

Kitchens and bathrooms are the best return on investment and the defining spaces of your home. This roundup had us inspired at hello.

BY ANDREA MILLS

HEART & SOUL



PHOTO BY WERNER STRAUBE

WHITE-HOT
Amy Kartheiser turns a dated kitchen into a young family's everyday and entertaining oasis.

Tasked with updating a 15-year-old home with builder-basic finishes, designer Amy Kartheiser—of her namesake firm Amy Kartheiser Design—approached the gut renovation by opening up the whole first floor. The kitchen, in particular, needed a complete refresh to replace the frumpy maple cabinets and black granite countertops. To create better flow, Kartheiser moved the island to open up the space between the kitchen and family room. “Too many times, the family would be seated at the island for meals while one parent stood and served,” Kartheiser says. So she re-oriented a larger island with no seating but plenty of storage, and opted for an everyday dining area within the kitchen. Custom cabinetry from Lagomorph is paired with hardware from Chicago Brass and marble countertops from Tithof Tile & Marble. Continuing the backsplash up to the ceiling line, in porcelain tile from The Tile Gallery, adds to the clean, cohesive flow. To balance the La Cornue range, Kartheiser designed a beautifully coordinated custom hood fabricated through ABT. Pendants from Lightology are like the jewelry of the room, but all of the elements sparkle in their own right. amykartheiserdesign.com

GOLD STANDARD
Jessica Lagrange updates a guest bathroom with custom finishes and statement wallpaper.

After working with architect Tannys Langdon of Langdon Associates on their vintage East Lake Shore Drive apartment, these homeowners brought in Jessica Lagrange and her firm, Jessica Lagrange Interiors, to help with additional interior design and the finishing touches.

Taking their cues from the warm colors in the adjoining guest bedroom, Lagrange and her team started with Osborne & Little's Asuka wallcovering from floor to ceiling. "We were inspired by the gold floral pattern because it added soft femininity to the harsh lines of the architecture," explains Lagrange. Paired with a custom mirrored cabinet, a custom wall-mounted vanity, and gold fittings and fixtures throughout, the small space gleams like a jewel box. "The wallcovering also creates a smooth transition from the warm colors of the guest bedroom into the bathroom," adds the designer. The mix of modern and traditional elements in neutral tones is a cohesive theme throughout the sprawling apartment—Lagrange's way to meld the homeowners' differing tastes into one.

jessicalagrange.com



PHOTO BY KATRINA WITTKAMP

BLACK BEAUTY
Aimee Wertepny turns a builder-basic corner into a dramatic focal point.

The master bathroom in this newly purchased home features a carved-out cove to highlight the tub, originally covered in square Carrara mosaic tiles. "The before wasn't bad; it was just very builder-basic," says designer Aimee Wertepny of PROJECT Interiors, "and we don't do basic." Her clients were looking for something more modern and sleek, with more wow factor, so Wertepny played with scale and texture. "They love simple, clean design, so we had fun with contrast—

high-gloss lacquered cabinetry, a faceted-wood wallcovering, matte paint, polished chrome and, of course, fur," says the designer. The Ajiro Fanfare wood veneer in a limited-edition ebony covers the curved wall from floor to ceiling, checking off the dramatic requirement and turning the cove into a major focal point. Wertepny swapped out the tub for one from Scavolini's Aquo bathroom collection and paired it with fittings from Dornbracht's MEM line. The floor was replaced with large-scale honed Carrara marble tile from Stone Source, which coordinates with the rest of the light and airy space that includes a lot of white. A New Zealand sheepskin hide adds warmth and texture while fitting in with the minimalist directive.

The end result of the elements coming together is nothing short of wow. *projectinteriors.com*



PHOTO BY SYNTIA LYNN

GALLERY WALL
dSPACE Studio turns an everyday necessity into a big style statement.

Arguably taking the prize for the focal point of this master suite—which includes two walk-in closets, a private study, and a large bathroom with a freestanding tub and dry sauna—is the spectacular shower. Because it is visible from the entry to the bathroom, as well as in the reflection from the long mirror above the Antonio Lupi vanity, designers Kevin Toukoumidis and Nick Irmen of dSPACE Studio wanted a stone slab that would be a work of art on its own. Enter the multitone Fusion granite from MSI, chosen for its beauty and depth, paired with Vola fixtures from Hydrology. Their clients, Laurentiu and Eva Vlad, wanted a “clean, modern and calming bathroom with lots of natural light and low-maintenance surfaces,” says Irmen, so they designed a calming space “that allows the natural slab stone to stand alone.” Custom glass doors on hinges from Bianco Glass, white porcelain walls from Transceramica and white-oak wide plank floors from Du Chateau highlight the shower even more. Part of a gut renovation of the entire Northfield home, the spa-like bathroom also incorporates high-end custom LED lighting from the Vlads’ own architectural lighting company, Lumini, creating a “work of art that is enjoyed every day,” says Irmen. dspacestudio.com

PHOTO BY TONY SOLURI

STONE TEMPLE
Michelle Williams builds a spa retreat to make the most of a view.

“The bathroom started with the claw-foot tub; that was a must,” says designer Michelle Williams of Michelle Williams Interiors. The master bedroom and bathroom in this new build in Libertyville have spectacular views, so making the most of them was a top priority. “We wanted the master bathroom to feel like a timeless spa in the trees, like being in a luxury treehouse,” explains Williams. Classic elements, like milk-glass cabinet knobs from Studio41 and a more traditional custom vanity by Specialty Woodworking, are paired with modern touches, such as the gauzy linen drapes and light lavender walls. The unexpected scale of the large Carrara marble hexagonal tile from The Tile Shop on the wall against a much smaller version on the floor creates a subtle focal point, highlighting the beautiful statement tub by Victoria + Albert. “We were going for an oasis of relaxation with a bit of ethereal mixed in,” says Williams. They got it spot-on. mwilliamsinteriors.com

PHOTO BY WENNER STRAUBE