

# NKBA

## 30 Under 30

**NKBA's 30 Under 30 program highlights 30 exceptional young professionals who are excelling in today's kitchen and bath industry. The program is helping these carefully-selected individuals develop themselves with new opportunities for growth and at the same time, acknowledge their current success during KBIS 2014.**



**Moe Abbas**  
**Ottawa General Contractors**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**

Moe is the founder of the Canadian General Contractors group of companies. He started his first landscaping company, going door to door, at the age of 19 with no money, business experience or formal education. In the pursuit of his passion for construction he sold his landscaping company and started Ottawa General Contractors. He has designed and built Ottawa General Contractors to an industry leading company. The Canadian General Contractors Group now provides design and build services across the nation including Ottawa, Toronto, Vancouver and soon, Calgary. Moe sits on the board of directors of the Better Business Bureau of Eastern Ontario and the Ottawa Chamber of Commerce. He is featured as a renovation expert in Mike Holmes Magazine, Ottawa Renovates Magazine, Ottawa Family Living Magazine, CBC News, CTV News, YAHOO! News, CFRA Radio, DAWG FM Radio, Rogers Daytime TV and many other media publications. He is also a 2012 recipient of the prestigious 40 Under 40. His flagship company Ottawa General Contractors won in the Small Business of the Year category at the Ottawa Business Achievement Awards, and was a finalist at the Torch awards in the same year. Moe is a firm believer in community. He gives back by holding fundraisers for Habitat for Humanity NCR and by creating jobs within the local community. He has helped many families in Ottawa including those who have been defrauded by bad contractors and those with disabilities by getting involved and helping facilitate life changing home makeovers.



**Jessica Sterling Altman**  
**Hatchett Design/Remodel**  
**Newport News, VA**

Jessica has been a professional in the design field since graduating from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) in 2007. She graduated with a BA in Apparel, Housing and Resource Management with a focus on Kitchen and Bath Design through the NKBA accredited program. While attending Virginia Tech, Jessica was a founding member of the student NKBA chapter on campus. After graduation, Jessica joined the team at Hatchett Design/Remodel as the sole designer to a sales staff of five. She is responsible for the design, selections and ordering of materials for approximately 80+ jobs annually. Jessica believes that your work is a reflection of self and therefore strives to give each client an outstanding experience no matter the size of their project. Jessica believes continuing education is the key to success and is looking forward to the opportunity to learn from and share with her fellow 30 under 30 members.



**Carolyn P. Andrews**  
**Preston Feather Building Company**  
**Traverse City, Michigan**

Carolyn Andrews is a kitchen and bath designer with Preston Feather Building Company. Carolyn is a graduate of Central Michigan University with a major in Interior Design and a minor in Construction Management. In addition to her formal education, she also holds Green Build Certification, is a certified Home Inspector, and recently joined the board for the Northern Michigan Chapter of the NKBA. Carolyn's past experience has included a job as an estimator for a large national building corporation, a building material sales representative, and manager in the cabinetry and appliance field. Her focus in the past five years has solely encompassed kitchen and bath design. A combination of Carolyn's education and prior experience in the construction and building industry, have contributed to her extensive expertise in kitchen and bath business and production. One of Carolyn's recent kitchen remodels was selected and featured in the Traverse Northern Michigan Magazine, which showcased twelve impressive kitchen designs throughout Northern Michigan. Carolyn is dedicated to getting the job done, while operating as quickly and efficiently as possible. With her knowledge of construction techniques, she can confidently assess the installation of her project design. Simply put, she believes that there is nothing as satisfying as overseeing the seamless transformation of a project from beginning to end.



**Molly Christina Barr**  
**Erskine Interiors – Hudson, Wisconsin &**  
**Edina, Minnesota**

Born and raised in Southern Wisconsin, Molly started her career in Madison at Madison Area Technical College and paired her formal education with a step in the right direction at Madison East Home Depot. After obtaining her associate's degree, concentrating in Interior Design, Molly moved further north to pursue her Bachelor's degree concentrating in the same field and transferred from Madison to Woodbury Home Depot. Here she would graduate from University of Wisconsin – Stout and move into one of the designer positions. She reformed old processes, excelled in sales, earned multiple awards for sales and customer service, and spun clients' dreams into spaces they adore and utilize with joy. Molly believes that organization, tailored designs, passion, attentive listening, and strong relationship building between designer and client has been the cause of her success. She is also always looking to excel as a designer with new experiences and challenges. When she isn't detailing the latest kitchen design, Molly is cheering on The Green Bay Packers (regardless of being on enemy territory), exploring Summit Avenue's historical homes, or trying out a new recipe.

