



KBIS Unveils

This perfect twist on the classic beach cottage by Cheryl Kees Clendenon of In Detail Interiors won the Budget Friendly Award.

2013 Kitchen Design Winners

BY GLORIA GRAHAM SOLLECITO, AKBD

Last month I attended the annual Kitchen & Bath Industry (KBIS) show, held this year in New Orleans. Each year this trade association recognizes the best of the best with their design competition. This year KBIS celebrates its 50th anniversary of helping to create kitchens and baths that are attractive, functional and safe.

The show's theme, Evolution, was particularly appropriate, since technology and also how we use our kitchens and baths has evolved greatly over the decades. All together there were 10 winners in the kitchen category. Whether you actually cook or just like to hang out in the heart of your home, you'll find inspiration here.

Here are three of my favorites:

White just right

The winner of the Best Medium Kitchen Award went to Karen Swanson of New England Design Works. She had the best client of all, herself. This allowed her a level of creative freedom that was only checked by the limitations of her 150-year-old New England sea captain's house.

Swanson says, "The architectural issues I had to work around were my biggest challenge." Luckily she believes in "designing with flexibility."

She also credits Pennville Cabinets for engineering custom cabinetry that allowed

her to maximize the space she had. In an old house you never know the final solution before you start.

This kitchen may be in Massachusetts, but it has a distinctive Caribbean flair, suggested by the painting that stands watch over the proceedings.

The dramatic chandelier features Edison-style bulbs. "I think the darker color (of the chandelier) closes the loop of contrast in the room, tying in the dark floor." Swanson made the most of the bright natural light by using light finishes in a variety of textures including honed marble counter tops and horizontal plank, ship lap-styled paneling.

A functional peninsula, dressed as a farm table, provides ample seating. Bright green bent wood chairs add a perfect pop of color.

Supplemental storage and additional cooking appliances are tucked behind the scenes in a totally unexpected red butler's pantry. Swanson likes a graphic punch and thinks the project might have lacked the panache she enjoys without such a bold choice.

This kitchen allows multiple people to function in it at the same time, a hallmark of great kitchen design. The dark flooring provides the perfect contrast. Range by Wolf, cabinets by Pennville Cabinetry, and cabinet knobs and pulls by DuVerre Hardware add a modern touch.

The sum total is sublime.

Kitchen on the beach

The Budget Friendly Kitchen Award went to Cheryl Kees Clendenon of In Detail Interiors.

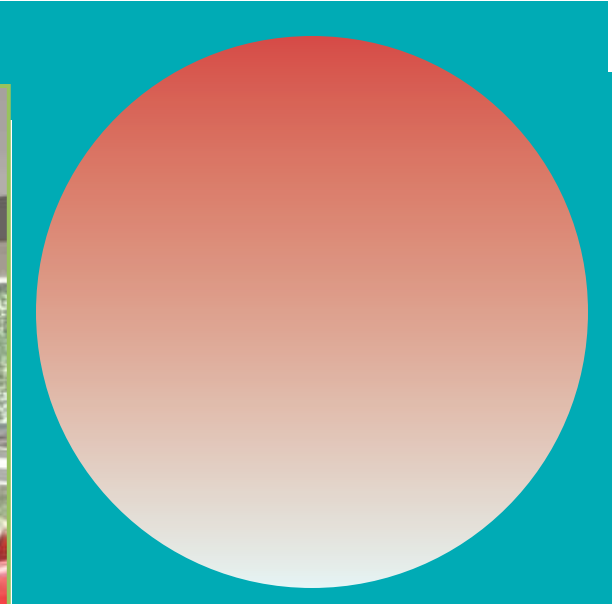
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This kitchen by Karen Swanson of New England Design Works may be in Massachusetts, but it has a distinctive Caribbean flair, suggested by the painting that stands watch over the proceedings.



The client for this kitchen, designed by Rhonda Knoche of Rhonda Knoche Design, had three main objectives: no symmetry, no straight lines and to make him smile when he entered the room.



The third-place winner in the Medium Kitchen Category features sculpturally designed custom cabinets with fanciful swirling copper accents that are highlighted by undulating red accent walls and copper backsplashes.



ors, Pensacola, Fla. It's a perfect twist on the classic beach cottage. Located in a rental property, it was designed for entertaining and plenty of space for multiple cooks. The coastal color palette reflects the waterfront Gulf Coast location. The porcelain tile plank flooring is a good choice for sandy feet and more affordable than real wood.

Finishes not only needed to be in keeping with the theme; they also had to be durable enough to stand up to enthusiastic vacationers. No-maintenance, white quartz was selected for the counter top. Choosing to go with a counter thickness of just three-fourths of an inch was an economical decision.

Other cost-savers included using high-impact items in small doses — whimsical fabric used strategically for color; inexpensive hardware paired sparingly with crystal knobs to add sparkle; and knock out art glass mosaic installed horizontally to mimic waves.

Classic, simple white Shaker doors on cabinets also save money over styles with lots of detail or applied molding.

Appliances include dishwasher by KitchenAid, refrigerator by Jenn Air, and

GE Advantium microwave.

This bright, fun space perfectly transitions into an open living area, creating a cheerful coastal atmosphere that its guests will enjoy and want to return to!

Creative elements

My third favorite is the third-place winner in the Medium Kitchen Category, by Rhonda Knoche of Rhonda Knoche Design, Portland, Ore. Yes, it's direct from "Portlandia."

Knoche's client is a fan of practical clever solutions with a sense of humor. Sculpturally designed custom cabinets with fanciful swirling copper accents are highlighted by undulating red accent walls and copper backsplashes.

Generous counter tops are user-friendly Caesarstone quartz, and flooring is foot-friendly cork. Two sinks, each with pullout trash containers, eliminate traffic jams in the kitchen.

"This client had three main objectives: no symmetry, no straight lines and to make him smile when he entered the room. While he wanted to do curves wherever possible, I showed him some

ways to introduce them without busting the budget," says Knoche. "One way was the introduction of curves on the elevation view — the curved, continuous pull composition. When I told him some of my best work (as is true of most designers and architects) was on the cutting room floor (an old film editor's line), he got it right away and said, 'I want to see everything on your cutting room floor!'"

The symbols of the pulls have meaning for the client, as do the curved red walls. The red one at the entry to the kitchen, which greets him every morning, he calls "Marilyn". Knoche designed the pulls, and the client made them — all the more fun. He also made the two kitchen sinks.

Gloria Graham Sollecito is a kitchen and bath cabinetry designer with AKBD certification from

the National Kitchen & Bath Association. Her work has appeared on This Old House as well as in Florida Design Magazine. She is co-author of The Complete Idiots Guide to Remodeling Your Kitchen, Illustrated and is a member of the Blanco Design Council. Sollecito's unique vision blends her work as a mixed media artist and avid world traveler with 19 years experience as a designer in the kitchen and bath industry. Her design blog, Kitchens for Living (www.kitchensforliving.net), is about artful living, creative design, innovative tips and products, and new ways of thinking to add personality and function to the space we call "the heart of the home." Sollecito may be reached through Brendan Donovan Furniture & Cabinet Co. at (561) 881-4323 or via email at kitchensforliving@gmail.com.



Supplemental storage and additional cooking appliances are tucked behind the scenes in a totally unexpected red butler's pantry in this kitchen designed by Karen Swanson of New England Design Works.



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