

KBIS

LAS VEGAS
JANUARY 21-23
2020

The 2020

Thirty Under 30

Program

Meet the
THIRTY
UNDER
30
NKBA

Sponsored by:



Introduced in 2013, the NKBA Thirty Under 30 program continues to recognize outstanding young professionals with the potential to lead the kitchen and bath industry of the future.

The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) will recognize the Thirty Under 30 class of 2020 at the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS®) in Las Vegas, Jan. 21-23, 2020. The group will make its debut on the KBISNeXT Stage at 9:30 a.m. on Jan. 21.

"We believe in our industry's vibrant and robust future, and we're proud to honor these accomplished young professionals," said Bill Darcy, NKBA Chief Executive Officer. "These talented individuals are standard-bearers and examples for their peers. Our aim is that this honor helps them in their continuing professional development, as they grow into their roles as the next generation of industry leaders."

This is the eighth class of 30s, and as with the groups who preceded them, they will have a mission at KBIS. The newly inducted honorees will be split into 10 teams of three and will be tasked with walking the show floor to identify top products and innovations in several categories. The teams will present the "30's Choice Awards" on the KBISNeXT stage on Jan. 23 at 11:30 a.m. It's sure to be an insightful presentation about what these rising young professionals view as important developments in the K&B space.



David Berens; ReFind Kitchens, San Diego, C.A.

David Berens is owner/founder of zero-waste residential design firm ReFind Kitchens, which deconstructs and repurposes luxury homes and showrooms, keeping hundreds of tons of building materials out of landfills. Partnering with Habitat for Humanity and others, Berens is creating an architectural reuse system that makes it possible to complete a house using almost entirely recaptured materials. An active community volunteer, he received a NARI Chapter Community Service Award as part of a team that remodeled the Assistance League's Escondido thrift store, resulting in \$250,000 that helped the nonprofit fund local scholarships, grants and programming. Before ReFind, Berens was a Fulbright Scholar in Uruguay, founding an urban farm project that continues to this day. He's passionate about sustainable, equitable food systems and outdoor experiential education.



Fabian Cabrera; Ferrarini & Co., Elkins Park, P.A.

Fabian Cabrera is lead kitchen and bath installer for award-winning Ferrarini & Co. Cabrera started with the luxe K&B design firm as a carpenter's apprentice in 2014. Within 12 months, he was promoted to lead carpenter, and within three years, he was installing entire projects from start to finish. With unique installation knowledge such as triple-stacked crown moldings or large-format (8' x 4') tile and award-winning installs, Cabrera ranks among the country's most talented K&B installers. He was instrumental in a Ferrarini bath project that won an NKBA 2018 Design Award, and in a project that's a finalist in the 2020 NKBA Design Competition. Cabrera holds a Specialized Certification in Construction Management from Temple University.



Kylee Chatham; Architectural Ceramics, Alexandria, V.A.

Kylee Chatham is on the Business Development and Outside Sales team at Architectural Ceramics, a DC Metro-based tile and stone company. She graduated from the NKBA-accredited Residential Design program at Virginia Tech in 2015, and became the first student host in the NKBA Student Webinar Series. Her presentation, "Securing the Internship: Tips for the Student & The Employer," showed students how to target internships, and employers how they can benefit from hiring interns. Post-graduation, she worked with two high-caliber design firms, refining her project-management skills. At Architectural Ceramics, she's immersed in the product side of the business, to become her clients' go-to tile rep.



Morgan Chiarelly; Kessebohmer USA Inc., Wilmington, N.C.

Morgan Chiarelly earned a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of North Carolina Wilmington with a concentration in Operations Management, and joined Kessebohmer USA in Wilmington in 2015. She worked almost full time while in school, where she founded the International Business Student Association, and attended weekly local networking events and monthly NKBA meetings. Chiarelly is now trade show manager for Kessebohmer USA, where she has streamlined processes from e-commerce to onboarding employees and mentoring interns, and serves as a liaison to its German parent. She also volunteers in her community with student organizations, at-risk youth, Port City Young Professionals, and is Secretary/Treasurer of NKBA's Eastern Carolinas Chapter.

NKBA Chapter: Eastern Carolinas



Joseph DeCasperis; Karmichael's Cabinetry, Menifee, C.A.

