

THE CONNECTICUT DESIGN GUIDE 2024



FROM THE EDITORS OF
CTC&G

DESIGNING YOUR DREAM HOME | READY, SET, DECORATE! | DREAMING OF KITCHENS +
BATHS | EMBRACING THE OUTDOORS | TIME TO ORGANIZE! | SHOPPING IN STYLE | THE LIST

DREAMING OF KITCHENS BATHS

In use from morning till night, no two rooms are more important in the functioning of the home than the kitchen and bath. Although utilitarian in nature, the most successful designs reflect the homeowner's lifestyle and personality. We asked the experts to weigh in on the ways their clients are adding their individual imprint to these spaces. Here's what they had to say.



PHOTOGRAPH BY HULYA KOLABAS FROM CTC&G OCTOBER 2022 "SIGHT LINES"

ADDING PERSONAL STYLE

“Kitchens are becoming far more luxurious. We are seeing a greater use of mixed material pairing—metal trims on open shelving, a mix of wood and paint finishes, and leather-lined drawers and upholstered elements—which make the kitchen less clinical and more decorated, for an individual look.” —**Christopher Peacock, Christopher Peacock, christopherpeacockhome.com**

“I TELL MY CLIENTS, ‘IT’S YOUR SPACE, DO WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, NOT NECESSARILY WHAT’S TRENDING OR WHAT IS GOOD FOR RESALE—YOU HAVE TO LIVE IN IT.’” —**Jeff Eakley, Bilotta Kitchen & Home, bilotta.com**

“Textures and pops of color can be small but impactful. We can achieve this through backsplash tile, wallpaper accents and hardware in the kitchen.” —**Maria N. Tanzi, Majestic Kitchens and Bath, majestickitchens.com**

“CUSTOMIZING KITCHEN SELECTIONS CAN TRANSFORM A GOOD KITCHEN INTO SOMETHING MEMORABLE. HOMEOWNERS EXPRESS THEIR PERSONALITIES THROUGH BOLD CABINET FINISHES IN STRONG COLORS, SOOTHING NEUTRALS OR EVEN METALS. CHOOSING SPECIALTY APPLIANCES OR WORKSTATION SINKS ARE ALSO AN OPPORTUNITY TO ELEVATE A KITCHEN DESIGN AND ADD PERSONALITY.” —**Peter Deane, Deane, deaneinc.com**



“Clients are continuing to enjoy their homes as personal sanctuaries. This means not only enjoying time together, but also incorporating products throughout the home that provide added beauty and health benefits.” —**Paul Grothouse, Grothouse, glumber.com**

CABINETRY: INTO THE WOODS

“Warm tones are back. Oak continues its great resurgence as a cabinetry material. New techniques in wood finishing allow beautiful finishes with cerused white, sandy, earthy or slightly grey tones to come forward. Walnut is a very elegant option that we continue to use in a variety of finishes, from natural to cocoa.” —**Joseph Najmy**

“While white is still classic, there has been a surge in wood in walnut and rift-cut oak.” —**Maria N. Tanzi**

“Wood adds warmth, and people are drawn to it. Not only does wood add natural beauty to a space, but it also provides sound absorption and it is a renewable product that isn’t mined and sequesters CO₂.” —**Paul Grothouse**

“WE ARE SEEING THE RE-EMERGENCE OF LIGHT WOODS IN KITCHEN PLANS, AS HOMEOWNERS GRAVITATE AWAY FROM DARK TONES.” —**Peter Deane**



“Rift-cut, white-oak veneer is very popular, in all different finishes. So are wood-like laminates in different textures and shades.” —**Jeff Eakley**

HARDWARE: ALL IN OR NOT AT ALL



“Decorative hardware is considered the ‘jewelry’ of the kitchen, with endless finishes and style options to elevate any design. For more modern kitchens, we are seeing channel-designed cabinetry that doesn’t require hardware, as well as a mechanical ‘touch to open’ feature for our technology-forward clients.” —**Peter Deane**



“Hardware for me is a must, as it is such an important part of the décor of the kitchen. We are using lots of brushed finishes and more bronze and brass.” —**Christopher Peacock**

“The handle-less kitchen has been in our portfolio for years with the Poggenpohl kitchen system. It’s super clean, understated, and elegant.” —**Joseph Najmy**