**Danielle Burkhardt, MBA**  
**Robern – A Kohler Company**



**Bristol, PA**

Innovative, passionate, and self-motivated, Danielle started her career in the kitchen and bath industry in June 2010 and currently works as a Senior Marketing Analyst for Robern – A Kohler Company. Danielle graduated with an MBA from Rutgers Business School with concentrations in Marketing and Global Business.

She served as the Student Government Association's Vice-President and was the recipient of the Rutgers Business School Alumni Association Prize, which is given to the student with high academic and extracurricular involvement. After graduating from Rutgers Business School, Danielle began her career at American Standard as an Assistant Product Manager for the retail and wholesale faucet division. She worked on the teams that successfully presented and launched American Standard branded faucets in Lowe's and Menards. Danielle joined the channel marketing team at Robern in March 2013, where she develops, executes and evaluates marketing programs, and conducts marketing and sales analysis. Danielle also has served on the board of trustees for the Rutgers Business School Alumni Association as the co-chair of the University Outreach – Students committee since 2011, which gives her the opportunity to work with graduate and undergraduate business students. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration, with a concentration in Management, from the University of North Carolina – Asheville.



**Felix Antonio Capitulo,**  
**Aeon Stone and Tile**  
**Vancouver, BC**

Felix Antonio Capitulo has been working in the Kitchen and Bath industry since 2011. He has his degree in Natural Resource Management from the University of British Columbia. However, he has since moved on from that life with no regrets and has found himself thriving wonderfully in his current profession. Felix is one of the most promising sales reps of Aeon Stone and Tile. He is the only one in Aeon Stone and Tile to be given access to working with fabricators, interior designers, architects, retail stores, and builders. Felix also works closely with the BC Chapter of the NKBA and its members. He has helped in several NKBA functions and has organized the largest NKBA BC Chapter meeting up to date.



**Challaigne Cole**  
**The Home Depot**  
**Pearl City, Hawaii**

Challaigne developed her artistic talents at a young age; her passion for drawing and graphic arts lead to her first job with a printing and graphic design firm. At age 18, she began working for The Home Depot as an appliance associate. Within one year, she became the top seller and associate lead of the appliance department. She soon was promoted to the kitchen design department where she quickly excelled by mastering the design software and skyrocketed as one of the top designers in The Home Depot Hawaii region. She is an asset to the company and continues to shine in her position by receiving continuous awards for customer service and sales. Challaigne truly connects with each customer using positivity, creativity, and patience to guide them to their dream

kitchen and bathroom projects. She is thorough and consistent with each customer, and even after the completion of each project she maintains her client and installer rapport. Her clients are also quickly impressed by her creative vision, maturity and extensive product knowledge. Now at age 27, she continues to increase her talents in graphic arts and designing. She works full time while earning a degree in graphic arts and continues to study for the AKBD Certification. She is a recipient of several awards including 3 Silver Homer Awards, 4 Home Depot "All Stars" Award, and also a recent "Executive Homer" Award for sales. She's been on the top in District Sales for the Hawaii Region and was placed 7 of 10 Top Seller for Thomasville Cabinetry in 2013.



**Alexa Dorsey**  
**KraftMaid Cabinetry**  
**Ann Arbor, MI**

Driven, passionate and creative, Alexa Dorsey, in her role as Product Manager for Masco Cabinetry, seeks to give designers the right tools to be successful. Through product design, trend forecasting and product management, she works to develop and maintain a product portfolio that furthers internal business initiatives and provides the right product for designers and their customers. Alexa received her Master of Architecture degree from the University of Michigan where her thesis project focused on furniture design for residential interiors. Her education combined with her experience at several residential architecture and interior design firms provided the perfect background to join Masco Cabinetry in 2010. After holding positions in Engineering and Marketing Communications, Alexa moved into her role as Product Manager with a broad understanding of manufacturing and marketing. Using the skills and insights developed in her previous positions, combined with her fresh, creative perspective, she has worked to introduce products that expand Masco Cabinetry's product portfolio and drive sales in new product categories.



