

LOCAL GUIDE TO ALL THINGS HOME

# haven

September/October 2025



**A Homage to Handcraft:**  
**Blending Traditional Architecture *with* Modern Utility**

UNCOVERING THE STORY OF A HOME

TRESSS® AQUATECTURAL DESIGNS:

## Cecilia Heard

THE LEADERSHIP  
BEHIND ONE OF AMERICA'S  
MOST INNOVATIVE  
HOME BRANDS

**Women**  
*in*  
**CONSTRUCTION**  
*issue*



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TRESSS® AQUATECTURAL DESIGNS

# Cecilia Heard

THE LEADERSHIP  
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## Upcoming Events

### September 2025

#### Home Artisans of Indiana Meetings

##### September 4th & every other Thursday

Hub & Spoke – 8100 E. 106th St.,  
Fishers, IN 46038 (Fishers Chapter)

##### September 10th & every other Wednesday

All In Painting – 122 S. Park Blvd.,  
Greenwood, IN 46143 (Greenwood Chapter)

##### September 11th & every other Thursday

Indiana Design Center – 200 S. Rangeline  
Road, Carmel, IN 46032 (Carmel Chapter)

Home improvement professionals experience common challenges on their journey to success. Home Artisans is a curated community of like-minded business leaders dedicated to personal and professional growth and guided by a commitment to superior quality, value, and outstanding customer service.

Visit [homeartisans.com](http://homeartisans.com)

#### 2025 Lee Supply Corp. Home-A-Rama

##### September 11th-14th, 18th-21st, & 25th-28th

The 2025 Lee Supply Home-A-Rama is returning to Chatham Hills in Westfield this fall! Tour stunning, state-of-the-art homes showcased by some of Central Indiana's premier custom home builders.

Visit [bagi.com/event/home-a-rama](http://bagi.com/event/home-a-rama)

### October 2025

#### Haven July/August 2025 Cover Party

##### October 2nd, 5:30pm-7:30pm

aaNovo Home-A-Rama show home in  
Chatham Hills – 1445 Chatham Ridge Court,  
Westfield, IN 46074

Join us to celebrate the Sept./Oct. 2025 issue of Haven featuring *Women in Construction* and hosted by TRESSS® Aquatectural Designs. Take advantage of the opportunity to connect with top professionals in the home services industry of Greater Indianapolis, all while supporting the featured charity, Light for Levi Foundation. This event is free and open to the public, but space is limited. RSVP is required. Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served.

RSVP at [havenhome.me/magazine/next-cover-party](http://havenhome.me/magazine/next-cover-party)

#### Home Artisans of Indiana Meetings

##### October 2nd & every other Thursday

Hub & Spoke – 8100 E. 106th St.,  
Fishers, IN 46038 (Fishers Chapter)

##### October 8th & every other Wednesday

All In Painting – 122 S. Park Blvd.,  
Greenwood, IN 46143 (Greenwood Chapter)

##### October 9th & every other Thursday

Indiana Design Center – 200 S. Rangeline  
Road, Carmel, IN 46032 (Carmel Chapter)

(See September listing for description)

Visit [homeartisans.com](http://homeartisans.com)

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# community

## CALENDAR

### SEPTEMBER

#### MOVIES AT MIDTOWN

Midtown Plaza, Carmel, IN

September 2nd – October 31st

[midtownplazacarmel.com](http://midtownplazacarmel.com)

#### CARMEL FOOD TRUCK NIGHTS

Ginther Green, Carmel, IN

Fridays, now through October 3rd

[visithamiltoncounty.com](http://visithamiltoncounty.com)

#### JUPITER FLIGHTS BALLOON FESTIVAL AT CONNER PRAIRIE

Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN

September 5th – September 7th

[connerprairie.org](http://connerprairie.org)

#### 2025 LEE SUPPLY CORP. HOME-A-RAMA

Chatham Hills, Westfield, IN

September 11th-14th, 18th-21st, &  
25th-28th

[bagi.com/home-a-rama/2025](http://bagi.com/home-a-rama/2025)

#### STUCKEY FARM APPLE PLUCKIN' DAYS

Stuckey Farm, Sheridan, IN

September 13th-14th, 20th-21st, & 27th-28th

[stuckeyfarm.com](http://stuckeyfarm.com)

#### STUCKEY FARM ORCHARD & CIDER MILL

Stuckey Farm, Sheridan, IN

September 14th – October 27th

[stuckeyfarm.com](http://stuckeyfarm.com)

#### TOUCH A TRUCK

Johnson County Park Shelter Area, Ninevah, IN

September 20th

[jocoparks.com](http://jocoparks.com)

#### OKTOBERFEST

Downtown, Indianapolis

September 26th

[indianapolisoktoberfest.com](http://indianapolisoktoberfest.com)

### OCTOBER

#### HEADLESS HORSEMAN FESTIVAL AT CONNER PRAIRIE

Conner Prairie, Fishers, IN

Thursdays through Sundays, October 2nd –  
26th

[connerprairie.org](http://connerprairie.org)

#### BREWFARI

Indianapolis Zoo, Indianapolis

October 4th

[indianapoliszoo.com](http://indianapoliszoo.com)

#### WORLD FOOD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Indiana State Fairgrounds, Indianapolis

October 16th – 19th

[worldfoodchampionships.com](http://worldfoodchampionships.com)

#### STUCKEY FARM PUMPKIN PICKIN' DAYS

Stuckey Farm, Sheridan, IN

October 18th-19th & 25th-26th

[stuckeyfarm.com](http://stuckeyfarm.com)

## WOMEN BUILD IT 2025:

# AN INDUSTRY COMING TOGETHER

by Bailey Shelton | photo by Adam Grubb Media

Power, presence, and purpose are center stage at the 2025 Women Build It Conference, where leaders in home design and construction from across Indianapolis came together to challenge norms, share strategies, and own their influence.

The annual Women Build It Conference, hosted in August, is a daylong opportunity for women in the home design and construction industry to network and learn together. This year's conference has become the largest and most successful event of its series, with over 400 women in attendance across the industry.

In the spirit of continuous improvement, a planning committee of female leaders was formed and thoughtfully shaped every aspect of the conference, from keynotes to breakout sessions and beyond.



## MEET THE KEYNOTES



### Lamiaa Daif

Daif, a certified leadership coach, former worldwide strategy leader at Apple, and investor, is committed to empowering women to reach their goals. With over 15 years in the private equity and tech industries, she is a globally recognized business leader.

For Daif's keynote, she presents strategies women can develop to shape their career as well as the culture of their companies. She believes women in construction can especially benefit from clarity, courage, communication, and connection with their team at large.

Daif says, "power is not a personality trait, it's a choice." In her presentation, she emphasizes that women do not need to earn their power; it's already inside of them. They just need to own it.

### Lisa Mitchell

For everything words can't say, we're left with body language. Lisa Mitchell is an Indianapolis-based expert on body language and nonverbal communication. She teaches that through the art of silent conversation, women can improve their everyday interactions. Key gestures, expressions, and postures can help decode what people are really saying.

Mitchell also describes the "liking gap", which is a psychological principle that a person's behavior and choices can be influenced by how much they perceive a person likes or dislikes them. This can be make or break in a team setting, where a bad vibe from leadership can leave the whole team questioning their position.



[Womenbuildindy.com](https://www.womenbuildindy.com)

As the 2025 Women Build It Conference comes to a close, Indianapolis area women are already setting their sights on next year. Thank you to everyone who joined us. We can't wait to see you in 2026!

# Incorporate FEMININE ELEMENTS

## Into a Space *with these*

*by Bailey Shelton*

A woman's touch goes beyond the florals and pastels that generally spring to mind from traditional stereotypes of femininity. Not everyone wants a home that calls to mind a rose garden or nana's cross-stitch. Still, a space where you feel at home can benefit from feminine elements, to make a room more inviting, cozy, warm, creative, or unique.

4  
TIPS

### WHAT IS FEMININITY IN DESIGN?

To start, think of what you're hoping to incorporate into your space. This may be heavily determined by your personality, or interpretation of feminine features. For some, fresh flowers and soft fabrics can exude femininity, where others might be drawn to the drama of light filtering in through billowing curtains, or the fenestrated glass panels of a vintage breakfront. In terms of traditional interior design, most agree that feminine design is dominated by lighter color palettes, soft textures, and curved edges, but your home should suit you. If a sense of order is more your style, forego excessive ornamentation for something that better fits your life.

### DETAILS ARE THE KEY

While modernist design is having its moment, the details of a home can set the tone for your space. Add feminine elements to your home through details like hardware on cabinetry or unique patterns in textiles. This light shade from Aarven, for example, seems on the surface to be a sleek, geometric fixture, but when examined closely includes a hidden safari texture. Of course, some details might be less subtle for the more vibrant household. The work of South Bend/Chicago artist Jonathan Randall Grant is a great



**Aarven** Origami Paper Lightshade Globe 'White Safari Toile', \$54.00, [aarven.com](http://aarven.com)

Photo courtesy of Aarven





example of vibrant, playful color in an aesthetically pleasing and culturally potent setting. His work, especially as murals or on room dividers, is well suited for feminine spaces.

#### **IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, GREEN PLANTS OR GREAT VIEWS**

If florals are not well-suited to a space, plants can often fill that void while still allowing a home to feel bountiful, clean, and inviting. Monesteras and pathos plants are common and easy to tend choices, but cactuses also lend themselves to a unique visual without the close attention and care—a peanut cactus, with its long fingers and soft needles, will even occasionally produce a red bloom.

Alternatively, for those who respect nature from a distance, embrace the natural light and landscape through large picture windows. These views can define a space, often even better than anything you could hang on the walls.

#### **COMFORT IN FURNITURE AND TEXTILES**

Often comfort can be misconstrued as soft; but a truly welcoming space might benefit from some good old fashioned feminine sensibility. Consider whether furniture like couches are at a comfortable height, or whether they'll shift easily. A carpet might look pretty but feel unpleasant underfoot. The same goes for throw blankets—if it will spend its whole life folded and draped over the back of the couch, that blanket might not belong in the room at all. If necessity is the mother of invention, utility is the daughter.

Above all, ask yourself how you want to spend time in a space, and what style speaks to you when no one else is around. Ultimately, your space can be as personalized as you are, and there's no better way to express yourself than in your home.



BAKER CONTRACTING LLC:

# Cozy & Contemporary: A Dream Modern Farmhouse Made Reality

*by Bailey Shelton | photos by Jeff Hart with Hart Home Media*

When Chris and April Templin began the build for their new home, they knew they didn't want any compromises. After raising their children, the empty-nesters could tell exactly what they needed and wanted out of a home, no more, no less. They began with a preliminary outline and a list of wants and needs. The basic ingredients of what would eventually become their 2,053 square-foot modern farmhouse, complete with covered porches, a woodburning fireplace, outdoor kitchen, spa-like master bathroom, and eight acres of countryside.

"It is exactly what we wanted. We love our porches, we love our kitchen and living area, our spa retreat in our bathroom and bedroom," says April Templin.

The Templins chose Baker Contracting for their home build after searching for a budget-minded custom home builder that

could meet all their wishes for the eventual home.

"Isaiah reached out to Chris a couple of times to see if there's any questions we needed answered and his genuine kindness and communication helped draw us to make our decision to go with Baker," April says. "They made our dream become a reality."

Baker Contracting's designer, Lindsay Mckinney, worked closely with the couple throughout the project. She helped them choose the perfect finishes throughout the home. They particularly loved the chandelier for their foyer, a gold & acrylic chandelier that resembles antlers. "I knew we were going to work really well together," says Mckinney, "I felt like I really understood the concept, feel, and style that they were wanting and brought that to life."

The property also features a canning kitchen for the Templins to preserve vegetables from their garden. Majestic Stone Imports of Indianapolis helped bring the outdoor kitchen and fireplace to life, as well as the primary kitchen, which features sage green painted cabinets from 1951 Cabinetry.

April Templin says, "We couldn't have asked for a better team to be working with than the Baker



team. There was always open communication, very easy to work with even when we changed our mind on some things. The whole team is very friendly."

For help making your dream home a reality, reach out to the dedicated team at Baker Contracting at [baker-contracting.com](http://baker-contracting.com).