Joseph DeCasperis says he's all about transformations. When he was 15, he lost 100 pounds, transformed his body and mind, and embraced a Southern California lifestyle. Three years later, as a freshman in college, bought a house and transformed it from top to bottom, gutting and renovating the kitchen and bath, painting and tiling and selecting all materials for the restoration. In 2017, he asked for an internship at Karmichael's Cabinetry and went full-time a year later, increasing semi-custom kitchen sales by 318% and maintaining a 52% conversion rate. In 2019, he became a partner and has helped to rebrand and expand offerings into broader design services and increase community involvement.

NKBA Chapter: Southern California



Carolyn Elleman; Case Design/Remodeling, Bethesda, M.D.

Carolyn Elleman holds a B.S. in Interior Design from Murray State University. She joined Case in May 2015, and her passion for technology, design skills and highly organized nature quickly established her as a high achiever. She has been recognized as a Top Gun at Case for producing over \$3 million in projects in a fiscal year. She also won a Case Signature Award for project design. Her projects have been featured on Houzz and in The Washington Post. She works with her local NKBA Chapter (Baltimore/Washington) on its social media efforts.

NKBA Chapter: Baltimore/Washington



Mackenzie Elliott; GE Monogram Appliances, Chicago, I.L.

Mackenzie Elliott joined GE Appliances in 2015, following the path of her grandfather, who spent 50 years as a GE engineer. She initially worked on the National Brand and Advertising team in Louisville, Ky., focusing on several product lines and campaigns, including the launch of the Monogram Modern Home Tour. She headed to Chicago, where she was promoted to grow the Monogram brand as Lead Product Specialist in the Merchandise Mart. Focused on the luxury kitchen and bath space, Mackenzie helps develop Monogram's brand image through specialized designer training sessions and trade partnership events. She is an accredited Monogram CEU presenter and leads events on luxury design trends.



Amber Fowler; Rev-A-Shelf, Louisville, K.Y.

Amber Fowler is the Content Marketing Associate for kitchen and bath manufacturer Rev-A-Shelf LLC in Louisville, Ky. She studied advertising, graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in 2017. Since joining Rev-A-Shelf, she has applied her skills to execute a successful social media program for two brands in national and international markets. Fowler leads more than a dozen social media platforms with their own marketing strategy, calendar and analytics to increase brand awareness and community engagement, both of which have increased significantly under her management. She's active in local creative community engagement events and will assume the role of VP of Communications for the Kentuckiana NKBA Chapter in 2020.

NKBA Chapter: Kentuckiana



Karina Gaft; Yale Appliance & Lighting, Boston, M.A.

Karina is a leading senior appliance consultant at Yale Appliance & Lighting in Boston, where she's also enrolled at Harvard University, pursuing a Master's Degree in sustainability with a focus on green building design and environmental policy. She combines her knowledge of kitchen remodeling and energy efficient appliances with her passion for environmentally responsible, sustainable design practices and net-zero home building. Before entering this industry, Gaft was a research scientist working through Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, a hospital affiliated with Harvard. She graduated from Brandeis University in 2014 with a biology degree, and as an appliance consultant, realized she could match her newfound passion for home building with her academic background in sustainability and green building.



Nicole Galera; DDR Design & Remodel, Elk Grove, C.A.

Nicole Galera discovered her love of design early on, originally pursuing graphic design in school. She began her professional career in home improvement in 2013, starting in the paint department of Home Depot, and worked her way through appliances and into kitchen and bath design, where she consistently ranked #1 in her district. While there, she was recruited by DR Design & Remodel, and has flourished ever since. Galera is also in the process of becoming a general contractor, and at DR, she designs and is responsible for all project permit drawings as well as contractors' work orders. Active in her community, she designed an ADA-compliant, handicap-accessible bathroom for a local special-needs charity, Project R.I.D.E.



Hannah Harrington; Kitchen Concepts, Tulsa, O.K.

Hannah Harrington, who holds a B.S. in Design, Housing, and Merchandising from Oklahoma State University, joined Kitchen Concepts in Tulsa as an interior designer upon graduation in 2016. Her focus is high-end residential kitchen and bath design – mostly remodels, but some new builds. She has a background in project management, space planning and computer-aided design, and has gained expertise in coordinating all facets of design, from A&E approval to FF&E selection, to final delivery and installation. Her passions extend beyond art and design to dogs; Oklahoma Thunder basketball; golf, which she's been playing since the age of 3, and the "love, light and laughter" of her older brother, who has Cerebral Palsy.