**Mark Eglington, MBA**  
**Euro-Line Appliances West**  
**Vancouver, BC**

Mark got a unique start to the kitchen industry by working as an intern with an international company, Liebherr, throughout Europe during the summer of 2003. After an exciting few months abroad, he came back to Canada to work part time in the shipping department for Euro-Line Appliances, the Canadian national importer and distributor of premium European appliances. He achieved his honors Bachelor of Commerce degree in Economics, before leaving and working in the financial sector for two years. Subsequently, he pursued his Graduate Diploma of Management and then his MBA with a designation in Financial Management. Mark rejoined ELA in 2010 in Ontario and has since had numerous roles within the company including order administrator, marketing coordinator, and regional director of sales and training. In March 2012, he moved to Vancouver to personally oversee and expand operations in the Western Canadian market, and is currently the President of Euro-Line Appliances West.



**Neshi Frankforter**  
**Utica Avenue Plumbing Supply**  
**Brooklyn, NY**

Neshi Frankforter has worked in the kitchen and bath industry for over four years. Using her background in fashion design from F.I.T., Neshi implements the same aesthetic principles when creating kitchens and bathrooms for clients. She has also led groups of customers for manufacturer training, including Hansgrohe's Aquademie and Delta's Independent Showroom Event. In August of 2013, Neshi designed Utica's revamped, functioning showroom. She regularly attends NYC-metro NKBA events, as well as leading product training seminars held at Utica Avenue Plumbing Supply.



**Brittany Gardner, CKD, NCIDQ**  
**American Woodmark Corp.-Timberlake**  
**Cabinetry**  
**Atlanta, GA**

Brittany has 7 years of experience in multiple segments of the kitchen and bath industry since she graduated in 2007 with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design. She graduated with honors from the NKBA Endorsed and CIDER Accredited program at East Carolina University, where she was a founding member of the NKBA Student Chapter, serving as both Treasurer and President. As an eager young professional, she quickly became an AKBD in 2009, NCIDQ certified in 2010 and a CKD and GA Registered Interior Designer in 2011. She continues to volunteer as a local NKBA leader through the GA Chapter. She has served as the VP of Academic Relations and currently holds the high responsibility of the first VP of Programs. She was recently promoted to Lead Designer at Timberlake Cabinetry, American Woodmark's Atlanta Builder Center. Her growing division has increased business to an average of 200 cabinet installations monthly by catering to top national and regional new home builders. Brittany oversees all daily design and estimating operations, implements training and develops procedures while personally maintaining top tier accounts that require custom designs and attention to detail. Brittany has begun recruiting and mentoring the next generation of designers for her company and within her professional network. Her successful career path and volunteer positions demonstrate hard work, determination and leadership. She continues to further develop her skills while working towards becoming a Certified Master Kitchen & Bath Designer.



**Danielle Gundrum**  
**Oasis Showrooms by APR Supply Co.,**  
**Harrisburg, PA**

A Harrisburg (PA) based kitchen and bath designer, Danielle Gundrum has been working in the industry for 6 years. A graduate of Arcadia University (PA), she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, specializing in Interior Design. Danielle is employed by APR Supply Company as a design consultant for their kitchen and bath showrooms. She works with some of the top builders in the area on residential and commercial projects. Danielle also launched the Oasis Showrooms social media presence. She continues to manage all aspects of social marketing at APR. Danielle maintains a focus on keeping up with current trends and styles to stay competitive in an ever-changing market. Recently featured in Central Pennsylvania's premier design magazine, Susquehanna Style, she discusses the top bathroom trends in today's market. Danielle prides herself in listening to her client's needs, and then collaborating with them to successfully design a space that is both functional

and beautiful. She also has a passion for color and seeks to push the boundaries with imaginative color and material combinations. Her attention to detail and contagious personality has her clients returning time and again. Danielle hopes to one day become CAPS certified in order to help clients with Age-in-Place design.