**BAKER CONTRACTING LLC**  
204 N. Main Street  
Kokomo, IN 46902  
765.432.6631  
[baker-contracting.com](http://baker-contracting.com)

HOME ARTISANS OF INDIANA:

# The Force is Female

## Home Artisans Members Participate in Women Build Habitat Project

by Christy Heitger-Ewing

The first time Jamie Gauker volunteered with a Women Build Habitat project, the concept of women helping women hooked her immediately. When she joined Home Artisans, she became their team leader for the project.

“I had 24 hours to get 12 people pulled together, but we kicked butt,” says Gauker, who deliberately seeks out team members who are committed to the cause. She’s been involved in the Women Build Habitat project for seven years, and each year her goal is to raise more money than the previous one. This year, she assembled two teams, totaling 24 women, and together Home Artisans raised \$34,413.

This was the fourth Habitat build for Millie Hindes, owner of Watergate Roofing.

“I like working hard all day with a bunch of girls,” says Hindes, who has donated the labor to install six roofs over the past three years. “Memories of girls getting all sweaty and dirty and learning something new every year builds camaraderie and gratitude.”

When Lauren Ramsby joined Home Artisans as an interior designer, she and her family had already been involved with the Women Build for years. She was pleased to

learn that Home Artisans has a large, dedicated Women Build team for her to join.

“It’s so fulfilling,” says Ramsby, Interior Designer with Four Stories Design Studio. “It’s been a terrific experience to be involved before, during, and after our build day [and] getting to meet, congratulate, and support the four single mothers earning their first home.”



Gauker is quick to educate those who assume that this is a free house for the recipient.

“If these women are awarded an opportunity to get a home, they have to go through Dave Ramsey classes and learn how to write a check, follow a budget, and fix things,” says Gauker. “We want these women to be successful. It goes to the adage, ‘Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.’”

Much like the well-known Habitat for Humanity program, Women Build homeowners apply to be selected to receive one of the homes built each year. They need to qualify financially, but if selected, they purchase the property with an interest-free loan, and begin payment on an affordable mortgage.

“It’s proven that when you get people out of these awful renting situations, kids do better in school and families have a more solid foundation,” says Gauker.

To learn more about how you can help support the Women Build Habitat, contact Home Artisans.



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ACo:

# TILE

## TRANSFORMATION:

### Creative & Unexpected Ways to Use Tile Throughout Your Home

by Christy Heitger-Ewing | photos by 360 Tour Designs

There's nothing wrong with ordinary, but don't we all strive for extraordinary? Whether it's food, fashion, relationships, or residences, creativity is the spice of life. One way to make your home extra special is by incorporating tile in creative and unexpected ways.

"Tile is a great way to add character to a space," says Kayley Vargo, ACo Designer. She and her team are full of innovative ideas for adding tile style to your home. For example, extending the tile onto a wood range hood or using a bold mosaic or patterned tile creates a standout architectural element.

Installing decorative tile inside cabinets with glass doors or behind floating shelves gives your space a modern, layered look. In a kitchen island, wall cabinet, or hutch, rather than using panels or a flat base, tiling a surface can enhance its texture and color.

A playful, geometric "hive" tile backsplash is the perfect nod to a bee-themed concept. The hexagon pattern brings a sense of movement and structure, while the unexpected choice adds just the right amount of whimsy.



Homeowners can hide outlets and switches by integrating a tiled electrical box into their backsplash. This acts as a false front to hide trailing wires.

ACo designers also have fresh ideas for incorporating bold tile choices into the bathroom. A homeowner may want to combine shapes (e.g., hex, arabesque, subway, penny rounds) in the same color family for a unified patchwork of texture or use the same tile across the floor, walls, and ceiling for a seamless look. In a walk-in shower, one could create a tile “rug” on the shower floor with mosaics.

“Don’t be afraid to step outside the box to mix & match tiles, especially in a shower where tile doesn’t need to be continuous or from the same collection,” says Vargo. “You can mix the tiles while coordinating them and do a whole wall that’s completely different.”

For example, you could mix and match tile sizes with the bottom third of the shower consisting of large-format 24x48 tiles while the top two-thirds are a subway tile in a herringbone. Extra-large format tiles (48x48) mimic slab-style walls to deliver a sleek look with minimal grout lines.

If you’re looking for a whole new look, you can create patterns with tile rather than the standard brick pattern or straight lay. Possibilities are endless—Herringbone, double basketweaves, chevrons, or using accents and trim pieces can add dimension..

“There are so many possibilities,” says Vargo. “Lean on your designer to help you create a space you’ll love.”

Remember that your home is made up of many rooms and spaces beyond the kitchen and bath that provide opportunities for fun tile applications. Think about the mudroom, mini bar, basement bar, coffee bar, main foyer, laundry room, multi-season room, pantry, and office nooks.

“The mudroom is a great place to get playful,” says Kim Trees, ACo Designer. “A bold geometric pattern behind a built-in bench brings in a ton of personality. I also love dark matte cabinetry with brick herringbone floors because it creates drama and depth while remaining practical and slip-resistant.”

The pantry and coffee bar are hidden gems for creativity. A walk-in pantry with a fun patterned floor or a backsplash behind open shelves gives the space a curated, intentional feel.

“I personally love checkered floor tiles,” says Trees. “As for a coffee bar, a small mosaic tile adds texture and interest to your morning routine.”

Most homeowners experience some initial trepidation about making a bold tile choice in their home. However, those brave choices are typically the features guests comment on the most.

“People like having permission to play. It’s a chance to take risks in small doses,” says Trees. “If you want your home to feel custom and personal, tile is one of the easiest ways to do that.”

To begin brainstorming ways to infuse fun tile choices into your home, connect with an ACo designer today.

Bold, saturated, green wall tile installed vertically to draw the eye up makes a statement and creates a sense of height. The tile has a dimensional surface, giving it texture and depth. Pair that with a contrasting geometric floor tile, and the space becomes a dynamic blend of pattern, color, and shape. It’s polished, but playful. Sophisticated, but not afraid to have fun.



Shower tile is a great opportunity for some fun and creativity. Step outside the box to mix and match several tiles for a major design impact.



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# What to Know About Building in a Private, Gated Community

by *Darcie Duranceau*

Ready to build your ideal home in a community where privacy, security, and luxury amenities are part of everyday life? Private, gated communities offer an unparalleled living experience, making them a top choice for discerning homeowners. Knowing the specific steps and what to expect when building within these unique environments will ensure your custom home project is a smooth, transparent, and ultimately fulfilling process.

## **UNDERSTANDING HOA RULES AND ARCHITECTURAL GUIDELINES**

A defining feature of private, gated communities is the presence of a Homeowners' Association (HOA) and its comprehensive set of rules. It's important to understand expectations for your build and home before you break ground, so be sure to read through the community's Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions (CC&Rs). These documents aren't just for daily living; they often contain specific architectural guidelines designed to ensure a consistent and aesthetically pleasing environment.

The process for a custom build usually requires a formal application to the HOA. This application, best accompanied by a detailed site plan, outlines your design intentions. While feedback can be relatively quick, homeowners should prepare for a dedicated approval period, warns Home Builders G.J. Gardner, who run their firm internationally with a footprint in Lebanon and Lafayette. The HOA's architectural review board takes this time to ensure your home design meets the community's specific requirements. This step is essential before any local building permits can be secured.

## **NAVIGATING THE UNIQUE COSTS**

Building and living in a gated community involves



An “HOA initiation fee” is a one-time, *non-refundable* payment, also known as a capital contribution or buy-in fee, typically paid at closing.

Source: Associa

“certain construction timelines”, explains G.J. Gardner. This means your builder may need to adhere to specific work hours (e.g., “no construction noise before 8 a.m. or after 5 p.m.”), restricted delivery schedules for materials, and perhaps even designated routes for construction traffic. While these rules can sometimes lead to a slightly longer completion timeline than a non-gated build, they are put in place to minimize noise or disruption, and maintain the community’s aesthetics and peace for current residents. Your chosen builder should be familiar with these community-specific operational requirements.

Ultimately, building in a private, gated community means becoming part of a managed environment with shared standards and amenities. By thoroughly understanding the HOA’s rules, the financial commitments, and the construction protocols, homeowners can ensure their custom build is a successful experience, leading to lasting enjoyment of their new home.

financial obligations that go beyond typical home construction costs. Alongside regular assessments or dues, which cover daily operational expenses and reserve funds, homeowners will likely encounter an “HOA initiation fee,” explains Associa, which goes on to explain that this is a one-time, non-refundable payment, also known as a capital contribution or buy-in fee, typically paid at closing.

These initiation fees help fund the association in its early stages for fixed costs like insurance and management, or, in more established neighborhoods, they fund the reserve account for future major repairs like roof replacements and road resurfacing. Understanding these distinct fees from the beginning is key to accurate budgeting.

### **CONSTRUCTION REALITIES AND COMMUNITY HARMONY**

Building a custom home is a complex undertaking, and within a gated community, the process comes with specific nuances designed to maintain the quality of life for all residents. HOAs or community management often set





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WEDGEWOOD BUILDING COMPANY:

# Inside the Vision:

## Wedgewood's Women in Construction Lead the Way for 2026 Home-A-Rama

photos by 360 Tour Designs

While the Fall of 2026 may be relatively far away for some, it doesn't seem so far away for the Wedgewood team of architects and designers. With the upcoming Home-A-Rama set to take place in the Fall of 2026 at Wild Air—one of Zionsville's newest luxurious custom home communities—our team is already hard at work behind the scenes. We're busy planning and designing what will soon become a beautiful reality in the latest of luxury living.

So what exactly does it take to bring a luxury custom Home-A-Rama home to life?

Our very own women in construction play significant roles in ensuring the success of the show. Wedgewood design

team of Lisa Baker, AIA, and Tina Dahl, interior designer, work passionately to collaborate with the sales team to create a space that beckons you to find each special memory point.

"When creating and designing a home, our best work comes not from just one individual's perspective but from a collaborative effort between architecture and interior design. We each bring creativity and a unique point of view that we blend together to get an overall look and feel for a home. This design process is one of my favorite aspects of the entire project." Tina Dahl, interior designer.

Lisa and Tina are not only focused on creating spaces that

are unique and beautiful, but just as importantly, ones that feel livable. They need to have the perfect blend of proportion and pizzazz.

As Lisa notes, "Sight lines are so important. I try to think about thoughtful, functional positioning of everything from doors to furniture to artwork and accent materials. It's also important to give the eye somewhere to rest."

Other areas of discussion can revolve around durability of materials. A certain material may indeed be beautiful, but if it can't hold up or wear well, then it needs to be reevaluated.

It's imperative what we design will stand the test of time.

Even high-dollar luxury



Photo by Casey Elaine Photography

**Lisa Baker and Tina Dahl**  
Wedgewood Design Team

custom homes necessitate careful consideration for budgets and timelines.

After many hours in planning, design, and construction, the final creation is truly a masterpiece of creativity, teamwork, skill and passion for what we love to do—create some of the most beautiful custom homes and experiences for our clients that the market has to offer. Our Wedgewood 2026 Home-A-Rama model home will no doubt be one you don't want to miss....and maybe one you'll even want to call home!

Wedgewood Building Company's 2022 Home-A-Rama Show Home



Photo courtesy of B&G



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GLASS HOUSE GALLERY



GLASS HOUSE GALLERY:

# BUILT to LEAD:

The *Women* Shaping the Future of  
Home Design & Construction

by Christy Heitger-Ewing | photo by Aiden Brown

Construction was once a male-dominated field, but things are shifting as more women enter the industry in positions of power and responsibility. While women still only make up 8% of the construction industry, the scales are shifting on the management side of home building and design.

“It’s impressive and exciting to see this change over the last 15 years,” says Cori Brown, CEO of the Glass House Gallery (formerly known as Franklin Window & Door).

Last year’s Home-A-Rama featured a home with a female builder, architect, and designer. Brown notes that this time was huge for helping women navigate the industry. Last fall, Ashley Hurley, Business Development Manager with Custom Living, initiated a monthly meeting for a select group of women in the construction industry to gather for personal and professional growth and development.

“Making this an intimate group of women allows us to talk freely,” says Brown.

