



## **The 2015 NKBA 30 Under 30**

### **Emily Alt**

#### **DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen, Comstock Park, MI**



Emily Alt has been in the professional design field since graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Interior Design from Adrian College in 2012. Emily currently works as an Interior Designer and Remodeling Consultant for DreamMaker Bath and Kitchen in Comstock Park, MI. Since being at DreamMaker for over two years, she has increased sales by a significant margin, and has also started a Houzz account to help increase exposure in West Michigan. In 2014, she holds the Vice President of Academic Relations position for the West Michigan NKBA Chapter and will be the Vice President of Programs for 2015. Emily believes that the best part of her job is seeing a remodeling project from beginning to end and truly making a positive impact in a client's life. She has volunteered her design services to both her elementary school and at her local Knights of Columbus Hall to help improve and update their spaces to better accommodate its users. She loves her career because it allows her to learn something new every day to help fuel her creativity, and at the end of the day, it is all about changing people's lives for the better by providing clients with the best experience possible.

### **Melissa Austin, AKBD**

#### **Affinity Stoneworks/Affinity Kitchen and Bath, Alpharetta, GA**



After graduating from Auburn University's CIDA accredited interior design program in 2010, Melissa Austin, AKBD, immediately began her design career with Affinity Stoneworks and Affinity Kitchen and Bath, its sister company, as a Sales and Design Consultant. She works with clients on a daily basis to assist them with their design challenges and bring their vision to life. Melissa is an Allied member of the American Society of Interior Designers and earned her Associate Kitchen and Bath Designer certification in the spring of 2014. She prides herself in the ability to oversee each project from start to finish, excelling in sales, product knowledge, and turn-key project management. Her outgoing personality and creative mindset have proven greatly successful, helping clients push themselves out of their comfort zone to create spaces that are functional to their lifestyle, visually appealing, and truly one-of-a-kind.



## **Jamie Banfield**

**Jamie Banfield Design, Surrey, BC**



A leading professional in interior design, Jamie Banfield has become a creative force in the industry, recognized for his signature West Coast style. Specializing in design for all spaces with a focus on kitchen and bath, Jamie has the ability to transform and create well-edited spaces that exude both function and beauty. His inviting interiors offer a contemporary feel that are also timeless and bold yet decorative and unassuming. With a passion for textures and sustainable design, he often uses reclaimed materials, offering a unique perspective to his finished rooms. Jamie's work can be seen in private residences throughout Western Canada.

Formally trained in interior design, with a complementary background in manufacturing, construction, and custom millwork, Jamie has an intrinsic understanding of the total design process.

Jamie frequently lends his style advice on stage at such shows as: *IDS West*, the *BC Home + Garden Show*, *Vancouver Home + Design Show*, and the *Edmonton Renovation Show*, to name a few. He also regularly contributes to *Home Décor & Renovation* magazine.

In the fall of 2014, Jamie expands his brand with the launch of *The BANFIELD Collection*, an exquisite new line of high-end cabinets in partnership with Troico Manufacturing. He also introduces a bespoke furniture line called *Paul Kristjan*. Each unique piece is handcrafted with a mix of materials from local reclaimed wood to salvaged metals.

## **Jonathan Barfell**

**Jenn-Air, Benton Harbor, MI**



Jon Barfell is a Marketing Specialist for the Brand Experience team, responsible for all design and architect outreach for Jenn-Air. This includes the development and administration of continuing education unit (CEU) programs, building relationships with national design organizations, and managing designer immersion sessions held in downtown Chicago. These designer immersions are two days of product knowledge featuring the latest technology and innovation, a CEU approved program, and interactive cooking demonstrations. Additional responsibilities include the management of the Jenn-Air Design Advisory Council. Comprised of 12 members, this group

represents a cross-section of noted and successful certified kitchen designers, architects,



interior designers, custom cabinet professionals and design marketing experts from across North America. This council provides Jenn-Air with in-depth information on the design industry, overall insight into the needs of design professionals and on-going feedback on new products, launches and marketing efforts.

Barfell joined Whirlpool Corporation in 2011 with a role in Global Procurement. Prior to joining Whirlpool, he spent four years working for Penske Logistics as a Project Manager, supporting the inbound and outbound logistics for Whirlpool in multiple roles within Supply Chain & Logistics.