**Ashley Kasper**  
**Kitchen & Bath Concepts**  
**Houston, TX**

Ashley graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in Interior Design and has specialized in the Kitchen and Bath Industry for over six years. She has a creative approach to kitchen and bath

design while focusing on function and timeless aesthetics. Her fresh outlook and enthusiastic personality bring a new dimension to today's design world. She is a Kitchen and Bath Designer at Kitchen & Bath Concepts. Ashley is currently studying for her AKBD Exam and is looking forward to continuing her education in the field. She has worked on the NKBA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter Board for over three years as the Secretary and VP of Communications & Technology. Ashley is the 2014 NKBA Texas Gulf Coast Chapter President.



**Jennifer Kowalski**  
**Best Plumbing Showroom**  
**Seattle, WA**

In 2007, Jennifer graduated from Seattle Pacific University in Seattle, WA with a Bachelor of Arts in Interior Design. While at SPU, she served on the ASID (American Society of Interior Design) Student Chapter as Secretary. During her senior year at SPU she received an internship at VILLA Fine Kitchen and Bath, a boutique kitchen and bath design firm representing SieMatic and RUTT Handcrafted Cabinetry. That internship turned into a full-time position as designer and showroom manager. During her time at VILLA I had the opportunity to work on projects in the homes of Microsoft executives, the penthouses in The Four Seasons-Seattle, and several high end residential condo towers. In 2010, SieMatic Moebelwerke pursued and offered her the position of Showroom Manager and lead designer in their Seattle showroom. After working with cabinetry for so many years, she decided that she wanted to expand her knowledge in other avenues of kitchen and bath. In 2012, she took a position at Best Plumbing, a high end residential plumbing fixture showroom in Seattle. At Best, she was able to learn the inner workings of plumbing fixtures, beyond their decorative exteriors. While at Best Plumbing, she continued to work on the side designing kitchens and bathrooms. She hopes that someday this side work will be enough to open her own kitchen and bath showroom where she can continue to create beautiful and inspiring spaces for clients. Jennifer has been an active member of the NKBA Puget Sound chapter since 2007. In 2013 she signed on as Co-Chair of the Great Kitchen and Bath Tour, and recently took over as Chair for 2014. She is currently studying for my AKBD, and hopes to take the CKD in the next year.



**Corey Laurysen, MBA**  
**Laurysen Kitchens Ltd.,**  
**Ottawa, Ontario**

Corey Laurysen, MBA, has been working in the kitchen and bath industry since the age of 15, where he spent his summers in the manufacturing facility. Each successive year, Corey would be given greater responsibilities as his hands-on experience developed. In his early twenties, he was awarded a hockey scholarship by Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, Connecticut. He demonstrated natural leadership abilities and this led to being named Captain of his hockey team. While away at school, Corey used this opportunity to achieve his MBA from the John F. Welch College of Business. As the Special Projects Manager, Corey has worked in the Order Processing Department and trains the staff in the new systems and operation procedures that have been implemented over the last two years. He is also on site as a Project Manager, overseeing the design, manufacturing and installation of a number of significant condo projects in Ottawa. His passion for manufacturing and designing kitchens became his chosen career path and his MBA is serving him well as he becomes the third generation in his family owned business.



**Lauren Lawless**  
**Giorgi Kitchens**  
**Wilmington, DE**

Lauren's love of design stems from the area in which she grew up, the historic Brandywine innovation – achieved tremendous success in its first Valley. Lauren also travels whenever she can, exploring other cultures' interpretations of design and architecture.

Seeing how different artists view the industry help remind her to keep an open mind when it comes to design. Lauren holds a BS in Interior Design from the Art Institute of Philadelphia as well as a MS in Interior Architecture and Design from Drexel University, where her thesis merged the principles of adaptive reuse and historic preservation. Lauren has worked in several areas of design in order to gain a bigger understanding of the industry as a whole. She has interned for Robert Allen Fabrics, worked as a lighting designer, and as a junior designer for firms in the Philadelphia area. She has always had a passion for the kitchen and bath industry. The kitchen is the most important part of any home, where families spend the most time. It is crucial that the kitchen above all other rooms must be representative of the client's style and personality. It requires just as much technical design planning as it does decorating. Lauren works for Giorgi Kitchens in Wilmington, DE as an assistant designer. Lauren is also an ALA Certified Lighting Specialist and currently a member of the NKBA. She is working towards her AKBD accreditation.