Hurley focuses on building meaningful partnerships, expanding market presence, and driving sustainable growth. Beyond revenue and client acquisition, her passion lies in enhancing the customer

experience—ensuring each interaction reflects trust, transparency, and long-term value.

“My goal is not just to grow business but to help shape a more responsive, human-centered future in the home industry,” says Hurley, who appreciates being surrounded by such amazing women.

“Cori has become one of the ‘it’ women in our industry by how she sells,” says Hurley. “She doesn’t just sell windows and doors. She sells a lifestyle and a brand that everyone wants.”

One reason Brown admires these powerhouse women who are working across design, construction, architecture, real estate, and related trades is that they are breaking barriers, mentoring the next generation, and leading with vision and purpose.

For example, Kristen Hale, owner of Kent Shaffer Homes, is one of the only female luxury home builders in the state of Indiana. Emily Handke owns Emily Handke Design. Both women are raising young children while leading their companies—balancing family life and entrepreneurship with incredible dedication.

Brown also admires Diana Daniely with Ferguson.

“Diana is dynamic, beautiful, and intelligent, and she can make anyone in the room feel like the most special person alive,” says Brown. “When I first met her, I thought, ‘Wow, she’s exactly what I want to become.’”

Now Brown is inspiring

other young women. When Gaby Garcia first applied for the receptionist role at the Glass House Gallery, she was looking for a steady job where she could improve her skills in interior design. Ultimately, however, she found a passionate, creative, empowering environment that crystalized the career she wants to pursue.

“Watching Cori lead as a CEO with such grace, strength, and determination has impacted the way I see leadership,” says Garcia, who now works as an estimator at Glass House Gallery. “She solves challenges with empathy and a clear vision, she cares deeply about her team and her clients, and she’s passionate about the path she chose to follow despite the challenges. That’s exactly the kind of leader I aspire to be one day.”

Through the years, Brown has worked with many incredible women, including Caryn O’Sullivan, owner of Drapery Street. She believes that strong leadership is a learned skill rooted in vulnerability, courage, and trust. At Drapery Street, she has worked to build a culture where collaboration and care are foundational, both for clients and her team.

“I aim to shape a future where women thrive in business and design by mentoring others, encouraging lifelong learning, and leading with purpose,” says O’Sullivan. “Success isn’t just about growth or accolades. It’s watching

team members step into their potential and knowing our work truly improves the way people live in their homes.”

Brown advises young women who are interested in working in construction to shadow people in the industry and attend the Women Build It Conference.

If you’re looking for a design-centric space when selecting windows and doors, visit the Glass House Gallery.

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“Cori has become one of the ‘it’ women in our industry by how she sells. She doesn’t just sell windows and doors. She sells a lifestyle and a brand that everyone wants.”

— ASHLEY HURLEY

*Business Development Manager,  
Custom Living*



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**MARVIN** 

WOMEN ARE LEADING THE WAY: (left to right) Ashley Hurley, Business Development Manager at Custom Living; Diana Daniely, Builder Sales with Ferguson Home; and Cori Brown, CEO of Glass House Gallery.

SUB-ZERO, WOLF & COVE BY TISDEL DISTRIBUTING:

# Nearly 40 Years of Service *and* Top-of-the-Line Appliances

by Alex Cain



Photos courtesy of Tisdell Distributing



**Alex Cain**

*Territory Sales Manager,  
Sub-Zero, Wolf and Cove by  
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In 1987, John Tisdell founded Tisdell Distributing and true to his original vision, the company has provided unparalleled service and exceptional products ever since. Today, they continue to uphold those founding principles with President Courtney Black at the helm, representing innovation and top-of-the-line appliances to enhance every kitchen. Since its inception, the company has grown to become a premier independent distributor of high-end appliances, including Sub-Zero, Wolf, and Cove, serving more than 100 dealer showrooms across six states in the Midwest and Midsouth.

Tisdell Distributing prides themselves on being a direct link between the manufacturer and the dealer, ensuring that their products, dealer displays, and the customer's ownership experiences consistently exceed expectations. Their commitment to quality and service have made them a trusted partner in the industry. Black has brought increased focus on designer and builder trades to Tisdell's day-to-day business and support services. Along with

that, Tisdell's sales representative team has become predominantly women-driven. Our business has evolved much the same way the building and construction trades have. More women are emerging in a formerly male-dominated industry, fulfilling both leadership and top sales performing roles.

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SIGMA BUILDERS:

# Building Homes *for* Families, *as a Family*

*by Sigma Builders | photos by Sarah Shields Photography*



Behind every dream home built by Sigma Builders is a team that listens first, then brings each family's vision to life with care, craftsmanship, and intention. To build the perfect family home, you have to think and act like a family. Kimberly Bowers and Dave Berman have built Sigma Builders, a leading custom luxury homebuilder in Indiana, around trust and innovation. Rooted firmly in the mantra "luxury that feels like home," co-founders Kimberly and Dave work hand in hand to bring homeowners' visions to life, building homes where life's best memories are made.

From elevating women in the industry to creating meaningful relationships in which clients feel heard, supported, respected and guided through every step of their journey, the Sigma team practices what they preach. The culture at Sigma is one of fun, creativity and



support, which has a trickle-down effect that is felt by clients throughout their custom home building or remodeling projects. Sigma's team is an even ratio of women to men, a rare find in a traditionally male-led industry. It's an experience seldom replicated, as the Sigma team works hard to cultivate genuine relationships with each other, industry partners, and their clients.

For Kimberly, being entrusted with her clients' most personal and meaningful moments is invaluable. She recalls one client who buried lucky pennies—each marked with a family member's birth year—within the foundation of their new home. From receiving holiday cards to heartfelt notes over the years, Sigma's client relationships extend far beyond the completion of construction.

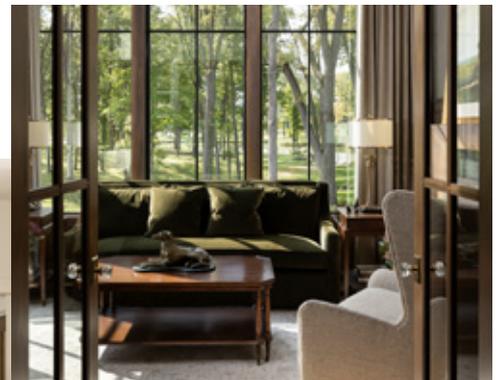
It's a full-circle experience—for the homeowners and the team alike. Because at Sigma, it's never just about building a house. It's about creating the place where a family's story begins and life's best moments unfold. It's more than a home. It's the start of a new chapter—where lasting memories are made.

The feeling of family also trickles down to their trusted industry partners, many of whom have worked alongside the Sigma team for years and continue to provide high-quality framing, millwork, interior design, landscaping, and more. Kimberly and Dave take their responsibility to elevate other small businesses seriously, and are careful to nurture these relationships, which they view as extensions of their team. As a result, clients are met with reliable contractors who understand the vision and embody the Sigma spirit.

As Sigma continues to grow and help more Indiana families bring their dream homes to life, Kimberly and Dave remain steadfast in their commitment to support their clients, their team, and each other—and treat every family like their own.



Dave Berman and Kimberly Bowers, co-founders of Sigma Builders



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FLATMADE CONCRETE CO.:

# Why Concrete Maintenance Matters

## *and How to Do It Right*

by Bailey Shelton

Step on a crack... so the saying goes. And while superstition shouldn't drive most home maintenance decisions, there are some easy ways to avoid the dreaded crack in your freshly poured driveway.

First, concrete maintenance is not just about the quality of the work itself. While a skilled hand can go a long way, experts like FLATMADE Concrete Co. can extend the life of flatwork with some simple follow-up treatments. On the day of, the concrete will cure to 50% of its total strength and be sealed. But the surface will need to be

resealed about 28 days in, once moisture has been completely released from the concrete.

Ben Driskell and his team at FLATMADE recommend that you always book and schedule a followup visit once the initial project is completed. This maintenance process extends the longevity of driveways and concrete of any kind around a home.

Driveways and high-traffic areas need special attention, as the more they're used, the more potential there is for damage. For example, if the driveway goes in before a major landscape or home build project kicks off, heavy trucks will be driving over and parking on the freshly cured concrete. If someone is after the absolute best for the concrete, keep heavy traffic off the pavement or deep clean before the final visit. This will keep tire marks or mud from

being sealed into the concrete, even though these extra steps might seem like a hassle to homeowners.

Be careful, too, of temperature fluctuations. The first freeze-thaw cycle will put flatwork to the test- anyone who has driven on bumpy spring roads will understand the downside when a drive isn't properly maintained. The correct thickness of concrete will help keep its surface intact, and properly placed joints can help too, but be sure to clear your driveway after heavy snowfall to keep water and ice from dwelling on the surface. Rock salt can damage the drive, so try not to use it unless in emergencies, where it should be scraped away immediately after the ice pack is broken up. Sand can be a good alternative for concrete drives and hardscaping.

**EXPERT TIPS:**

Keeping heavy vehicles off freshly-cured concrete and keeping the surface clean can extend the life of your new concrete. And avoid using rock salt as it can damage concrete—try using sand instead!

Driskell says, "A lot of all these little details hinder 90% of homeowners from getting it resealed."

However, proper finishing is helpful for any concrete surface. These details help your property look new for longer, and avoid the need for patching or repouring down the road. Touch ups can go beyond maintenance, too—a second treatment can fix imperfections or correct any dissatisfaction with the look of the final slab.

Let FLATMADE help with your next project for the perfect finish, every time. Visit [flatmadeconcrete.com](http://flatmadeconcrete.com) to learn more.



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G&G CUSTOM HOMES:

# FINDING COMMUNITY:

## Choosing the Right Neighborhood *for* Your New Home

by Christy Heitger-Ewing | photos by 360 Tour Designs

From their home in Brookhaven, Sarah McBee and her family enjoyed an idyllic life with a close knit community of neighbors. When developers announced the opening of Holliday Farms, slowly their little bubble of the neighborhood started to shift, so the McBees decided to follow suit.

“The close community feel is what drew us here,” says McBee. “And the lots were gorgeous.”

They purchased a private wooded lot in Holliday Farms, which they say feels like living on a nature preserve.

“There are animals in our yard all of the time,” says McBee, who calls their lot a little slice of private paradise. And yet, they are always socializing with friends—both old and new—at the clubhouse.

“Everyone is so kind and welcoming,” says McBee, who moved into Holliday Farms in September 2024.

When selecting a community, McBee suggests considering personal values, whether that’s privacy, amount of land, or an active social life.

“Those are things that can’t be changed,” she says.

The McBees met their eventual builder while touring the Home-A-Rama home by G&G Custom Homes.

“We had a great connection immediately,” says McBee. “Joe is smart, honest, and responsive. Plus, everyone we talked to who built with G&G said it was a seamless experience.”

Joe Garcia, owner of G&G Custom Homes, invited the McBees to go through several of his homes that were in different stages of construction, then report back to him about what they liked and didn’t like. Ultimately, they hired him to build their 9,000-sq. ft. traditional home. Garcia prioritized connecting with the architect as soon as they were hired.

“He wanted to make sure we weren’t doing something that was going to blow our budget,” McBee says. “He was helpful in guiding that piece of the process.”

Garcia’s entire team impressed the homeowners.

“We went way outside the box on our trim detail and some custom things that were obstacles for everyone who had to look at it from a different lens and figure out how to make it work, but they did a great job,” says McBee.

As the team cleared the lot, a contracted arborist suggested creative reuse of the felled trees. Wood from the same property is now part of the millwork around the home. The large beams on their exterior patio came from 20 to 25 trees that were cleared from the lot and reused in the build. Additionally, they used the wood to make the tread on the stairways as well as several tables.

“I love that part of what was outside is still there inside the home now,” says McBee.

Are you ready to find a community that fits your family, lifestyle, and custom home vision? Contact G&G Custom Homes today to get the process started.





## ANOTHER COMMUNITY STORY

In 2017, Chip and Trina Roth were joining households. Chip suggested Chatham Hills, where the rolling terrain was a breath of fresh air. Plus, they loved all the community amenities, including a neighboring golf course, clubhouse, pool, and a small bowling alley.

The Roths knew just who to hire for their build: G&G Custom Homes.