Jon graduated from Central Michigan University with dual undergraduate degrees in Marketing and Supply Chain Management. During his time at CMU, Jon was also an active member of the American Marketing Association and Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity.

#### **Krista Benton, AKBD**

**CabinetWerks a div. of Orren Pickell Building, Northfield, IL**



Krista Benton, AKBD, graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Interior Design from the CIDA accredited Illinois Institute of Art-Schaumburg in 2006 and has been working in the kitchen and bath design industry since. Over the past several years she has earned her AKBD designation from the NKBA. Krista has also received her Certified Aging in Place Specialist (CAPS) designation from the National Association of Homebuilders (NAHB). Her designs combine functionality, creativity and her clients' style to create unique and inviting spaces. Krista's attention to detail makes her customer's dream kitchen, bath, office, library or custom closet become a reality. She has had work published in Northshore living, Springfield Scene and featured on Houzz.com, as well as being awarded "best kitchen" in the 2013 Lakeland Builders Association Parade of Homes. Krista designs spaces for both new homes and remodel projects for Orren Pickell Building Group, a high end custom builder on the north shore in the Chicago area. As the lead cabinet designer she is responsible for the design, drawings, ordering and overseeing the install of these projects down to the last knob.



**Danielle Bohn, AKBD**  
**Creative Kitchen Designs, Inc., Anchorage, AK**



With a Bachelor of Science Degree in Interior Design and minor in Business Marketing and Management from NKBA accredited University of Nebraska Kearney, Danielle Bohn, AKBD, has a solid foundation for success in the Kitchen and Bath Industry. During her college career she served as the Secretary on her NKBA Student Chapter, received the 2007/2008 1st Place for her Bath design in the NKBA Student Design Competition, Toto/NKBA Outstanding Student Scholarship, Honorable Mention in her Senior Showcase, and was one of the first college seniors at her university to sit for and earn her AKBD following graduation. Danielle's zest for adventure uprooted her husband and herself from their Nebraska home to continue her career in Anchorage, Alaska at Creative Kitchen Designs, Inc. as a fulltime Associate Kitchen and Bath Designer following a summer internship with the company in 2008.

Danielle has had several of her kitchen designs published in the Alaska's Best Kitchens Magazine, awarding her 1st, 3rd, and Honorable Mention Positions. Over the past 4 years, she has dedicated her passion and time to the NKBA and the Kitchen and Bath Industry by volunteering on the Alaska NKBA chapters' executive Board for several positions including VP Communications, VP Programs and now serving as their 2014-2015 Chapter President. Since 2012, she has given back to her local community by volunteering with the Neighbor Works Paint the Town, a nationwide initiative for neighborhood enhancement projects. Currently working toward her CKD and CBD certifications, Danielle is passionate about the kitchen and bath industry, ambitious about her future, and eager to continue her education in the field.

**Stephanie Brick, Assoc. AIA, LEED GA**  
**Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths, Springfield, VA**



Stephanie Brick's passion and ability to bring innovative solutions to unique architectural problems has earned her the admiration of clients and colleagues alike. Stephanie enjoys the challenges of renovating existing design and constantly strives to create work that exceeds client expectations.

Stephanie creatively responds to client needs and wants, while staying respectful of their budget and the context of their home. Her



professional background in architecture and interior design, and leadership roles in both design and project management at her current firm, has given her a well-rounded understanding of the full-scale remodel process. The key to her success is educating clients throughout the design process and maintaining strong communication at all times.

Stephanie is driven to innovate and succeed. She was the first student at her university to become LEED accredited. Stephanie's work is published in nationally distributed Signature Kitchens & Baths magazine and earlier this year, she was granted a United States Patent for one of her innovative and forward-thinking designs (Patent #8,662,326 B2).

Since having earned her professional degree in Architecture from the Pennsylvania State University in 2010, Stephanie enjoys travel both to broaden her perspective and continue her education in design, sustainability, psychology, and ergonomics. In her spare time, she teaches students about design through the Architecture in the Schools program. Stephanie also manages and sponsors the SEED Award of Distinction, an annual award that promotes and encourages green education and principles to college students, established in 2010 by Stephanie Brick Design.