**Alicia Lowe**  
**Stone Source, Inc.**  
**Plymouth, MN**

After spending 3 years as a stay-at-home mom, Alicia decided it was time to go back to fulfilling her dreams as a designer. She started working at Cold Spring Granite in 2009 where she discovered her love for kitchen and bath design and natural stone. She met a designer in the industry who told her about a specialized Kitchen and Bath education program at Century College. She was active in the NKBA, holding the Secretary position for her student chapter and becoming part of the

Technology and Communication Committee in the MN Chapter. She went on to graduate from the program in 2011 and is working toward her certification as an AKBD. She went on to work as a Kitchen Designer for the Home Depot in March 2012 where she developed a passion for making her clients' dreams become reality. She recently started working for Stone Source, Inc., where she is bringing her love of design to life with a more personal connection to her clients.



**Alicia Meeker**  
**Pacific Rim Cabinets**  
**Vancouver, BC**

After completing her education in Interior Design, Alicia found that she excelled in the technical aspects of Millwork Design. She decided to further specialize in this field by enrolling in an NKBA Accredited Kitchen and Bath Design program. During this time, she experienced great professional development, as well as had the opportunity to compete in the GE Sponsored Student Charette competition, where she placed first across North America. Alicia brings a fresh perspective to her current position as a Designer and Project Manager for a custom millwork company, where she has exceeded her sales targets in the first year. Alicia plans to continue her involvement with the British Columbia Chapter of the NKBA, as she moves into the position of VP of Communications for 2014.



**Cassandra Nordell-MacLean**  
**William Standen Co. Design, Sarnia,**  
**Ontario, Canada**

After completing an advanced diploma in interior design, Cassandra began her career at a renowned design-build firm in Toronto. There, she honed her skills and gained experience necessary for pursuing her entrepreneurial dream. In 2006, returning to her hometown, Sarnia, Ontario, she co-founded Nordell Design/Build, Custom Homes. The community embraced her vision, and the business – built around superior service and year. Cassandra co-founded a second company, William Standen Co., in 2010, to specialize in kitchen and bath design, custom cabinetry and renovations. Her business acumen hasn't gone unnoticed; Cassandra has been recognized nationally by Profit Magazine, as a leader of one of Canada's most promising businesses. She's also been honored locally with business leadership and entrepreneurial awards. Underlying her success is a passion for helping others. From designing barrier-free spaces to donating her time to charities, Cassandra strives to give back wherever she can.



**Vanessa Pinelli**  
**Troico Home Solutions and**  
**Manufacturing, Coquitlam, British**  
**Columbia**

Vanessa Pinelli is a trailblazer in the male-dominated construction and home renovation industry. At 27, she transplanted a viable business from Ontario and made it her own, while adding a modern and tech-savvy twist. In February 2012, one month after having her first child, Vanessa and her partner, Michael Richter started Troico. Troico has grown exponentially in just over one year, from doing small renovations to completing six-figure custom-built full home renovations. Troico recently moved into a 11,000 square foot showroom, millwork and design facility, which truly encompasses the 'one-stop shop' idea that they have aimed for, since the company's early stages. Vanessa and her

partner currently employ 15 people and Troico keeps growing! Whether on a construction site or in the office, Vanessa's honest and sincere approach makes clients and colleagues feel respected and confident in her team. She ensures each job is of superior quality, on time and on budget. Vanessa strives to grow the reputation of the construction and home renovation industry and ensure customer service is at the forefront of all projects. She is a member and supporter of the National Kitchen and Bath Association, the Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association and the Tri-Cities Chamber of Commerce. Vanessa holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Waterloo. She lives with her family in Vancouver, British Columbia.