“Some houses take forever to construct, but with Joe, there was never a day when we checked on the house and somebody wasn’t there doing something to keep on schedule,” says Trina. Garcia also uses a software called Buildertrend, which allowed the Roths to follow the project’s progress from their winter home in Florida. “That’s a dream.”

“All our neighbors are super social. There are street parties, wine dinners, euchre at the clubhouse, and other activities,” says Chip. “Living here is like being on vacation.”



### G&G CUSTOM HOMES

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# *A Homage to* HANDCRAFT:

## Blending Traditional Architecture with Modern Utility

*by Carrie McMichael*

There is no shortage of content online featuring users' horrified reactions to controversial home renovations that demolish and remove traditional architecture. An elegant winding staircase in the foyer of a traditional colonial-style home is labeled as an eyesore by the house flipper and ripped out while the internet gawks with disbelief. Stained glass feature windows are removed and sold off. An antique light fixture ends up in a landfill.

While a home's original architectural features enrich its character, high-value trends such as smart technology integration and multifunctional spaces are beginning to take center stage—just two of many trends sometimes impeded by traditional architecture. So how can homeowners and designers alike hope to bring their spaces into the future without erasing classic craftsmanship?

According to interior designers like Catherine Marrano of



Catherine Marrano Interiors, layering is crucial to blending the old with the new. Like an architectural trifle, setting a design foundation through major items like tile or flooring before introducing modern conveniences helps tell the story of a home's architectural evolution.

"Once the foundation is set," Marrano says, "we infuse the client's personal aesthetic to ensure the space feels uniquely theirs. If their taste leans modern, I often recommend incorporating a few vintage or traditional elements to maintain a connection to the home's history. Ultimately, it's about honoring what's already there while making room for how people live today."

Maryellen Hodapp, principal creative designer of Sassy Green Interiors, LLC, also takes this approach, explaining that every layer adds a new level of depth to the space. "We pay close attention to the architectural details and make it a priority to work with and not against the details. Updating historic elements can be done without compromising the original architectural intentions of the home."

Hodapp and her team recently had the chance to execute this strategy while renovating a 1896 Victorian home which saw former lives as a rooming house and a bed and breakfast. The quarter-turn staircase which echoed footfalls of former tenants and vacationers needed an update. "The stairway had an undesirable heaviness to it that the home owner did not like. We painted it and gave it a fresh new life!"

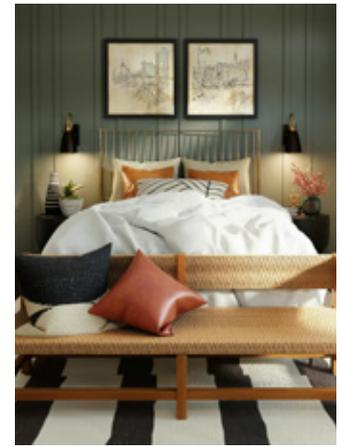
After modern updates have been made with deference to traditional architecture, designers like Sallie Lord of GreyHunt Interiors understand the importance of filling in the cracks with this blend of layers and details to create harmony in the space. "My goal is to find just the right balance to bridge the traditional with modern pieces that offer the look, comfort, and function needed for the family today. They need to balance and complement each other, not visually compete," says Lord. Ugly-but-permanent wires can be strategically tucked away or built in; a cover or strategic placement of smart home controls can feel less like an iPad permanently affixed to the

wall and more like a cohesive piece of the home.

Working with the architecture of a home, a fully-integrated smart home can still benefit from the light of transom windows and unique built-in storage. That negative space beneath an old staircase becomes a command center, or homework nook. With some careful spatial planning, a cozy breakfast area yields a kitchen and dining space for the price of one. All it takes is the right eye for detail.

"Each home is different in how I approach this transition," says Lord. "It could be through a color palette, wallpaper, or adding modern pieces with antiques that give the space a unique story."

Integrating traditional architecture with modern conveniences creates a timeless appeal for a home without compromising the building blocks which carried its occupants through the decades. These building blocks are not eyesores, but instead fruitful horizons of possibility.



**"My goal is to find just the right balance to bridge the traditional with modern pieces that offer the look, comfort, and function needed for the family today."**

— SALLIE LORD *Owner, Greyhunt Interiors*





FERGUSON HOME:

# Light *the Way:*

WHY WORKING WITH A  
**LIGHTING CONSULTANT**  
MATTERS MORE THAN  
YOU THINK

*by Christy Heitger-Ewing*

Have you ever stepped inside a room that feels off, but you can't put your finger on why? Chances are the lighting is wrong.

"A lot of people just look at the pretty, but you need to know what you're illuminating and illuminate it properly," says Debbie Harrison, Lighting Specialist at Ferguson.

One of the biggest lighting pitfalls is improper sizing and light output. Small pendants over a massive kitchen island look undersized. It is imperative to have the right lighting output in each space for form and function.

Improper lighting choices like the wrong size, color temperature, or layout can ruin an otherwise beautiful design.

To create a well-lit, high-style home, you need layers of lighting, which includes ambient, task, and decorative lighting. Some fixtures and chandeliers are art pieces that aren't meant to illuminate an entire space. It is important to layer lighting especially when you have a piece like that in a large, dimly lit space. More fixtures fill the room without taking away from the chandelier.

"Lighting is ever evolving and our manufacturer reps make sure that our staff is up to date on all the trends and features," says Harrison, who equates LED lighting to the evolution of the iPhone in terms of how quickly things become outdated.



and people got used to 3000 Kelvin. Now people are moving up to 3500 or 4000 Kelvin, which is a white crisp light.

The color of a space should be considered as well. White light on a dark wood turns it blue, and the wrong color temperature with white cabinets will turn them yellow.

“You have plenty of opportunities to use different color temperatures in one home,” says Harrison. “Maybe you want the bedroom to be a warmer lighting tone than the kitchen for instance.”

Professional lighting consultants consider things that homeowners might not think of, like scale, layering, and integration with smart home automations.

Some homeowners mistakenly assume that Ferguson only sells decorative lighting, but they also sell task and ambient lighting as well.

Just as all LEDs are not created equal. The lumen output can vary from brand to brand as well as some LEDs have a longer life span than others.

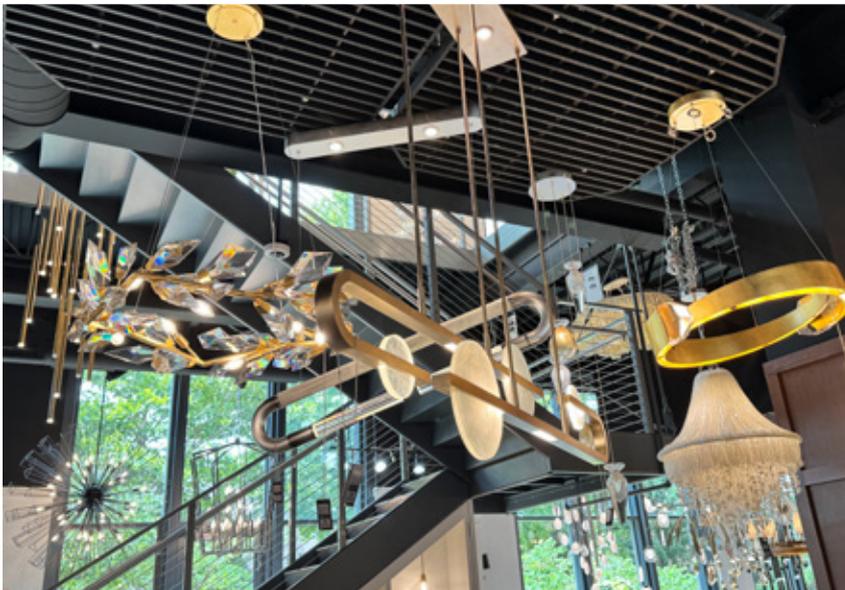
Emerging trends for fall 2025 include high tech-integrated lighting and some fixtures double as sculptural and artistic as well as meant for illumination. Warm metals—especially golds—are still strong. Another trend is lighting that looks like jewelry chains and or crystals.

“Lighting is the jewelry of your home, no matter how simple or fancy,” says Harrison. “Your style is how you dress it up.”

Lighting affects everything from mood to functionality and resale value so it’s helpful to consult with a seasoned lighting expert who can guide you when lighting your home. To illuminate your home to be the most flattering way, contact an expert at Ferguson today.

**“Lighting is the jewelry of your home, no matter how simple or fancy. Your style is how you dress it up.”**

– DEBBIE HARRISON *Lighting Specialist, Ferguson Home*



Because of this constant evolution, Ferguson changes out lighting displays often. In addition, manufacturers discontinue lighting every six months or so. Every January, Ferguson attends the Dallas Lighting Market to go through all the top trends and new collections.

It’s important to note that all LEDs are not created equal. Color temperature can define a space, and ranges from warm, yellowish tones to cool, bluish hues. The higher the Kelvin value, the cooler and whiter the light appears.

Years ago, residents used light bulbs that were 2700 Kelvin. Then LED came out

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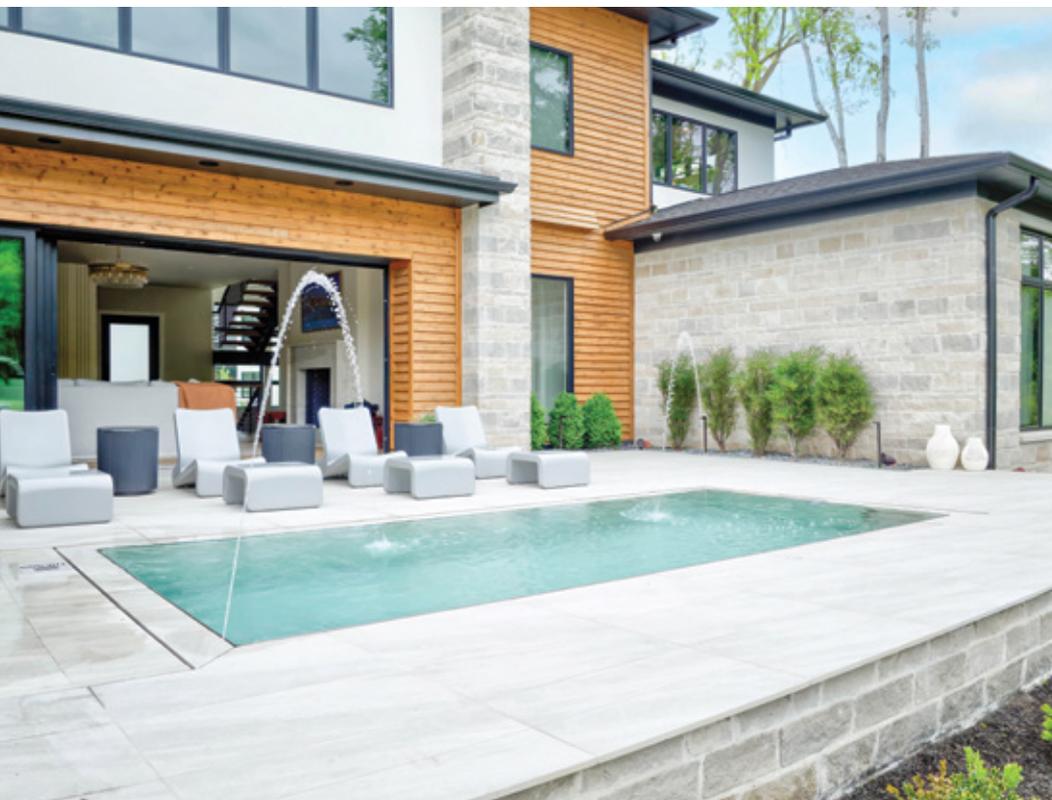
**Women,**  
*in*  
**CONSTRUCTION**  
*issue*

TRESSS® AQUATECTORIAL DESIGNS:

# Cecilia Heard

THE LEADERSHIP BEHIND ONE OF AMERICA'S  
MOST INNOVATIVE HOME BRANDS

*by Bailey Shelton | photos by Adam Gibson Architectural Photography and Richardson Studio*



entering seventh grade this fall. Being a hands-on mom and engaged school leader keeps her grounded and purpose-driven, even while leading a fast-growing national brand.