### **Deena Castello**

**Cabochoch Surfaces & Fixtures, La Jolla, CA**



Since receiving the honor of being selected for the inaugural NKBA 30 Under 30 program in 2013, Deena Castello has continued to expand her businesses as well as broaden her influence on the industry. As the owner of kitchen and bath showrooms Cabochoch Surfaces & Fixtures and Lavish - The Bath Gallery, Deena continues to inspire the La Jolla design community through her unparalleled curation. Her boutique-style showrooms provide an environment that breeds creativity while her well-appointed staff caters to the needs of industry professionals and homeowners alike in sourcing unique products for every style and budgetary allowance. Gearing up for her role as VP of Communications for the NKBA San Diego Chapter, Deena is excited to further serve her commitment to the future of design.

### **Michelle Eglington**

**Euro-Line Appliances West, Inc., Vancouver, BC**



Michelle Eglinton has been a part of the kitchen and appliance industry her whole life, starting with modeling for AEG appliances as a baby. After graduating from Trent University with a Bachelor of Business Administration with Honors, she officially joined Euro-Line Appliances in 2012. Michelle was honored to receive the Employee of the Year award in 2012 through the Oakville Awards for Business Excellence. As an active member of the Oakville Chamber, Michelle sits on the board for the Young Professionals and Entrepreneurs Group (YPEG) organizing after hour networking events and mentorship opportunities. Currently Vice President of Euro-Line Appliances West, Michelle handles the administration side of the business as well as multi-residential quotes and proposals.

### **Monty Elsabbagh**

**Canadian General Contractors Group, Ottawa, ON**



Monty Elsabbagh is from Ottawa, Canada and is the Director of Marketing for Canadian General Contractors Group (CGCG), Canada's largest home renovation company with offices in Ottawa, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. His leadership and knowledge of marketing was monumental in helping the company expand across Canada bringing in more qualified leads and brand exposure than ever before. Prior to joining CGCG, Monty operated a Local Internet Marketing firm, Local SEO Experts, which he started in his mom's basement. He started on Elance - the world's largest freelancing platform. He grew the company to be the #1 ranked SEO company in North America on Elance, generating six-figures. Early on he knew that the internet was the way of the future; he spent months learning and experimenting with different online marketing techniques and strategies to eventually ranking sites to the top of Google. Monty gives back by helping young entrepreneurs, locally and in developing countries, how to get started through freelancing and online marketing.



**Kara Feinberg**

**Allied Kitchen & Bath, Fort Lauderdale, FL**



Kara Feinberg is a sales professional and has been at Allied Kitchen and Bath for over 5 years. Her experience includes sales and marketing to home owners, designers, builders, and architects. Her expertise is in fine plumbing and the decorative hardware luxury market and has recently expanded to Cabinetry for the Kitchen and Bath. She has a keen fashion sense, is passionate about her clients, and loves the industry as a whole.

Kara has a passion for giving back in the Community where she lives and works. She has volunteered at the Habitat for Humanity Volunteer Build, the Covenant House, and the LLS Light the Night Walk. She is actively involved with assisting in the planning of events at her company for many non-profits that they host throughout the year at their expansive 15,000 sq. ft. showroom.

She was born and raised in South Florida and plans to make it her home. Kara hails from a home remodeling family and is looking to follow in the footsteps of the success and business they have built in her home state.

**Megan Greve, NCIDQ, Registered Interior Designer**

**Edmond Kitchen and Bath, LLC, Edmond, OK**



Megan Greve is a highly motivated and passionate professional who has found her perfect fit in the kitchen and bath industry. She graduated with honors from the University of Central Oklahoma with a BFA in Interior Design in 2008. Upon graduation, she was chosen by the faculty to receive the Award of Excellence for the top graduating interior designer. She has since become a registered interior designer with the state of Oklahoma and NCIDQ certified. Since 2007, Megan has been an integral part of the team at Edmond Kitchen and Bath LLC, one of the most influential companies in the local market which provides full-service design/build remodels to the greater Oklahoma City area. The company is known to specialize in large, creative, detail-oriented, and challenging projects. Her listening and analytical skills of listening and analysis have gained her the trust of company owners, clients, and peers. Edmond Kitchen and Bath's recent expansion to a large retail appliance showroom has afforded Megan



further opportunities in showroom design and retail sales. In addition to kitchen and bath remodels, Megan's experience includes whole house remodels, kitchen and bath design for new construction, and development of best-practices in estimating and operations within the growing business. Megan's early background in the soft furnishings industry contributes to her ability to design fully rounded beautiful projects. Megan enjoys her local Oklahoma NKBA chapter and the opportunities it provides for learning and professional development.