**Courtney Rogers**  
**Renewal Design-Build**  
**Decatur, GA**

Courtney is an award-winning designer and graduate from the NKBA-Accredited University of Georgia. She knew right away that kitchen & bath design was the segment of the industry that she wanted to be a part of. Since her graduation in 2008, her passion

and drive to succeed have led to a thriving career. Courtney was the recipient of a 2013 Chrysalis Award as well as a 2011 Calla Award (given by the NKBA-GA Chapter). Her work has been featured in numerous printed and online publications such as Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles Magazine, Professional Remodeler Magazine, and Houzz.com. To fuel her passion, Courtney recently started the design blog aCLeaR design (aCLeaRdesign.blogspot.com), where she highlights current projects, design trends, and her own inspirations. Her work at Renewal Design-Build has enhanced her ability to create beautiful and innovative solutions while effectively balancing the individual budget of each client. The ability to turn a house into a home is the most rewarding part of her job as a designer. Courtney is a driver of innovation, a motivator of change, yet she remains grounded in efficiency, usability, and sustainability.



**Andrew Saladino**  
**Just Bath Vanities**  
**New York, NY**

Andrew Saladino is a member of the Young Entrepreneur Council and was recognized in 2011 by President Obama as a top young entrepreneur on the Empact100 America under 30 List. Saladino is the co-founder and CEO of Just Bath Vanities, an online retailer of all things bathroom including vanities and furniture. In 2013, Saladino was selected by The National Kitchen & Bath Association for the 30 under 30 award in its inaugural year for his first company, Kitchen Cabinet Kings. Saladino has four years of kitchen and bath experience and is passionate about learning everything the industry has to offer. Saladino's business advice has been featured in Mashable, Huffington Post, AOL Jobs, AMEX Open Forum, Yahoo! Small Business, and other major publications. Saladino is a graduate of New York University and has a degree in Computer Science and Business Studies.



**Stephanie Stead**  
**Willis**  
**Seattle, WA**

Since 2009, Stephanie A. Stead has been a sales representative for Willis, the distributor of DuPont™ Corian®, DuPont™ Zodiaq®, Artisan Sinks, & ARPA Laminate, in Western Washington. She attended Eastern Washington University, received her Non-

profit Fundraising Management Certification and is currently working towards her Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Management at the University of Washington. Stephanie is very active in the NKBA Puget Sound Chapter, serving as the 2012-13 Secretary, and 2014-15 VP of Membership. Her rare combination of motivation and personality enable her to actively promote and sponsor other members on a daily basis. As an example, she created and founded the Willis- DuPont™ Corian® Student Design Competition, in which local design students are encouraged to participate, whether active NKBA Student Members or those that have expressed interest in becoming members. She spends many hours promoting the competition at local colleges as well as pursuing a judging committee that will in kind encourage and mentor the submittals to best instill the NKBA's principal of design guidelines. In 2011 Stephanie was awarded the Willis Company's Founder Award, given to a select few in recognition of "excellence in individual accomplishments and going the extra mile".



**Ebony Stephenson**  
**Criner Remodeling**  
**Newport News, VA**

Ebony started her professional career in the kitchen and bath industry in 2007 when she graduated from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). She is now head of Design and Selections at Criner Remodeling in Newport News, Virginia where she focuses on high end custom residential remodeling. Kitchens, bathrooms, additions, decks, interior design, Universal Design, Aging in Place, and custom storage solutions are a few of her many specialties. Ebony excels in building personal relationships with her clients and uses her own daily struggles with Fibromyalgia to design custom spaces for elderly clients and people with disabilities. Managing the company's design showroom and vast inventory of samples are just a few of her many growing responsibilities at the award winning Criner Remodeling. Ebony currently serves as Vice President of Technology and Communications for the Virginia State Chapter of the NKBA. Being passionate, excited, goal oriented, and paying special attention to detail are just a few of the qualities that keep Ebony's clients happy and coming back for more of her design work.



**Molly N. Switzer, AKBD**  
**Precision Countertops**  
**Portland, Oregon**

Molly N. Switzer graduated with dual Bachelors of Science degrees in Interior Design and Housing Studies in 2008 from then NKBA accredited Oregon State University. She was involved in the NKBA student organization at OSU serving as Student Chapter President for three years and strived for extended out of classroom industry involvement for fellow students. She has continued involvement with the NKBA with the local Columbia River Chapter serving various positions such as co-chair of Academic Relations, Secretary and currently serving as the chapters VP of Programs. Molly has been with Precision Countertops for five years working closely with clients designing and selling custom kitchen and bath projects for one of the largest custom countertop companies in the US. Molly's passion for the industry revolves around the excitement of the latest trends, technology and creative design features that are constantly changing the way we think of kitchen and bath living.