*Indianapolis Monthly* recently featured Heard in their 50 Over 50 list, and she's also founded Dancing Queens, a local community group for Latina women focused on friendship, celebration, and support.

Heard named her company after her and her husband/co-founder Andrew's three children. The three S's represent each of the children's initials, and the name itself is a reference to the Spanish word for three.

"We want to leave this legacy to our kids of good work ethic and innovation. Working hard is very important for us," says Heard. And her business is setting an amazing example.

TRESSS® signature product, a moving pool floor system, creates a seamless edge when fully raised, preserving clean architectural lines and maximizing outdoor space. It can be lowered to various depths, from a shallow play area for children to a lap-swimming mode with integrated jets offering year-round enjoyment and adaptability. The pool itself is a feat of engineering that goes beyond its transforming depth. It uses less energy, maintains water temperature more efficiently, and features customizable surfaces designed to harmonize with the surrounding patio. When closed, the surface supports up to 40 psf (pounds per square foot), allowing the area to be used as a fully functional deck ideal for lounging, dining, or entertaining.

For homeowners torn between installing a pool or preserving patio space, TRESSS® delivers both without compromise. With built-in safety, selectable depth, and space-saving functionality, the system redefines how water is experienced in modern luxury living, extending the pool season far beyond May to September.

"I have had this passion for business since I was little," says Heard. "It's not easy, but when you have a great team you can get through all of these challenges."

Heard's work ethic, combined with the engineering mind of

**Y**

ou might not know about Cecilia Heard or TRESSS® Aquatectural Designs yet, but you will. This Hoosier-founded company is changing the way outdoor spaces are built with Moving Pool Floors and Smart Plunge Pools

that combine luxury engineering, year-round functionality, and space-saving innovation. What began with a bit of custom engineering in the Heard family home has evolved into a growing portfolio of clients from Indiana, Aspen, and to the East Coast.

Cecilia Heard, co-founder of TRESSS®, is a born entrepreneur. From her first business as a teenager in Mexico, Heard has never shied away from an honest day of work. She moved to the United States over 23 years ago.

People are still very much at the heart of her company — and her personal life. Beyond the business world, Heard is deeply involved in her local community and her children's education. She is the Vice President of the Mothers' Association at Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School, where her daughter is currently a sophomore. She's also the proud mother of twins, a boy and a girl who are

**"I HAVE HAD THIS PASSION FOR BUSINESS SINCE I WAS LITTLE. IT'S NOT EASY, BUT WHEN YOU HAVE A GREAT TEAM YOU CAN GET THROUGH ALL OF THESE CHALLENGES."**

— CECILIA HEARD  
Co-founder, TRESSS®  
Aquatectural Designs

**“THIS POOL AND HOW THEY’VE ENGINEERED IT AND DESIGNED THE WATER SYSTEM, IT DOESN’T HAVE CHLORINE IN IT. WHICH IS A MASSIVE WIN, ESPECIALLY FOR A HEALTH-CONSCIOUS PERSON.”**

– ABBY ROBERTSON *Owner, aaNovo*

her husband Andrew, has helped TRESSS® to flourish and expand into the brand it is today.

This Fall, a TRESSS® pool will be a feature in the Home-A-Rama home built by aaNovo. Owner Abbey Robertson worked closely with Heard and her team to design the custom pool/patio space outside of the master bedroom. It’s one of several areas of the home that specifically call to the natural landscape, including a central courtyard and the pastoral surroundings of Chatham Hills.

“We’re dovetailing building science into our builds. Pools are amazing in respect for health, but pools are inherently flooded with chlorine,” says Robertson. “This pool and how they’ve engineered it and designed the water system, it doesn’t have chlorine in it. Which is a massive win, especially for a health-conscious person.”

The aaNovo home also features a plunge pool and personal sauna. The TRESSS® pool does not need to be winterized, so this combination creates the perfect at-home wellness retreat.

As growth continues for the TRESSS® team, TRESSS® is designing a custom Hot Tub and a Smart Plunge Pool both featuring its signature Moving Pool Floor for a modern residence being built by Sinclair Building Architecture Design. Through this collaboration, TRESSS® is bringing its innovative and exclusive outdoor features to an Aspen home





defined by bold architecture and elevated outdoor living.

“We truly appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with award-winning architect Robert Guy Sinclair in creating a home for such a beautiful family,” says Heard. “It’s an honor to be part of this project. When you’re there, you can feel God’s presence in the mountains.”

The Hot Tub – TRESSS®’s newest product features the same sleek design that is a signature of the brand, while also being engineered to maximize energy efficiency and minimize water evaporation qualities that make it equally suited for markets like Aspen, where sustainability and high-efficiency standards are a priority.

In addition to their continued growth in Indiana, TRESSS® is expanding into major markets such as Chicago, New York, New Jersey, and Florida, redefining what’s possible for residential pool design through innovation, elegance, and thoughtful engineering.

“I love having a goal. There are challenges, of course, but meeting with clients is such a beautiful part of the journey; showing them what we do and seeing their excitement for innovation and what’s next,” says Heard. “It’s truly energizing. I feel I have a purpose beyond—and always rooted in—my first priorities: God, my family, my children, my husband, being a daughter, a friend. But building this professional business, and bringing something so innovative not just to Indiana, but to other parts of the country—wow, it’s just incredible.”

To explore TRESSS® products in person, visit their office at 5659 W. 74th Street, Indianapolis or tour the aaNovo home at 1445 Chatham Ridge Court during this year’s Home-A-Rama, September 11th through 28th.



**“BUILDING THIS PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS, AND BRINGING SOMETHING SO INNOVATIVE NOT JUST TO INDIANA, BUT TO OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY—WOW, IT’S JUST INCREDIBLE.”**

– CECILIA HEARD *Co-founder, TRESSS®*  
*Aquatectural Designs*



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the Sept./Oct. issue *of* haven

**haven**  
COVER PARTY

Featuring our host:



**Thursday**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Oct.**

**5<sup>30</sup> pm - 7<sup>30</sup> pm**

**LOCATION:**

**AANOVO HOME-A-RAMA HOME IN CHATHAM HILLS**  
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*Complimentary drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served.*



**RSVP REQUIRED** Register at [havenhome.me](https://havenhome.me) or scan the QR code

## SPRAY-NET:

# A Smarter, More Affordable Way to Transform Your Kitchen

by Carie McMichael

Kitchens are the heart of the home—but updating them often feels overwhelming. Full remodels are expensive, time-consuming, and invasive. Even just replacing cabinets can cost tens of thousands of dollars and leave your kitchen unusable for weeks.

Spray-Net offers a smarter alternative. Instead of gutting your kitchen or settling for a basic paint job, Spray-Net professionally transforms your existing cabinets using proprietary coatings that deliver a premium, factory-like finish at a fraction of the cost of replacement.

“Our process gives homeowners the best of both worlds—dramatic results without the major price tag,” says Rodney Kuhl, local Spray-Net franchise partner. “It’s a fraction of the cost of a full remodel or cabinet replacement, but still completely changes the look and feel of the space.”

Most kitchen projects are completed in just 2–3 days, limiting disruption to your home and daily routine. And unlike traditional painters or contractors, Spray-Net controls every part of the process—from the formulation of its advanced coatings to the certified professionals who apply them. The result is a consistent, durable finish designed to handle the demands of a high-traffic kitchen.

Standard off-the-shelf paints simply aren’t built to last in a kitchen environment. Spray-Net’s coatings are specifically engineered to resist scratches and stains, withstand scrubbing, and maintain their finish for years to come. Oh, and with low VOC levels and very little odor so you can stay in your home while they work. And projects are backed by a 15-year no-peel guarantee, so homeowners can feel confident they’re getting real value—not just a temporary fix.

For anyone considering a kitchen upgrade, Spray-Net delivers a powerful transformation without the high cost, long timeline, or hassle of traditional renovation.

“We just had a client tell us they want us back to paint the exterior of their home,” Kuhl says. “That kind of repeat business tells us we’re doing something right.”



### FACTORY FINISH:

Spray-Net professionally transforms your existing cabinets using proprietary coatings that deliver a premium, factory-like finish at a fraction of the cost of replacement.



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# Luxury Meets Livability:

## EVERYDAY FEATURES THAT FEEL LIKE INDULGENCES

by Darci Duranccau | photos by 360 Tour Designs

While trends come and go, the desire for a home that feels both luxurious and genuinely livable remains constant. Hilari Goris of Hilari Goris Designs, a born-and-raised Hoosier with 18 years in the design world, has a few ideas on how focusing on timeless design can translate into long-lasting indulgences for local families.

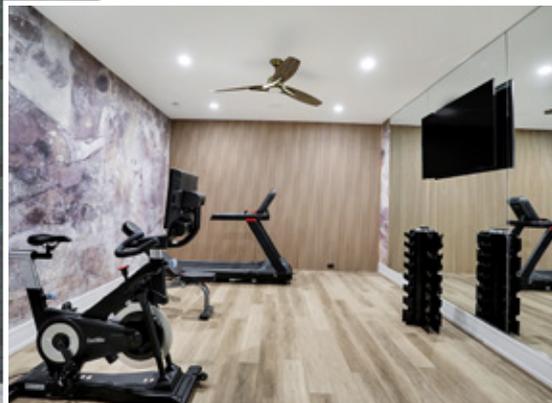
Goris' journey into design began early, sparked by the experience of building a family home. "I just remember loving the whole process," she says, "from walking the models, working through the floor plans, laying out the spaces, picking out everything." This early appreciation for function and aesthetics became the bedrock of her career, ultimately leading her to establish her own firm in Indianapolis nearly 12 years ago. Her passion for creating spaces that resonate with clients, she explains, is what has sustained her.

### THE FOUNDATION OF ENDURING LUXURY

When discussing what makes a design truly luxurious versus merely trendy, Goris emphasizes that it's deeply personal and about investing in enduring beauty. "Timeless to me is kind of a little bit dependent on the person," she explains, urging clients to look beyond fleeting fads. The goal, she says, is to create a lavish look you'll still "love five years, ten years, 15 years later."

For Goris, luxury is about investing your budget in timeless indulgences—prioritizing natural materials like solid wood, elegant stone, and classic marbles for countertops. These aren't just durable choices; they're the elements that elevate everyday living into something more refined. A kitchen with a substantial stone countertop, for instance, isn't just practical; it offers a daily sense of





permanence and quality that feels like a true extravagance. Similarly, rich wood floors and classic wood paneling or wainscoting add an immediate sense of warmth and character, making

a house feel like a cherished haven rather than just a structure. These foundational elements become the quiet luxuries that homeowners in the Indianapolis area can appreciate for decades.

### BALANCING TRENDS WITH ROOTED REFINEMENT

It's common for homeowners to be drawn to exciting new trends, but Hilari offers a savvy approach to incorporating them without sacrificing longevity or budget. "Let's go classic on your cabinets, countertops, even tile selections," she says. These are the "things that cost more to rip up and redo. They are also the things that make a big impact for years to come." This means investing in high-quality, enduring materials for the core

elements of your home, ensuring that your most used spaces—like kitchens, living rooms, and bathrooms—feel both solid and sophisticated.

Where trends can shine without long-term commitment is in easily changeable elements. An accent wall, for example, can introduce a pop of color and class through a trendy wallpaper or vibrant paint choice. "It's an easy switch out as trends change, versus a complete redo of the foundational design," Hilari says. This thoughtful balance allows homeowners to infuse their personality and enjoy contemporary touches, knowing they can adapt their space as their tastes evolve, without undertaking costly renovations. It's about combining current styles as delightful, elevated accents, while the underlying design continues to provide a backdrop of effortless luxury.

Ultimately, Hilari encourages homeowners to trust their "initial gut feeling" about what feels like home—to really consider that look that keeps drawing you back. True luxury, she says, isn't about following rules or imitating neighbors; it's about creating an environment that truly reflects your personal tastes and desires. Luxury is in the eye of the beholder.

“True luxury isn't about following rules or imitating neighbors; it's about creating an environment that truly reflects your personal tastes and desires.”