**Katharine Hatcher**  
**Southern Kitchens, Louisville, KY**



Originally from Wellington, New Zealand, Katharine Hatcher relocated to Louisville, KY in 2007. She graduated from Louisville Technical Institute top of her class and began working with Southern Kitchens in 2010. Her background in interior design helps bring cabinetry, hardware and countertop selections together to create a polished space.

Katharine is creative, detail oriented, and passionate about design. She takes pride in incorporating unique details and enjoys the challenge of taking a project to the next level by taking time to refine details.

Remodel and custom projects are her forte.

She works closely with several experienced remodelers in the Louisville area and also enjoys working with interior designers. The majority of her clients are from referrals from happy former clients.

Katharine wants to help each client through this sometimes overwhelming process to create a functional design they will love for years to come. She believes that thoughtful design shines through in any scale of a project.

**Jag Khangura**  
**Kitply Industries, Surrey, BC**



Jag Khangura leads Kitply in the pursuit of achieving operational excellence to grow the company into an industry leader. As head of operations, Jag drives operational strategy, develops supplier partnerships, and motivates the team to succeed together, and have fun in the process. He is committed to improving operational efficiencies and implementing business practices that enhance customer experience and create an inspired workplace environment.



As a managing partner, Jag has significantly contributed to the company's rapid growth and success to date. In addition to establishing new supplier partnerships, he helped grow Kitply's product roster from a mere 28 products to over 21,000 products within the first 3 years of Kitply's inception. Jag continues to lead, identify, and develop the partnership opportunities and expansion strategies that are advancing Kitply into new markets across North America.

### **Jennifer Murphy**

**Associates in Building + Design, Fort Collins, CO**



Jennifer Murphy was born and raised in Western Colorado, and developed her affinity for improving the relationship between space and its users from a young age. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design from Colorado State University's CIDA accredited program, and spent a semester studying the evolution of efficiency and aesthetics of the built environment at Florence University of the Arts in Firenze, Italy. Since graduating in 2012, she has been working as an interior designer for Associates in Building + Design in Fort Collins which was recently announced as one of the top 500 remodelers in the country by Qualified Remodeler, August 2014. Jennifer is a member of NKBA, CIDC, and serves as the events chair for the Northern Colorado IIDA. She is currently working towards her AKBD accreditation. Jennifer constantly strives to bring creativity to timeless design, and enjoys her current position being involved from initial concept through completion of construction for both remodels and custom builds. Her passions for aesthetics and function don't stop at building design, she also pursues interests in graphic design, typography, film photography and urban design.

### **Jessica Petrino**

**Yale Appliance and Lighting, Boston, MA**



Jessica Petrino began her professional career in the kitchen and bath industry in 2013 after graduating from Brandeis University with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Philosophy. At age 22, she became the youngest appliance consultant at Yale Appliance and Lighting, a Boston appliance dealership with one of the most experienced appliance sales teams in the country. Jessica's approach to sales is educational, inclusive, and professional.

She was the first in her field to apply her passion for writing to develop a



client network through inbound marketing. Over the past year, Jessica published 39 blogs on a wide variety of topics educating clients as to which appliances best fit their needs, design preferences, and lifestyle. Her blogs are followed by clients, architects, designers, builders, and developers worldwide. Jessica is looking forward to the opportunity to learn from fellow NKBA 30 Under 30 members and to continue her education and professional development in the kitchen and bath industry.

**Kerri Plaza**  
**Cabinets Extraordinaire, Sarasota, FL**



Kerri Plaza is a graduate of the International Academy of Design and Technology in Tampa Florida with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Interior Design. While in school, she actively participated in the student chapters of ASID and IIDA where she served on the board as Secretary for both organizations, as well as worked full-time in the granite and marble industry. After graduation, she performed freelance CAD work and three years ago, she joined Cabinets Extraordinaire in Sarasota Florida, a kitchen and bath remodeling company. She was quickly given the opportunity to advance within the company by taking initiative in the planning and implementation of project tasks. She worked her way up from receptionist to the position she holds today, Operations Manager. Kerri works in collaboration with her co-workers to achieve excellence within the industry by making use of technology and procedures, which she has helped implement as well as assure that they are being utilized properly by others within the company. One of the youngest members in her chapter, Kerri has been actively involved with the NKBA since 2012. She is currently serving as Secretary for the Central Florida Chapter of NKBA and has been a key member of the board since the beginning of 2014. She loves keeping current with new innovations within the industry and finding useful and creative ways to implement them within the company. She is always open to learning new ideas that she can utilize in order to constantly improve company procedures as well as her own personal knowledge within this amazing industry.