**Kristy Weber**  
**Apex Surfaces, Inc.**  
**Harmony, Pa**

Kristy D. Weber has been working in the kitchen and bath industry for many years. She now works with custom designers and home builders to create interesting and unique countertop designs for kitchens, bathrooms, bars, and fireplaces out of multiple surfaces. Her early education in Business Marketing and love for granite, has enabled her to travel and live in multiple countries to better understand the granite business. Kristy currently is the Marketing Director for Apex Surfaces, Inc. located in Harmony, Pennsylvania where she also aids in overseeing their importing operations of granite and quartz. One of Kristy's many hobbies includes working with JBWYAA.org, a non-profit charity she created to help underprivileged children obtain scholarship funds and support to reach their academic and business goals.



**Kristin Whalen**  
**Home Depot**  
**Hadley, MA**

A Western Massachusetts based designer, artist, and philanthropist, Kristin Whalen started in the home design industry as a visual merchandiser before turning her passion for kitchen and bath design into a successful career. As the store's lead designer, it is Kristin's greatest pleasure to inspire her clients to live well and to live in style. A social media maven, Kristin has been a remarkable asset in organizing and promoting in-store clinics and events. Kristin holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Science with a focus in Residential and Commercial Interior Design from Bay Path College. Staying up to date on current trends and innovations is something Kristin contributes to her success. She is currently working towards her AKBD certification. Kristin is a true adventure seeker, and enjoys traveling in her free time.



**Robert Willis**  
**Whitehaus Collection**  
**West Haven, CT**

Robert Willis has been working in the kitchen and bath industry since 2007. Originally hired as a Graphic and Web Designer at Whitehaus Collection, he became the Art Director after a few years with the company. He currently holds the title of Marketing Director, to which he was promoted three years ago. He oversees the company's Art and Marketing departments and has made it a mission to push the company's online presence and use of new technologies. He has been instrumental to the implementation of the luxury brand's visual, print and online image. Willis holds a Bachelor's degree in Management, various Associate Degrees, and multiple Information Technology Certifications through the USAF.



**Kristi Wittmann**  
**Inside Outside**  
**Gulfport, MS**

Known for her superior customer service and personal relationship approach to design, Kristi has excelled in her four years of working in the Kitchen and Bath Design industry in South Mississippi. Kristi graduated with a Bachelors of Science degree in Interior Design from The University of Southern Mississippi, an accredited NKBA program. She graduated at the top of her class as well as received the "Most Outstanding Senior Award". Three months before she graduated, Kristi was hired as an assistant designer and receptionist at Inside Outside, a one stop source for cabinetry, countertops, tile, and high-end appliances. Within two and a half years she was promoted to showroom manager and head of sales and design. Kristi is experienced in both new construction and remodel, residential and commercial projects. She takes a hands-on approach and carries her projects through all aspects of the design process. She is the designer, draftsman, estimator and project manager. One of the most exciting things to Kristi about being in the Kitchen and Bath industry is the ability to take an idea or concept that a homeowner has and bring it to life



**Megan B. Zimny, AKBD**  
**The Kitchen & Floor Shoppe**  
**Beardstown, IL**

Megan Zimny is the owner of The Kitchen & Floor Shoppe, a full-service kitchen and bath design firm located in Beardstown, IL. Her business is founded upon her lifelong passion for design, along with offering her clients creative design solutions and hands-on service. Megan is a 2006 graduate of the Illinois Institute of Art in Schaumburg where she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Interior Design and later earned her Associate Kitchen and Bath Designer certification (AKBD). Zimny also co-designed a showroom display that was awarded second place in the 2008 NKBA Art of the Industry Design Competition. Dedication and an appreciation for this industry have allowed her to be successful and to continue fulfilling her goals as a kitchen and bath designer.