“THE HARDWARE DEPENDS ON THE DESIGN. IF IT’S A CONTEMPORARY KITCHEN, PEOPLE TEND TO FORGO HARDWARE FOR A CLEAN, SLEEK LOOK WITH EITHER A CHANNEL, BUILT-IN HARDWARE OR FINGER PULLS. MORE CLASSIC DESIGNS ARE MIXING FINISHES, LIKE BRASS OR CHROME, REGARDLESS OF THE FINISH ON THE APPLIANCES.” —**Jeff Eakley**

PHOTOGRAPH BY: (THIS PAGE) TORI SIKKEMA PHOTOGRAPHY, DESIGN BY BEE HIVE INTERIORS, COURTESY OF GROTHOUSE



DINING IN

“Island seating is an ideal setting for casual in-kitchen dining or social gatherings. Banquettes can be integrated into islands as a table-height option or as a separate option tucked away in the corner of the kitchen.” —Peter Deane

“WE’VE RECENTLY DESIGNED SOME FABULOUS, LARGE T-SHAPED ISLANDS WITH SPACE FOR THE PASSIONATE HOME CHEF TO CONNECT WITH GUESTS.” —Joseph Najmy

“Even in the smallest of kitchens, clients are always looking for some type of seating, whether it is a small peninsula or island. If space allows, a banquette can create a cozy nook for a more traditional way of dining.” —Maria N. Tanzi

“Entertaining at home is here to stay. More dedicated eating spaces and comfortable seating are a must, so floating tables and spacious banquettes are being discussed.” —Christopher Peacock

“Some people are choosing to eliminate the formal dining room, opening up the space for a larger kitchen with various eating/seating areas, accommodating a larger island and either a banquette or a table the fits the whole family. These areas also allow for separate workspaces for the work-from-home clients and kids’ homework areas.” —Jeff Eakley

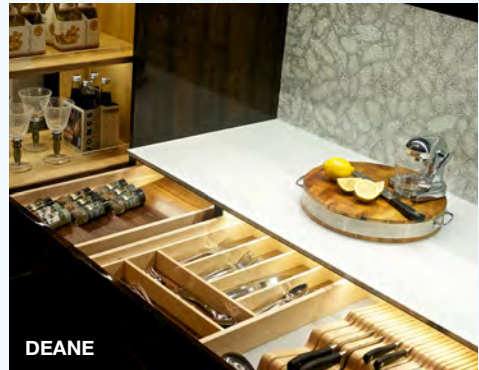
LIGHTING/LED LEADS THE WAY

“The use of LED has become the norm, and the technology and fixtures keep improving. In addition to hidden functional lighting, I like to use oversized, big and bold decorative light fittings with metallic or reflective interiors that really bounce the light.” —Christopher Peacock

“We are loving the new ‘plug-and-play’ LED lighting options. We can integrate it into cabinetry during the fabrication process, which allows it to be easily and seamlessly installed.” —Peter Deane

“One hundred percent LED—we use them under the cabinets and inside cabinets and drawers, so they light up when opened. Toe kick lighting serves a dual purpose, providing beautiful accent lighting and an easy way to turn on the lights when entering a room.” —Jeff Eakley

“We integrate programmable lighting into some of our designs. The nature of this lighting allows clients to choose the ‘kelvin’ which determines how white, bright or warm the lighting is. With digital dimmers, we can achieve a candle-like glow throughout the kitchen for dinner parties or quiet evenings at home. New undercabinet fixtures combine hidden outlets and lighting for clients who want an uninterrupted backsplash without any outlets.” —Joseph Najmy



BACKSPLASHES AND COUNTER POINTS



“Tile and stone slab kitchen backsplashes remain the most popular choices. Our clients love how these materials can offer subtle or bold looks depending on how they are leveraged. It really comes down to field visits to stone yards and tile showrooms to evaluate your options and refine choices to suit your style.” —Peter Deane

“A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE RUNNING THE COUNTERTOP MATERIAL UP THE BACKSPLASH. THIS CREATES A VERY CLEAN LOOK. QUARTZ IS STILL VERY POPULAR BECAUSE IT’S DURABLE AND WHAT YOU SEE IS WHAT YOU GET AS FAR AS VEINING AND PATTERNS, SINCE IT’S MAN-MADE.” —Jeff Eakley

“I see a lot of natural stone or natural looking patterns being used for a sophisticated look. Lately I’ve used a lot more tile, because the technology in tile design has taken those selections to another level and the choices are amazing now.” —Christopher Peacock

“We tailor backsplash material to the design intent and client budget—sometimes matching quartz or quartzite, or a blend of two different stones for interest, or a classic tile motif to subtly support the color palette in the kitchen.” —Joseph Najmy