**Chelsey Preuss**  
**Minnesota Cabinets, Inc., Marshall, MN**



Chelsey Preuss grew up in the small town of Adrian, MN. Her passion for interior design started at the age of 16. Her manager at the time asked her to



rearrange some home décor and after continuously being complimented on her work, she looked into Interior Design programs.

At the age of 18 she attended NKBA Accredited Alexandria Technical & Community College. During her time there, she focused mainly on Kitchen and Bath design. In her second year, she was awarded first place locally in the NKBA/GE Charette competition.

Two months before graduating college, Chelsey was offered a job at Minnesota Cabinets, a kitchen & bath design/build firm. She started out as an assistant and within a year was designing and managing her own projects. Currently, she assists the other designers, creates designs, makes selections, manages projects and the showroom, and is in charge of social media for the company.

Chelsey aspires to teach each and every one of her customers the pros and cons of different products so that they can make an educated decision for their project so she can create a signature design just for them.

**Leanne Richard**  
**The Home Depot, Auburn, MA**



Leanne Richard is a kitchen and bath designer from Gardner Massachusetts. She has always been passionate and eager to work in the design industry. Leanne's passion and creativity led her into a BFA in Architecture from UMass Amherst that launched her career. She is currently the lead designer at the Auburn Ma, Home Depot, where she is surrounded by the top 5 designers in the district. Leanne enjoys networking with others who share the same passion for the industry and enjoys expanding her education in the field in any way she can. Recently, she teamed up with other designers she met along the way to begin working towards her NKBA certification. She enjoys time on job sites, learning and watching her designs come to life, and striving to give each project its full potential through her knowledge, while keeping up with trends and functionality. This creative drive has led her to be very successful with her career as a young designer in the NKBA industry.



**Amanda Rivera**

**Moen Incorporated, North Olmstead, OH**



Amanda Rivera got her first taste of the kitchen and bath industry as a marketing intern at Moen Incorporated, where she was responsible for researching and compiling comprehensive analyses of the K&B marketplace including style trends and customer insights. Amanda quickly learned that the industry is about more than just faucets – it is also about the experience consumers have with the products, resources, and services offered by Moen. Amanda incorporated this insight into her new position as Wholesale Marketing Coordinator, where she led select marketing projects from development to execution. She played a key role in assuring the placement of Moen’s MotionSense kitchen product across hundreds of showrooms in the US, and received Moen’s “President’s Achievement Award” for her efforts. Today, as a Marketing Communications Specialist, Amanda is responsible for all communications that reach out to builders and plumbers, including new product and social media efforts. Amanda, who is bilingual, is also the driving force behind many of Moen’s Hispanic trade initiatives for builders and plumbers, including working as the Moen liaison with all Hispanic trade organizations. Amanda enjoys the versatility that comes with the nature of her work – and the opportunity to play a role in improving products, technologies, and processes that drive the industry.

**Katie Roberts**

**Amerock, Mooresville, NC**



Katie started her career in the kitchen and bath industry one year ago as Assistant Product Manager for Amerock. She has since been promoted to Associate Product Manager involved in all of the company's product categories. Katie graduated from East Carolina University in May 2011 with a degree in Marketing. After graduation, she spent two years as a Sales Rep for a major tool company. Katie then returned to the South to work for Amerock and has been in product marketing ever since.

As Associate Product Manager, she helps manage the cabinet hardware category as well as bath hardware, drapery hardware, hook and rail and wall plates. Katie also leads all of Amerock's social media efforts and is considered the trend expert around the office. She is heavily involved in all of Amerock's events including the planning and execution of trade shows



like KBIS and more exclusive gatherings such as blogger events in NYC. Katie hopes to continue to use her creativity and passion to make a difference in the kitchen and bath industry.