– HILARI GORIS *Owner, Hilari Goris Designs*



STEPHANIE WIOTT DESIGNS:

# Beyond the Mood Boards:

## The Grit, Hustle & Hard Hats Behind Interior Design

*by Christy Heitger-Ewing | photos by Sarah Shields Photography and Chris Whonsetler*



Interior designers are both visionaries and problem-solvers as they work all day, every day directly with clients, builders, trades, and vendors to help bring a homeowner's dream home to life. These designers don't just work with fabrics and fluff, however. They spend their days navigating trades and timelines, making on-the-fly decisions, and earning respect in a male-dominated space.

In this line of work, it's essential that problem-solving meets creativity. During phase one of a recent remodel, Stephanie Wiott, owner of Stephanie Wiott Designs (SWD), had to work around a tricky pipeline placement. When contractors were knocking down a wall and tearing out the drywall, they encountered a gas line that was going to be incredibly difficult to move. Wiott put on her construction boots and went onsite to talk with the contractor, who initially said, "This is going to be hard to do."

To which Wiott replied, "Yes, but it can be done!" "Regardless of the issue, it's a matter of communicating with whatever expert is in that field to figure out next steps," says Wiott.

Ultimately, they decided to bury the gas line between two cabinets.

Wiott regularly manages on-the-fly decisions like what to do if there isn't enough baseboard for the kitchen. She regularly checks on job sites to be sure that everything is going smoothly and to advocate for their client if not.

"It could be little things or big things, but it's always something," says Wiott.

Once a contract is signed between the builder and client, Wiott starts reviewing blueprint designs to make both pragmatic and aesthetic changes. While the client and contractors put in a lot of onsite work, when it comes to selections—everything from baseboards and paint colors to the way the stairs are going to look—Wiott has it covered. She helps clients pick out siding, stone, brick, shingles, gutters, and exterior paints. Later comes tile, flooring, lighting, trim work, door hardware,



lighting, wallpaper, and sometimes furniture, art, and accessories. Wiott says the hardest part of the process is often getting clients to make firm decisions and stick to them.

Wiott, a seasoned professional who can hold her own in a room full of men, has worked in the industry for 25 years.

"I employ a lot of women who are fresh out of college. I teach them to find their voice and let everyone know that they know what they're talking about," says Wiott, who appreciates the yearly Women Build It Conference where women come together who are interested in the construction industry.

"I love what it's doing for young women coming into the industry," she says. "We need them, and we need one another to share and bounce questions off of."

If you're building a new home or remodeling project, contact Stephanie Wiott Designs today to help you navigate the process.



**Stephanie Wiott**  
Owner, Stephanie Wiott Designs



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INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46220



TUCKER  LUXURY  
THE art OF FINE HOMES

Nestled on a beautifully landscaped half-acre in coveted Meridian Hills, this stately 5-bedroom, 4.5-bath residence blends classic charm with thoughtful modern updates. At the heart of the home is a chef-inspired kitchen featuring granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, a spacious breakfast island with prep sink, and a timeless subway tile backsplash. The kitchen opens seamlessly to an elegant dining room accented by custom wainscoting and refined crown molding—ideal for both casual meals and formal entertaining. The main-level primary suite offers a tranquil retreat with private access to the backyard and a luxurious ensuite bath with spa-like finishes. Hardwood flooring extends across the main and upper levels, offering both durability and beauty. The finished lower level adds exceptional living space with a bright rec room, a full bath, a custom wet bar, and a unique, multi-purpose laundry/craft room. Step outside to a beautifully landscaped backyard retreat featuring multiple outdoor living areas, including a terraced deck with an electric awning, a brand-new hot tub spa, and plenty of space to relax or entertain. The expansive yard is framed by mature trees, offering privacy and natural beauty year-round. Centrally located in the heart of Meridian Hills, this home is just minutes from premier retail, dining, and quick access to the interstate—offering both tranquility and convenience in one of Indianapolis' most sought-after neighborhoods.

Discover the Nicole Lyon advantage today. Thank you for the opportunity to partner with you!

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SECURITY FEDERAL SAVINGS BANK:

# *When the Dream Feels Uncertain*

## How Security Federal Savings Bank Helps Homeowners Build with Confidence – Even in a Shifting Economy

by Darcie Duranceau

The housing market often moves to its own unpredictable beat, with fluctuating rates and shifting trends that can make building a custom home feel daunting. An experienced loan officer may be just the thing for dealing with fluctuating economies as homeowners realize the dream of building their dream home.

### STABILITY IN AN UNSTABLE MARKET

There is a lot of uncertainty about the market right now—especially as it pertains to interest rates. Security Federal Savings Bank offers foundational financial strategies designed to instill confidence. Options like fixed-rate construction loans provide predictability in monthly payments, shielding homeowners from fear of fluctuations during the building process.

That said, pre-approval is crucial, allowing homeowners to understand their borrowing capacity from the outset. As Denise Abshire,

a Construction Loan Officer with decades of experience, often emphasizes, it is important to fully grasp one's ability to afford principal, interest, taxes, and insurance. Starting this discussion early can help with establishing realistic expectations.

### A PARTNER WHO KNOWS YOUR WHY

“This was our dream, and we knew that we needed to buy the land to make the build a possibility. Denise was able to educate us because we didn't know about how to get a loan to buy land. With her help, we were able to use a home equity loan, which was so convenient,” says client, Whitney Hammond.

At SFSB, you are more than the sum of your accounts. Denise Abshire's client-centric philosophy ensures she can always prioritize what is best for the client. Her dedication to client satisfaction, reflected in a remarkable 90% referral rate, highlights a partnership built on trust.



**Denise Abshire**  
NMLS#591179

Mortgage Loan Originator,  
Security Federal Savings Bank



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secfed.bank

# The Future of Design Through the Lens of the Past

## Students Walk Through History to Design for the Future with the National Kitchen and Bath Association's Student Design Competition

by Kara Kavensky | photos by Ian Michael Green Photography

Earlier this year, the Indiana chapter of the National Kitchen and Bath Association (NKBA) hosted a special edition of their Student Design Competition. The challenge for design students from Indiana colleges and universities focused on the historic preservation of an apartment inside the Carriage House of The Indianapolis Propylaeum.

The Indianapolis Propylaeum at 1410 N. Delaware in Indianapolis' Old North Side is a storied building with an iconic

architectural structure. Both the main house and its Carriage House are on the National Register of Historic Places. In fact, the Carriage House is the original location of The Children's Museum of Indianapolis. The Propylaeum was founded by suffragist May Wright Sewall in 1888. Sewall's other significant civic work included founding the Indianapolis Woman's Club (est. 1875), the Art Association of Indianapolis (est. 1883 and known today as the Indianapolis Museum of Art / Newfields), and the John

Herron Art Institute (est. 1895 and now named Herron School of Art and Design at Indiana University Indianapolis).

Susan Benedict served as chairperson of the Student Design Competition. Benedict is a Certified Kitchen and Bath Designer, Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist, and principal of Design Alternatives Kitchen & Bath Design and Consulting company in Lafayette, Indiana. She selected The Carriage House apartment project to provide students with real-world experience, blending historical preservation with modern functionality.

"The Propylaeum wanted an attractive, livable space for future tenants," says Benedict, a past president of NKBA Indiana. "The winning designs met the criteria, and our judges were very impressed with the array of submissions, which showcases talent, imagination, and inspiration."

The awards event was all about making connections. Students, professors, judges, professionals, and community leaders gathered to celebrate the students and to network. Participating schools included Ball State University, Indiana State University, Indiana University, and Purdue University Indianapolis.

The Student Design Competition served as a full-circle moment for NKBA Indiana Chapter President Jessica Bostic: she won the competition herself when she was a student.



2025 National Kitchen and Bath Association's Student Design Competition Winners: (left to right) Kaatje Chesson, Rebecca McSorley, Deja Presswood, Emma McKinney, Ava Martin, Lilliana Sensibaugh.



(left to right) Jessica Bostic, Adam Grubb, Susan Benedict. Adam Grubb was the emcee for the awards ceremony.

“Mentorship is vital to growing our industry,” says Bostic, Principal and Interior Designer with Luxe Designs. “We encourage students to attend our meetings and get to know our community so they can get internships and stay local. This educational opportunity, along with the

networking with professionals, greatly inspired and influenced my budding career, and I hope it serves the same purpose for our students today.”

Many of the students toured The Propylaeum while working on their design project to seek inspiration.

“Specific architectural features, such as the different stained glass windows and all of the unique intricate details, caught my eye and inspired me to incorporate those into my design to connect it to the Propylaeum’s history,” says Kaatje Chesson, winner of Best Kitchen Design. “All of these were great inspirations for me while I was creating my design.”

“During the competition, I was inspired by vintage color palettes, which led me to design a pink bathroom that feels both nostalgic and fresh,” shares Ava Martin, BSU class of 2027, and winner of the Honorable Mention Award. “I embraced the existing elements of the space by keeping the original wall tile and shower placement, while thoughtfully incorporating historic touches throughout.”

## 2025 WINNERS:

**Best Kitchen Design:**  
Kaatje Chesson  
*Purdue Indianapolis*

**Best Bath Design:**  
Rebecca McSorley  
*Ball State University*

**Best Primary Bedroom Design:**  
Deja Presswood  
*Ball State University*

**Best Living | Dining Design:**  
Emma McKinney  
*Ball State University*

**Best Bedroom 2 Design:**  
Lilliana Sensibaugh  
*Ball State University*

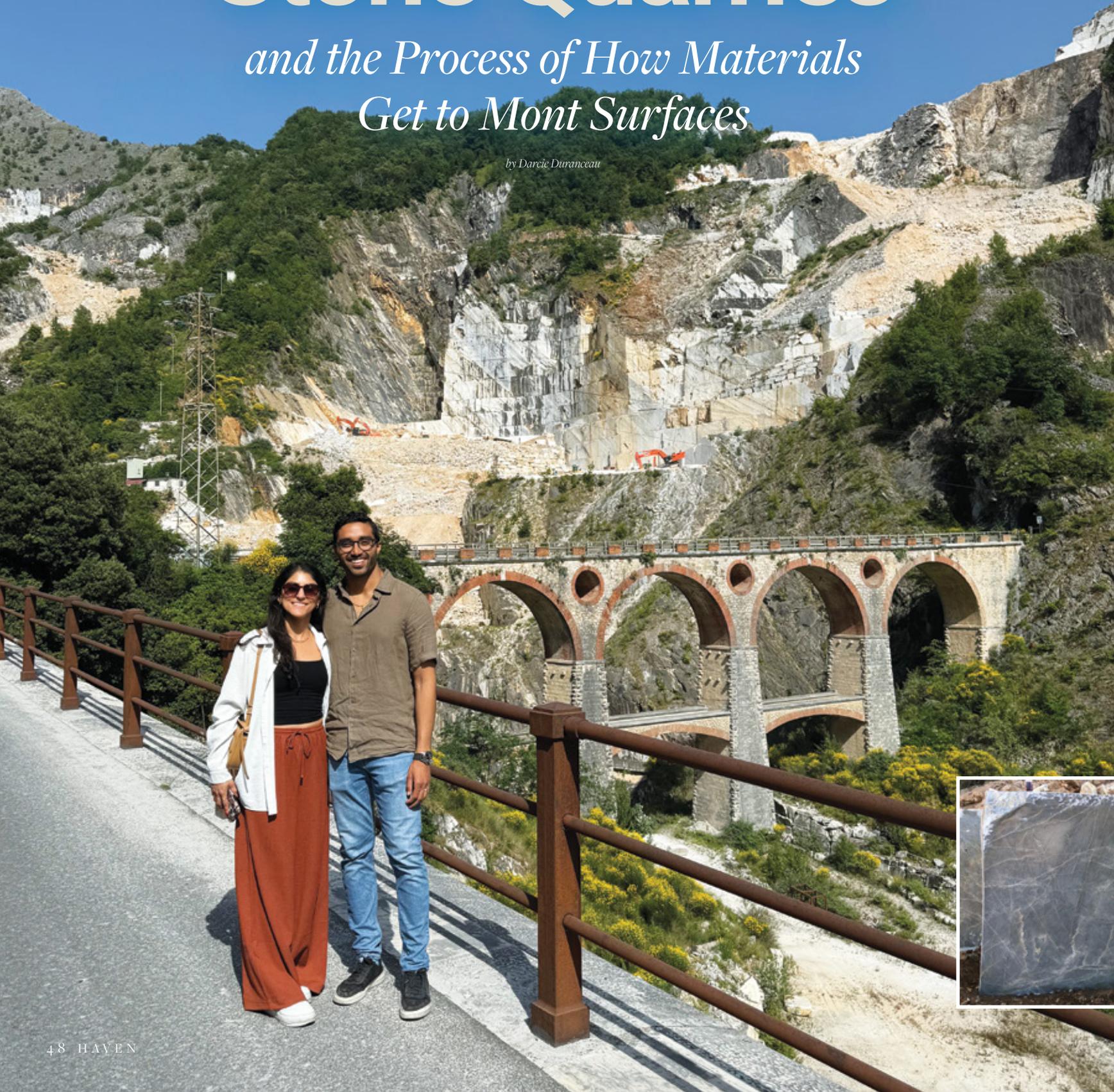
**Honorable Mention Award:**  
Ava Martin  
*Ball State University*

MONT SURFACES:

# Stone Quarries

*and the Process of How Materials  
Get to Mont Surfaces*

*by Darcie Duranceau*



The journey of a granite slab or marble countertop to your kitchen is an epic tale of geological wonder, intricate extraction, global logistics, and meticulous selection. Sounds like something straight from National Geographic? That's because it is—or at least it could be. Kurren Bafna, General Manager of Mont Surfaces, acts as a guide through this extraordinary process, which reaches its peak when the pristinely polished countertop selections arrive in their showrooms.

