

kitchen & bath DESIGN NEWS[®]

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KBDN'S TOP INNOVATORS

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ON THE COVER

Eddie Leverett, Jr., of ONE eleven ltd. in Las Vegas, NV met the homeowners' desire for natural materials with this island bar top, made of a striking reclaimed piece of zebra wood with a book-matched waterfall edge. Read more...p. 66



THE INNOVATORS

KBDN has named its sixth Innovators class, an annual selection of industry professionals recognized for their mentoring, education, design and the ability to lead the industry through challenging times.

STEADY VOICES THROUGH unsteady times are key to the continued health of any industry. When examining the Innovators chosen by *Kitchen & Bath Design News* for 2022, showcased on the following pages, the kitchen and bath industry shines with strength and leadership courtesy of those industry members who have risen to the top.

Unprecedented project numbers, spiking inflation and material costs, labor shortages and an uncertain economic future are all on the minds of designers, business owners and manufacturers. A changing marketplace means customers who spend hours surfing the internet for design ideas, employees who want to spend more time working at home, and showrooms that follow new safety protocols in keeping with post-pandemic needs. It's a lot – often overwhelming – to take in.

Leaders in the industry are stepping up, helping others navigate these challenges and more through seminars, mentoring programs, work in association chapters and educational initiatives. In addition, they continue to educate themselves about design trends, what customers want, and what's new and what's next. These top professionals continue to reach beyond the norms, breaking out of professional comfort zones to not only ponder how to best serve their businesses but the industry as a whole.

Kitchen & Bath Design News honors these industry leaders in its pages every year by naming The Innovators, a group of industry professionals who are setting the standard for excellence in the design industry. Nominated by their peers and then reviewed by the KBDN nominating committee, the 24 Innovators for 2022 are an extraordinary group of individuals committed to moving the kitchen and bath industry forward. On this and the next six pages, *Kitchen & Bath Design News* presents its sixth annual class of Innovators.



Elizabeth Jennings

Designer prioritizes learning and sharing her knowledge

Elizabeth (Liz) Jennings' career as a kitchen and bath designer spans 42 years, 32 of them at The Muir Showrooms at Milford Lumber in

Milford, NH. She wears many hats beyond her designer/consultant title: student as she strives to keep current with the latest trends, teacher and leader as she shares her industry knowledge.

Many of her clients have come back to Jennings two and even three times to redesign their homes as trends change. In addition, she has shared her knowledge with designers who have come and gone over the years. Her experience enables her to help even seasoned designers create distinctive layouts. Additionally, having worked with some of her contractors for decades, she speaks their language, and their communications are stimulating to witness, according to colleagues.

With the increase in the aging-in-place movement, Jennings became an expert in accessible design. Local contractors seek her out when they have clients in need. Jennings has worked on both new construction and remodels to assist the growing population that wishes to age gracefully in their homes.

While she is a Certified Kitchen Designer, Jennings is not content to rest on her laurels. Her lifetime goal is to become a Certified Master Kitchen and Bath Designer.



Julie Leverett

Empathy drives designer's focus on Universal Design

Julie and Eddie Leverett, Jr., co-founders and partners of ONE eleven ltd. in Las Vegas, NV, are in a unique position to empathize with

the clients of their consulting, design/build and remodeling company, which specializes in Universal Design concepts.

Julie Leverett spent years in the hospitality industry, including working at Simon Kitchen & Bar at the Hard Rock Hotel in Las Vegas with a renowned chef who was a boss, mentor and friend. She found herself called upon by the chef when a medical condition advanced to the point of requiring extra assistance. In 2005 Eddie Leverett, Jr. shattered both of his legs from the knees down in a motocross accident. Being a design-build contractor for 10-plus years at the time, he was determined to reconstruct his non-universal living space into a serene home environment, adding functionality and hope.

Thus, ONE eleven ltd. is particularly suited to provide full-home residential and small commercial renovations accommodating the needs of all individuals by constructing aesthetically pleasing, accessible spaces. The firm will create an overall renovation plan, encompassing all aspects of mobile accessibility within the existing walls and exterior grounds.

Bringing independence and safety to the lives of individuals who find themselves in circumstances of challenged mobility is the passion of both Julie and Eddie and the culture of ONE eleven ltd.



Corey Klassen

Designer prioritizes inclusivity in their designs

Corey Klassen, CMKBD, NCIDQ is a principal and founder of Articulated Design Studio in Vancouver, BC, and also an interior design educator. They

started Corey Klassen Interior Design in 2011, now Articulated Design Studio, with a focus on providing authentic, accessible and approachable physical environments while delighting in the eclectic tastes of the unique clients they serve.

They have won multiple international design awards and often lend their experience and knowledge to shelter publications and the broader interior design industry. As an educator and professional speaker, both with the National Kitchen & Bath Association and public/private institutions, Klassen focuses on creating stronger connections to the standards of industry practice through programming, space planning, and technical and contract documentation while highlighting the need for inclusively designed spaces.

Klassen has volunteered with the NKBA British Columbia Chapter, the NKBA Certification Task Force and has been a peer reviewer for numerous industry related texts. In addition, they have written and developed courses for the NKBA, LIXIL America and BLANCO North America while speaking across Canada and the U.S. presenting professional development courses. As a subject matter expert, Klassen was a content coordinator for NKBA's new Kitchen & Bath Planning Guidelines, 4th Edition.



elizaBeth Marcocci

Pennsylvania designer leads through industry service

A member of the design industry for over 35 years, elizaBeth Marcocci is a designer and project manager for Mother Hubbard's Custom Cabinetry

in Mechanicsburg, PA. She has served on the Susquehanna Valley Chapter of NKBA board of directors as chapter rep, and was chapter president, v.p. of Membership and co-chair of October Kitchen & Bath Month. In 2021 she implemented a Level up Study group for the chapter. She also writes articles for the chapter website.

A graduate of St. Petersburg College with a degree in interior design and further studies in design at Florida State University, Marcocci earned her Certified master Kitchen and Bath Designer credentials from the NKBA. In 2014 she also completed her Certified Aging in Place Specialist designation from the National Association of Home Builders.

A winner of several design awards, Marcocci recently earned Gold in the 2022 KBDA Design Competition - Small Kitchen Category, sponsored by *Kitchen & Bath Design News*. She also served as a Best of KBIS 2022 judge, a Voices of the Industry presenter at KBIS 2022 and recently presented a CEU webinar with NKBA.

She is a graduate of the Leadership Bedford County Program as well as former president of Blair County Women in Business, president of the S-L Sesquicentennial Celebration and president of "A Sparkle of HOPE" fundraiser.

Natural Wood Brings the 'Wow'



BEFORE

The owners of this home, a young couple, wanted a practical and stylish update to their modest kitchen that would last them for years to come. Eddie Leverett, Jr., of ONE eleven ltd. in Las Vegas, NV, was engaged to tackle a scope of work that entailed a complete gut overhaul of the existing kitchen perimeter, as well as a design update that would showcase organic materials and clean finishes.

AFTER

Although the remodel was dogged by problems typical of many current projects - appliance back-orders, items damaged upon delivery, etc. - Leverett's team rolled with the punches in order to ultimately produce a classic, chic space with greatly improved functionality. Per the homeowners' preference for natural materials, the island bar top features a striking reclaimed piece of zebra wood with a book-matched waterfall end, offset by white cabinetry and a contrasting black range hood and backsplash. A brushed gold faucet and hardware elicit the effect of precious metals and evoke a feeling of timelessness. | [View more after photos at KitchenBathDesign.com](https://www.kitchenbathdesign.com)



After Photos: Chris Wessling