COLOR

“Paint colors are becoming bolder—purples, blues, greens—maybe not for the whole kitchen but for accent pieces or cabinet interiors.” —Jeff Eakley

“SOME GO TO BOLD BLUES, GREAT GREENS, AS WELL AS BLACK AND WHITE BLENDED IN TASTEFUL WAYS.” —Joseph Najmy

“Blues and greens are perennial favorites.” —Peter Deane

“OLIVE GREEN, CHARCOAL GRAYS, NAVY BLUES, AND EVEN DEEP PURPLE ARE BEING USED. OFTEN THIS IS MIXED WITH DARKER COLORS ON THE LOWER CABINETS AND LIGHTER COLORS ON THE UPpers. DARK HANDSOME COLORS JUXTAPOSED TO BLEACHED AND LIGHT WOODS ARE VERY POPULAR.” —Christopher Peacock



PHOTOGRAPH BY: (OPPOSITE TOP) BRIAN MADDEN, DESIGNED BY ROBERTO LEIRA, ARCHITECTURE BY JOHN TERZ; (OPPOSITE BOTTOM) LESLEY UNRUH, COLLABORATION BETWEEN BILOTTA KITCHEN & HOME AND SHARPE DEVELOPMENT & DESIGN

BATHROOM TRENDS

“For dramatic effect, homeowners are adding accent walls behind a vanity—in either tile or wallpaper—in either tile or wallpaper—bold-colored vanities or a patterned tile floor.” —Maria N. Tanzia



“Clients are being more and more adventurous when it comes to their bathroom designs. Complex patterns and texture are on the rise. One of the biggest trends in bathroom design is the use of uniquely shaped and textured tile on walls outside the wet areas to create focal points.” —Scott Weinlein, Majestic Kitchens and Bath, majestickitchens.com

“For me, it’s always the classic look that feels serene, peaceful and spa like. It’s escapism from the daily grind, so the private areas of the home become more and more of a respite, and the décor needs to reflect that. Tone on tone, and simple but well-made accessories are the key.” —Christopher Peacock

“CLIENTS ARE EXPANDING, IF THE SPACE ALLOWS. THEY WANT COMFORT RIGHT AT HOME. THEY ARE ADDING BIGGER SHOWERS WITH RAIN HEADS AND STEAM; SOAKING TUBS; TOWEL WARMERS; SEPARATE SINKS; MAKE-UP AREAS AND REFRIGERATOR DRAWERS TO ENHANCE THE SPA-LIKE EXPERIENCE!” —Jeff Eakley



PETER DEANE’S TOP 5

1. FLOATING VANITIES

Floating bathroom vanities free up space and make a bathroom appear more spacious

2. MINIMALISM Frameless mirrors, sleek faucets, sensual curves

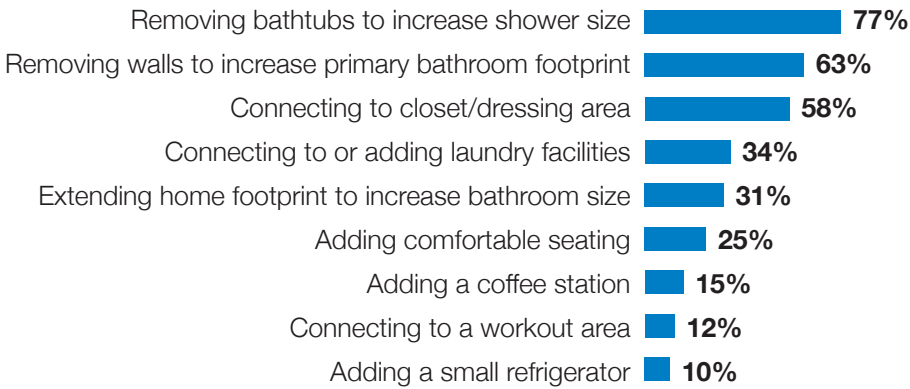
3. SMART TECHNOLOGY Digital touchless faucets, temperature-controlled flooring

4. STATEMENT PIECES Freestanding soaking tubs, frameless glass panels, rustic wood cabinetry

5. COLOR While bathroom colors are typically neutral, adding colorful tile on the floor or within a shower stall can personalize the space



NKBA | KBIS 2023 DESIGN TRENDS STUDY BATHROOM DESIGN FEATURES THAT WILL BE PROMINENT IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS



TOP BATHROOM TRENDS INVOLVE **OPENING SPACE** BY REMOVING BATHTUBS FOR LARGER SHOWERS, TAKING DOWN WALLS AND CREATING A CONNECTED DRESSING AREA