## UNCOVERING MOTHER NATURE'S BEAUTY: THE QUARRYING PROCESS

The epic odyssey of natural stone begins in the colossal heart of mountains across the globe. As Kurren reveals, “the quarrying process starts in a mountain where they are cutting blocks, sometimes from within the mountain and at others from the exterior.” With precision (and the help of massive drilling equipment, explosives, and specialized cutting tools), these huge segments are carefully guided onto cushioned beds of sand, safeguarding the beauty of the stone from the immense forces of their release.

## JURYING AND JOURNEYING: FROM RAW BLOCK TO POLISHED

From the rugged quarry, these raw blocks embark on the next phase of their transformation. Factory owners, equipped with advanced manufacturing facilities, travel directly to the quarries to “mark the blocks,” selecting specific ones that meet their stringent quality criteria. Once purchased, a block is transported, often by flatbed, to a factory for further processing. If a quarry is in a region without extensive processing facilities, the blocks might be shipped to one of the three major global hubs for natural stone manufacturing, says Kurren, who has personally visited several of the manufacturers to select from their final products. Brazil, India, and Italy are hubs, which means many of these giant blocks of stone must be placed in very large containers and shipped internationally before they can be processed and polished.

At these sophisticated factories, the true artistry of transforming raw block into polished slab begins. Each stone, being a unique product of nature, demands a tailored approach. “Every stone is handled a bit differently,” Bafna notes. Depending on the material,



it might undergo specialized treatments like acid washes, extensive soaking and drying, or multiple rounds of polishing and resin application to enhance its natural beauty and durability. This intricate manufacturing process readies the stone to be shipped to distributors like Mont Surfaces around the world. For highly sought-after materials like Taj Mahal quartzite, this entire process, from quarrying to arrival in the U.S., can span up to six months. Processing alone can take up to three months due to a material's specific needs.

Kurren Bafna, general manager of Mont Surfaces, inspects Jacaranda quartzite at a quarry in Brazil. Bafna and the dedicated team at Mont hand-select every slab of material to ensure quality and exacting standards.

## A COMMITMENT TO QUALITY

What truly distinguishes Mont Surfaces in this global supply chain is their unwavering commitment to quality control. “We hand-select all the material, every single slab of material that we have in our warehouse,” says Bafna. This means a dedicated team, including Bafna himself physically making visits to factories to personally inspect and choose each slab. They commit to a stone only after its final finish—whether polished, leathered, or honed—ensuring that what arrives at their eight Midwest locations meets their exacting standards.

Sustainability is a complex but vital consideration, and Mont strives to work with partners dedicated to sustainable practices.

Mont Surfaces' unique blend of global reach, rigorous hand-selection, and a deep understanding of the stone's journey ensures that homeowners receive materials of unparalleled beauty and quality. It also means that a homeowner can truly understand the origins of the materials being installed in their homes.



MONT SURFACES

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MontSurfaces.com



BUILD INDIANA ROOTS:

# The Hidden Costs *of* Inaction: What Happens if the Housing Deficit Grows?

by Darcie Duranceau

We often talk about how much homes cost, but rising prices can often come with serious, long-term consequences for all.

Experts at Senate.gov tell us that the U.S. is facing a huge shortage of “four to seven million housing units available for sale or rent.” The Builders Association of Greater Indianapolis (BAGI) wants to shine a light on these hidden costs that our region will face if we don’t address our housing needs today.

## ECONOMIC FOUNDATION AT RISK OF CRUMBLING

A strong local economy really needs a healthy and available housing market. The National Council of State Housing Agencies (nchfa.com) points out that when there’s

enough affordable housing, it actually “creates jobs and draws investment, returns money to local economies, and improves workforce recruitment, retention and expansion.”

## STRAINED COMMUNITIES AND SOCIAL DISPARITIES

Almost three out of four Americans (74%) say that finding affordable housing is a big problem in their own community, according to the Johnson Center. All these pressures mean our public services, like schools and emergency response, feel the strain. Plus, our commutes get longer, and some areas feel more crowded, all chipping away at the good quality of life we expect as residents.

## DEMOGRAPHIC SHIFTS AND LOST POTENTIAL

When there aren’t enough homes, it also changes who can afford to live in our communities. The National Association of Realtors (NAR) points out that this hits first-time homebuyers especially hard, making it tougher for younger generations to build wealth and creating bigger gaps between generations.

The unseen costs of not acting on this housing shortage add up over time. For Central Indiana to truly thrive long-term, we absolutely need to find proactive ways to increase our housing supply and ensure homes are affordable for everyone. BAGI is committed to promoting, educating, and connecting to address this crucial challenge.



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ESTRIDGE HOMES:

# BUILDING BEYOND EXPECTATIONS:

## The Enduring Appeal of Estridge Homes

by Darcie Duranceau | photos by The Home Aesthetic



Estridge Homes' Design Studio

A home isn't just a house; it's a sanctuary where memories are made, families grow, and dreams take shape. The decision to build a new home is deeply personal, driven by the desire for a space that is both functional and stunning. Estridge Homes understands this profound connection, dedicating itself to crafting residences that become the foundation for a better, more fulfilling life.

Choosing Estridge Homes means investing in a future where quality, comfort, and thoughtful design blend seamlessly. The elevated architecture blends timeless design with modern innovation, ensuring every home is as stunning as it is functional. That is to say that

Estridge Homes isn't building cookie cutter homes—they are building customized homes that fit the individual needs of each and every customer. This commitment to superior craftsmanship ensures a sense of lasting stability and pride, allowing homeowners to simply live and thrive.

But a home is more than four walls. Estridge Homes is passionate about building communities where people connect, grow, and belong. Through thoughtful neighborhood planning, curated amenities, and a deep understanding of the people they serve, they create places that feel like home both inside and out. These vibrant communities foster lasting relationships and joyful living—right from the front door and far beyond.

For those longing for the feeling of home, Estridge Homes transforms dreams into reality, creating not just beautiful structures, but environments where families can truly flourish and build a lifetime of happiness.



**ESTRIDGE HOMES**  
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McCOMB PELLA WINDOWS & DOORS + HAMILTON HOMES:

# Carefree CONSTRUCTION:

## Hamilton Homes & McComb Pella Bring Your Dream Home to Life

by Christy Heitger-Ewing



Rick Hamilton makes a living out of bringing people's dreams to life.

Hamilton, a seasoned builder who founded Hamilton Homes in 1987, has been building dream properties for nearly four decades. It's grown into a family passion project, as three of his four children work alongside him. Someday, Hamilton hopes to pass the baton off to them.

"We've always worked really hard with our customers to put their dream on paper and build it," says Hamilton, whose background in management and sales helped him in the construction industry. "Once I got into this field, it became my passion."

Hamilton Homes, a small company that provides personalized service to their clients, does both new construction and major renovation projects. They build two to three homes a year in addition to roughly 25 major renovations. Given that interest rates have doubled in the past three years and the cost of goods has risen significantly, many of Hamilton's clients are choosing to refurbish their existing homes rather than build new.

"Some of the homes we built on Geist Reservoir would cost \$4 to \$5M today, whereas back in the 90s we built them for \$1.2 to \$1.8M," says Hamilton. "These homeowners get a better bang for their buck by spending \$1M to renovate their existing home."

Even younger buyers prefer to buy in established neighborhoods located in good school districts because they can purchase and revamp a 25-year-old home for a fraction of what it would cost to build new. A brand-new starter home in Central Indiana runs anywhere from \$350-\$700K depending on the area. They can make their home their own by installing new windows, cabinets, countertops, appliances, flooring, and changing wall colors.

"That's where we really shine," says Hamilton. "Taking an



as well as the assortment of options, sizes, and colors.

“I can do a lot of custom sizes I can’t get from smaller companies,” says Hamilton, who predominantly uses their higher-end products.

However, even the cost-effective options that they use for customers who are trying to save money are good, quality products that give customers years of carefree use in a home.

“We’ve seen the window industry evolve tremendously over the last 50 years as products and technology have changed allowing me to build a higher quality home and be more energy efficient for my clients,” says Hamilton.

If you want to take your dream home from paper to reality, contact Hamilton Homes today by visiting [builtbyhamilton.com](http://builtbyhamilton.com).



**McCOMB PELLA WINDOWS & DOORS / PELLA EXPERIENCE CENTER**

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[pella.com/locations/indianapolis](http://pella.com/locations/indianapolis)

old house and bringing it completely back to life.”

Their ten-year partnership with McComb Pella Windows & Doors helps make that shine really sparkle.

“Our relationship with Pella is wonderful,” says Hamilton. “My rep, Ryan Lee, does an outstanding job answering questions, getting back with me immediately, and explaining to my customers the different products Pella carries.”

Hamilton also says that Pella has always been a high-end, efficient company with impressive R&D. When he was invited by the company to tour their factory, he was impressed by the amount of research they put into the different climate zones as well as their quality testing.

“They are one of the larger window companies in the U.S.,” says Hamilton. “A lot of the smaller companies don’t have the ability to do [those tests].”

He appreciates their flexibility in products



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Catherine Marrano

CATHERINE MARRANO INTERIORS:

UNCOVERING THE  
*Story of a Home*

by Christy Heitger-Ewing | photos by Sarah Shields Photography



Have you ever had a clear vision of something in your head but struggled to articulate it or take the steps necessary to bring it to life? Such was the case for a homeowner who recently collaborated with Catherine Marrano, Founder and Principal Designer of Catherine Marrano Interiors. The homeowner wanted to transform an unused space in her home into a purposeful space that felt moody, eclectic, and sophisticated.

Marrano's design firm takes clients on an intentional, structured, transparent design journey—one that keeps clients involved and empowered as they make major decisions with the guidance of a seasoned professional.

“Creating intentional spaces where there was once ambiguity requires seeing spaces through a fresh lens,” says Marrano. The journey unfolds across four key phases: Discovery, Concept Design, Design Development, and Installation.

“Clients appreciate the organization, clarity and collaboration we bring to each encounter,” says Marrano. “At every stage, clients know exactly where they are and where they’re going. Through in-person meetings and detailed visual presentations, we shape a design tailored to their lifestyle.”

In this instance, the homeowner's large, underutilized room featured a fireplace and a separate bar area, both rooted in a traditional colonial style that no longer aligned with their taste or lifestyle. They wanted a space where they could both entertain and unwind.

Marrano elevated the design by introducing a dramatic coffered ceiling and

thoughtfully layering luxury performance fabrics, timeless silhouettes, elevated textures, and modern forms. They opened up the bar area into the lounge, creating a seamless space that functions beautifully for both entertaining and relaxation. A stunning chandelier anchors the room, while thoughtfully maximized seating ensures comfort and style for every occasion. The result is a richly layered room that feels tailored, unexpected, and deeply personal—perfect for evening gatherings or quiet nights in. The space balances function with sophistication.