**Victoria Ross**  
**Cosentino, Houston, TX**



Victoria Ross has been working with Cosentino for over 4 years. Prior to joining Cosentino's team, Victoria attended Seattle University and graduated in 2009 with a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing. Throughout her time at Cosentino, she has had the opportunity to work as a local promoter in the Seattle area, as a Regional Design Sales Manager for the Western United States, and most recently, as a Regional Design Sales Manager in the Northwestern United States and Canada. Victoria has seen Cosentino through tremendous growth and has contributed on multiple levels to the company's success. Through managing and executing targeted marketing campaigns for existing and new products (including Dekton Ultracompact Surfaces and Silestone Quartz), organizing industry events throughout the West Coast, writing nationally distributed newsletters, and building relationships with companies all over the country, Victoria has balanced efficiency with care, ensuring that all members of the trade feel as if they are part of the Cosentino family. Victoria also believes in educating those designers who will impact the future of design by means of product knowledge trainings, CEU, and AIA certified courses and designer product focus groups.

**Diana Runyon**  
**Select Kitchen and Bath, Springfield, VA**



Diana Runyon is the Lead Kitchen Sales Rep for SELECT Kitchen & Bath, a leading design/remodel firm in Northern Virginia. She began her eight year career with the company as a carpenter's assistant, working on higher end kitchens. She next became Production Coordinator, responsible for developing scheduling and service delivery systems, putting structure into project management, resulting in 95% on-time project completions. Having a desire for more comprehensive understanding of the industry, Diana turned her interest to sales and design. Through a brief apprenticeship, Diana quickly learned the component parts of design



and the sales skills necessary to develop and organize new projects. In her first year, Diana's personal gross sales were over \$1.2 million, with consistent increases since. Diana regularly attends trade and product seminars to increase her practical working knowledge, and will shortly begin courses for accreditation as a licensed installation contractor. Diana volunteers as an assistant to the Secretary of The Explorers Club -Washington Group, and recently completed a certification program with the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team.

**Nikki Sayers**  
**Huntwood Cabinets, Edmonton, Alberta**



With over eight years of experience in the kitchen and bath industry, Nikki Sayers exudes passion and drive. In the last 3 years of her employment with Huntwood Custom Cabinets, Nikki served as a Design and Sales Consultant designing cabinets for every room in the home. After one year Nikki had achieved the #1 top ranking sales numbers in US and Canada. After holding the position of #1 sales person for over a year, Nikki went on to become the Sales Manager for her branch, managing over 10 designers at Huntwood Edmonton's Showroom.

Nikki's effective leadership skills are attributed to her natural instincts and her impressive level of emotional intelligence. Nikki's passion and commitment to her customers, peers, and employees is a true testament to her success. Nikki defines what it means to be a leader in the industry, and she is honored to be recognized as one of the 2015 NKBA 30 Under 30.

**Damara Scheeler**  
**North Star Remodeling, St. Paul, MN**



Damara Scheeler began her professional career in the Kitchen and Bath Industry one year out of high school working as an assistant to the Sales Manager at North Star Surfaces. In her short time there she worked her way up to Sales Associate for Kitchen and Bath Design Firms for the WI area where her love for kitchen and bath design grew and flourished.

She registered for classes at NKBA Accredited Century College and took on another job in addition to working full time at North Star Surfaces. During her time at Century, she was voted NKBA Student Chapter President. Damara started her career as a Design Consultant at North Star Remodeling during her second year of school and has worked there



ever since, assisting the Senior Designer with custom hand-drafting, space planning, and CAD drawings, as well as managing North Star's Houzz account. She is working toward her AKBD certification and is looking forward to furthering her education in the industry.

Damara believes that the ability to capture the client's lifestyle by creating a space that is an expression of themselves all while intertwining your own personality is the most rewarding part of the design process.

**Megan Siason**  
**Marrokal Design & Remodeling, San Diego, CA**



An enthusiastic and passionate young professional, Megan Siason has over 5 years of design experience in different facets of the industry including kitchen and bath. By 2012, she received interior design degrees from NKBA accredited San Diego Mesa College as well as San Diego State University all while serving as a board member to the NKBA and ASID student chapters at both schools. Her involvement in interior design organizations continued after graduation as she has participated in and chaired many of NKBA's events and activities and currently serves as the Communications Director for ASID San Diego. Megan successfully passed the IDEX exam to become a CID (Certified Interior Designer) in the state of California. Megan is currently studying to become an AKBD with goals of eventually obtaining CKD/ CBD certifications. She also has plans of one day sitting for the NCIDQ exam.

