most of our time, either eating, preparing dinner or hanging out with the children,” Stacy says. “We have a 2-year-old, Hank, and a 6-month-old, Maggie. Every morning, Hank takes the corner spot of the island—a spot with a great view—and helps make breakfast smoothies. He also helps prep dinners. He has a little ladder and puts things in a bowl and makes a complete mess of the island—which is why it’s a quartzite with color in it so I won’t notice spots on the countertop,” she says with a laugh. “It’s so much fun to have him in the kitchen. And when he plays golf in the front yard, I can stand at the island and watch him. It is awesome.”



“Great open concept with places for the whole family to engage.”
—Bonnie Bagley Catlin

CENTERPIECE PHOTOGRAPHY BY PREVIEWFIRST

Although the Wolf range that belonged to Ben Hulley’s deceased mother brings back favorite memories now that it stands proudly in his and wife Stacy’s remodeled kitchen, visitors are wowed by the geometric tiles that splash along two walls in a gradient pattern.

“That was a labor of love,” Stacy says. “My designer Rosella Gonzalez [of Jackson Design and Remodeling] brought us a lot of tile samples to look at. We finally chose a gray, white and turquoise mix. When the tiles were delivered to the house, I spent six hours—without going to the bathroom or eating—hand placing each tile on the island. Rosella helped me. I would stand on a ladder, take a picture, send it to my husband and my friend Heather, move the tiles around a bit,

then take another picture until we all decided the layout looked good.”

“It’s custom art, per se,” Rosella says of the backsplash. “Although it was labor intensive, we had fun. When it was finally completed, it was a clear day and Ben looked out the window and said, ‘Wow, look at that. The tile matches the ocean colors outside.’ We hadn’t planned it out that way, but he was right.”

Before the kitchen redo, two small windows allowed a peek at the ocean but even that peek was obstructed by upper cabinetry that hung low from a soffit. Removing those cabinets and redesigning the space with more windows—over three times the original size—captured the expansive sea views and brought in a flood of natural light.



Above: Natural woods, rustic elements, bright white surfaces and an unusual tile design bring an original interpretation to mid-century modern style.

Left: A simple and stylish stainless-steel hood defines the cooktop where meals can be prepared while looking out at an ocean view.

Opposite page, top: Floating shelves provide a place to showcase colorful dinnerware.

Opposite page, bottom: A trio of mid-century modern pendants playfully define the island.