“Uncovering a client's vision is the foundation of every successful design,” says Marrano. During the initial phase, she asks thoughtful, targeted questions about color, pattern, and how the homeowner

lives in their space to ensure every choice is personal and purposeful. They also take into account the architecture and existing permanent elements of the home. “Uncovering a client's vision is the foundation of every successful design,” says Marrano.

By layering in considerations around functionality and performance, Marrano's team is able to identify opportunities for impactful finishes, rich textures, and meaningful focal points that elevate the overall design.

“This deep dive into lifestyle, goals, and aesthetic preferences ensures that every decision moving forward is aligned with the big-picture vision,” says Marrano.

When it comes to choosing colors, Marrano maintains that trends must be approached with intention. She avoids trend traps by weaving in subtle elements—like a fresh color, an interesting shape, or a contemporary texture—without letting any one trend dominate the design.

“It's about balance,” she says. “The goal is to keep spaces feeling current while ensuring they'll stand the test of time.”

Given that color sets the mood, defines the energy, and shapes the personality of a space, when building palettes for clients, Marrano begins with one anchor color. From there, she layers in complementary hues along with neutrals or tonal variations that support and enhance the core palette. This thoughtful curation ensures that the space feels cohesive, balanced, and reflective of the client's unique style.

Marrano says that a client's story is essential to shaping the concept of repurposing a space, which is why she loves to incorporate the client's own words and stories when developing her design concepts.

“It's their home, their story, and their life,” she says. “We specialize in curating spaces they'll love and cherish for generations to come.”

Specializing in renovation management and custom cabinetry, Catherine Marrano Interiors is a luxury interior design firm that handles all aspects of an interior design project and serves clients near and far. If you're looking to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary, reach out to Catherine through her website's intake form to schedule a discovery call and delve deeper into her offerings.

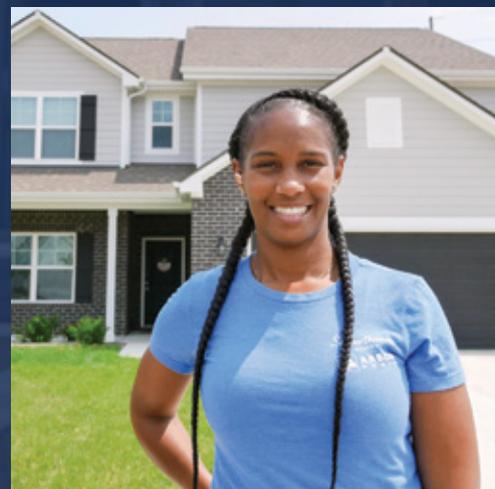


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AIRVENT:

# Don't Overlook Your Attic Ventilation:

## It Affects Indoor Air Quality, Energy Use, and Roof Life

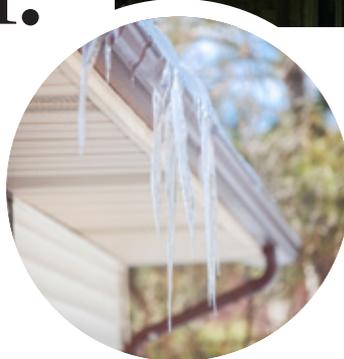
by Paul Scelsi

Most homeowners rarely think about airflow through their attic. But balanced attic ventilation can provide significant indoor air quality, energy usage, and roof longevity benefits.

Attic ventilation is a combination of intake air (vents installed in the soffit, overhang, or low on the roof) and exhaust air (vents installed at or near the peak of the roof or the gable end of the house). When balanced 50% intake and 50% exhaust, ventilation can effectively fight heat, moisture, and ice dams.

During the warmer months, radiant heat from the sun bakes the roof, where temperatures can reach 180°. Some of that heat is transferred into the attic and can radiate into the living space, making it uncomfortable and causing air conditioners to run longer. Homeowners reported 20% energy savings when the attic ventilation was corrected. Heat buildup can contribute to premature aging of the roof shingles—up to 24%.

We generate 2 to 4 gallons of water vapor daily while cooking, cleaning, doing laundry, showering, and breathing. During the colder months, this water vapor is attracted to a cooler, dryer place—the attic. If it's not vented out, it can condense as frost or water droplets,



Above: Balanced attic ventilation installed by Fortress Exteriors, Fishers, IN using ShingleVent II ridge vent (exhaust) and continuous soffit vent (intake). Left: Ice dams can be minimized with balanced attic ventilation.

causing mold, mildew, or wood rot. These can compromise the attic insulation and affect indoor air quality.

Another winter concern is ice dams, which trap snow melt on the roof and trigger damage to the gutter, fascia, the roof, and the house interior. Balanced ventilation helps keep the attic temperature close to the outdoor temperature so that the snow melts more uniformly, minimizing ice dam formation.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO TODAY

Look in your attic (or ask a roofing pro) to check if the insulation is mistakenly blocking the intake vents. Make sure the bath fan ductwork exits the roof or gable side of your house to a dedicated bath vent. You don't want that moisture overwhelming the ventilation system. Most importantly, do you have 50% intake and 50% exhaust for the size of your attic? There are online tools to help you calculate this, including [gibraltarbuildingproducts.com](http://gibraltarbuildingproducts.com) and the AirVent YouTube channel.

*Paul Scelsi is marketing communications manager at AirVent and leader of its Attic Ventilation: Ask the Expert™ seminars ([gibraltarbuildingproducts.com](http://gibraltarbuildingproducts.com)). He hosts the podcast, "Airing it out with AirVent," and he's the chairperson of the Asphalt Roofing Manufacturers Association Ventilation Task Force.*



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NATURAL STONE & TILE:

WHERE DESIGN MEETS  
EXPERIENCE:

# Inside Natural Stone & Tile's Visionary Showroom



Step into Natural Stone & Tile in Indianapolis, and you'll quickly realize that you're not in an ordinary showroom. Instead, you've entered a space where design inspiration lives and breathes, where surfaces tell stories, and where homeowners and trade professionals alike discover what's possible.

At the heart of it all is Laura Gunderman, Owner and CEO, whose passion for tile, texture, and thoughtful design has fueled the company's growth for more than 30 years. As a proud woman-owned business, Natural Stone & Tile has long supplied Central Indiana with the world's finest tile, stone, and wall coverings. Laura's latest venture is a bold leap forward: a state-of-the-art showroom that turns material selection into an immersive experience.

"I wanted a place where you don't just see tile, you interact with it," says Gunderman. "Design is about feeling inspired, and that only happens when people can explore, touch, and imagine the possibilities for their project."

### A SHOWROOM THAT INSPIRES AND CONNECTS

This isn't a showroom you simply stroll through, it's a space that encourages exploration. Towering displays, rolling panels, and curated product vignettes showcase porcelain, glass, mosaics, natural stone, wallpaper and wall panels in ways that spark ideas for every style, from sleek and contemporary to timeless and elegant.

Visitors can pair floor and wall selections,

experiment with colors and textures, and create mood boards on-site all with the guidance of NST's knowledgeable team. Comfortable lounge areas and designer-friendly workspaces make the showroom a welcoming place to collaborate on everything from kitchen remodels to full-scale custom builds.

While the showroom is open to the public, all product sales are handled through builders, designers, and trade professionals, reinforcing NST's role as a trusted partner to the region's design and construction community.

### MORE THAN A SHOWROOM: A HUB FOR COMMUNITY AND CREATIVITY

What truly sets this space apart is its multi-purpose design. Beyond being a selection center, the showroom doubles as an event and education hub. A well appointed kitchen, boardroom and training center create a backdrop for industry training, client presentations, and private events.

On Tuesday, September 9, the showroom will host the Haven Networking Night, a special gathering for the home and architecture and design communities. Attendees will enjoy a night of connection and inspiration while experiencing the showroom firsthand. Showcasing a perfect example of how Natural Stone & Tile continues to bridge design, education, and community engagement.

"The goal is simple," Gunderman says. "If we can educate, inspire, and support our clients, they'll not only feel confident in their choices, they'll come back for the next project and the one after that."

### THE EXPERIENCE AWAITS

Whether you're an architect or designer planning your next big project or a homeowner dreaming up your forever kitchen, Natural Stone & Tile's showroom is an invitation to imagine, create, and collaborate. It's a space built for the future of design, right here in Central Indiana.



Laura and John Gunderman



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What It's Really Like to  
Live Through a  
**Major  
Renovation**

by Darcie Duranceau

The vision of a newly renovated home is undeniably exciting. Images of gleaming countertops, expanded living spaces, and a design perfectly tailored to one's dreams fill Pinterest pages and social media feeds. Yet, between that inspiring vision and the stunning reality lies a period of disruption, dust, and decision-making. For many homeowners, the question isn't just about the finished product, but what it's really like to live through the transformation itself.

### TO STAY OR NOT TO STAY: NAVIGATING THE LIVING SITUATION

One of the first significant decisions a homeowner faces is whether to remain in their home during a major renovation. The pros often include saving money on temporary lodging and the ability to closely monitor the project's progress. However, as Jason Gettum of Gettum Remodeling has seen, staying put also means "living in a construction zone." This can involve navigating dust, limited access to areas of your home, and the constant presence of a work crew.

Homeowners who opt to stay often find success by coming up with creative solutions. The key, Gettum says, is to embrace flexibility and manage expectations for daily life amidst the transformation.

### KITCHEN CHAOS: MEALTIME SURVIVAL STRATEGIES

Perhaps no part of a renovation impacts daily life more profoundly than the disruption of a functioning kitchen. The absence of a sink, oven, or even a full refrigerator can turn mealtime into a creative challenge. Gettum, who has grown up in the industry, says that his clients often become masters of makeshift solutions.

"I've seen families have folding tables set up in family rooms with a toaster and a microwave, with the fridge plugged in beside it," he says. Simplifying meal-making will be crucial at certain points in the remodeling process, which might mean a reliance on paper plates and disposable cutlery to minimize dishwashing. "Although, I have seen families wash dishes in bathtubs," Gettum adds.

He also mentions the surprising versatility of grilling for quick, outdoor cooking, and the efficiency of slow cooker/Crock-Pot meals for easy, set-it-and-forget-it dinners.

### BEYOND THE BLUEPRINT: TIPS FOR NAVIGATING CONTRACTORS AND SURPRISES

A successful renovation hinges on a strong relationship with your remodeling team. Gettum emphasizes open and consistent communication. He advises homeowners to

"ask questions" and "trust the process."

"There are parts of this process that are very fast and therefore very exciting—such as demolition, but the homeowner can't always appreciate the time spent laying pipe or cleaning up at the end of the day to ensure the home is safe and secure in the same way."

So, he recommends that homeowners stay informed with regular check-ins. Daily conversations, even brief ones, can clarify expectations and address minor issues before they escalate. It's also wise to anticipate that even the most meticulously planned projects can encounter challenges or changes, relying on the homeowner's and remodeler's flexibility to reach the desired outcome.

### REFLECTING ON THE JOURNEY: WHAT HOMEOWNERS WOULD DO DIFFERENTLY

While the joy of the finished home outweighs the temporary discomfort, many homeowners reflect on how they might have better prepared for the living situation. This could involve more strategic planning for temporary living zones or a more elaborate temporary kitchen setup to further ease daily routines.

Yet, the overwhelming sentiment remains that the investment in a home tailored to their dreams was ultimately worth every moment of the disruption. Every situation is different, every project is different, and that is what makes this work exciting for professionals like Gettum—that and seeing the satisfaction of happy customers. "We have wonderful clients who we've done three, four, or even five projects for," Jason says, a testament to the results being worth the temporary discomfort.



**WORTH IT!**  
The Results will be worth any temporary discomfort of a home renovation, according to Jason Gettum of Gettum Remodeling.





# haven

## COVER PARTY

July/August 2025

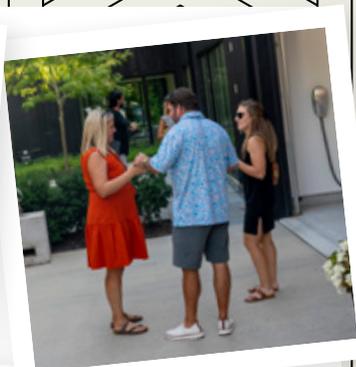


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