Shortly after graduation, Megan joined the team of Marrokal Design & Remodeling. As the first employed interior designer, she contributed to the revamping of the "design/ build" process and has proven to be a key team member. She represents the company by presenting kitchen-focused seminars and offering product selection and design services, which receives exceptional client feedback from Marrokal clients.

**Tyl Thomas**  
**Kitchen & Bath Expo, Virginia Beach, VA**



Since graduating from NKBA Accredited Virginia Polytechnic and State University (Virginia Tech) Housing program in 2007, Tyl Thomas has been excelling in the kitchen and bath profession. Immediately after graduation, she established herself into a Kitchen Designer position and helped develop the kitchen sales division while learning the foundations of the industry.



Tyl currently is a Kitchen and Bath Designer at Kitchen & Bath Expo. She is responsible for overseeing the whole kitchen and/or bath project (sometimes entertainment and storage solution projects) from measurement and design, helping with material selections, ordering, scheduling installations and follow-up. Her clients and peers appreciate her immense knowledge of design and products, attention to detail, effective listening, and diligence. Tyl is very passionate about designing and loves seeing the design process unfold into the finished result.

### **Alexandria Van Nuys**

**Lane Homes and Remodeling, Richmond, VA**



Alexandria Van Nuys holds a Bachelor's degree in Apparel, Housing and Resource Management with a focus in Kitchen and Bath design from the NKBA Accredited Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech). In her senior year, she placed in the top 10 for the national NKBA/GE Charette competition. After graduating in 2011, Alexandria worked in northern Virginia for a kitchen design company. In spring of 2013 she moved to Richmond, VA and became a design consultant for the renowned design-build firm Lane Homes & Remodeling. She now works on a variety of projects including kitchens, bathrooms, outdoor living spaces, and additions. Taking a customer's house and turning it into their dream home is Alexandria's favorite part of the job. She does this by combining the latest trends with the customers' personal style, making sure they will enjoy the space for years to come. She believes educating potential customers is critical to being successful and does so by writing e-newsletter articles, presenting at seminars, and sharing project video updates on the company's blog. Alexandria is currently studying for her AKBD accreditation and looks forward to the wonderful learning experience the NKBA 30 under 30 program has to offer.

### **Brynne Welper**

**The Home Depot, Richfield, MN**



Brynne Welper is a kitchen and bath designer for Home Depot in Richfield, Minnesota. Brynne grew up with a passion for art and color, but it was not until she took an interior design course in high school that she found her true calling. Brynne went on to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Interior Design from Oregon State University, where she developed an interest in working on residential projects. She started her career working for herself doing personal color consultations before obtaining her first position in the kitchen and



bath industry as a designer with Home Depot in March of 2012. Brynne has worked on a variety of kitchen and bath projects, specializing in solving the challenges presented by early 20<sup>th</sup> century homes in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. Brynne is known for her positive attitude and exceptional customer service where she strives to provide a personal experience to every customer. As a result, Brynne has been awarded several customer service awards through Home Depot and has built a strong referral business with her largest customer being a local senior living cooperative. Currently, Brynne is working towards her AKBD certification and expanding her knowledge of advancements made in the kitchen and bath industry.

**Elizabeth Wesley**  
**Lifestyle Kitchen Studio, Grand Rapids, MI**



Elizabeth Wesley is a recent graduate of Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, Michigan where she received a BFA in Interior Design with a minor in Graphic Design in 2013. Having studied Interior and Graphic Design, Elizabeth approaches the creative process with the ability to keep innovation and the greater well-being of an environment in mind. Textiles, layouts, branding, and the understanding of collaboration and sustainability have been essential to her creative outlook. In February of 2014, she was the 2nd place winner for the inaugural Leading Edge Design Challenge for undergraduate college and university students in the U.S. and Canada. Elizabeth is the Vice President of Government Relations for the West Michigan NKBA chapter and is currently working as a Designer at Lifestyle Kitchen Design Studio in Downtown Grand Rapids.