NKBA Chapter: Oklahoma



Jennifer Hutton; Artisan Kitchens and Baths, Buffalo, N.Y.

After earning degrees in Interior Design from Villa Maria College and Environmental Design from the University at Buffalo, Jennifer Hutton taught a course in Villa Maria's kitchen and bath design program before joining Artisan. As a designer/salesperson, Hutton tallied nearly \$1.1 million in sales in 2018 and is on track to break that record by the end of 2019. She has appeared on local TV for her projects, been published in local and national magazines and designed for high-profile clients, including the main kitchen at the 2017 Junior League Decorator's Showhouse. Hutton's honors include the 2015 Top Designer Award from Kemper Cabinetry. In 2019, she launched HuttonHouse Interiors, a freelance design service for clients with labor-intensive projects.

NKBA Chapter: Central New York



Jensen Landers; Marrokal Design & Remodeling, San Diego, C.A.

Jensen Landers began with Marrokal Design & Remodeling in 2017 as a temporary interior designer and within three months became full-time. Initially hired to meet clients and select finish materials, she has developed the role to include a production package for our project managers, providing drawings in REVIT, bidding all selections and selling change orders for upgrades. She has mastered Lumion to provide sales tools with fly-through 3D models of projects. A year ago, Landers became lead interior designer and now manages the design team. She has greatly improved the team's "on-time completion" rate, and is a presenter at weekend seminars for potential clients and has been involved in the development of PowerPoint presentations.

NKBA Chapter: San Diego



Ariana Lovato, AKBD; Honeycomb Home Design, Arroyo Grande, C.A.

Ariana Afshar Lovato founded Honeycomb Home Design in 2016 with a simple mission: creating timeless interiors with a modern edge. She holds an Associate's Degree in Interior Design from Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from University of LaVerne. Before starting Honeycomb, she was assistant designer for a local firm, and worked for a design/build company for over five years. Lovato serves on the board of Central Coast Interior Designers and volunteers in her community. She earned her AKBD in January and was awarded the Leading Designer of 2019 award by Luxe Magazine, and the Top Shelf Award by the Woodworking Network for best office design under 200 square feet.

NKBA Chapter: Central Coast and Valleys



Kelly McDermott, AKBD; Normandy Remodeling, Hinsdale, I.L.

Kelly earned her B.F.A in Interior Design from the University of Wisconsin-Stout with a specialization in Color Theory. She spent a summer studying abroad in France, which influenced her design style. She went on to work for a custom builder in the Twin Cities with a focus on luxury new construction and renovations. Currently a K&B-focused designer at Normandy Remodeling, she manages projects from initial consultation through design, specification and completion. Fun Fact: For the past three years, she has been a Minnesota Vikings NFL cheerleader, through which she has volunteered at hundreds of community events.

NKBA Chapter: Minnesota State



Stasa Mullen; Hansgrohe Inc., Alpharetta, G.A.

With a passion for design, construction and green technology, Stasa Mullen serves as production scheduler and purchasing administrator for U.S.-made products at Hansgrohe's North American headquarters. She is bi-lingual (English/Serbian) and competed for four years at the University of North Georgia on a tennis scholarship, where she also earned a Master's Degree in Public Administration in 2014. She holds two APICS (ASCM) certifications: Certified in Production and Inventory Management (CIPM) and Certified Supply Chain Professional (CSCP). At Hansgrohe, Mullen optimized the replenishment strategy for spare parts, and is integral in the operations side of the FinishPlus and Signature assortments, which deliver AXOR products in 13 finishes, and personalized markings and brandings for Hansgrohe and AXOR products.



Drew Newman; Prodigy Kitchens & Baths, Pawleys Island, S.C.

Drew Newman brought her passion for design to Prodigy Kitchens & Baths in Pawleys Island, S.C., in 2018, working with clients to craft their dream luxury beach and retirement homes, while utilizing innovative solutions for even the most complicated design dilemmas. Drew graduated from the University of South Carolina in 2013 with a Bachelor's Degree in Media Arts, minoring in Graphic Design and Photography. She further earned a degree in Interior Design at a local community college. While in school, she worked for a custom home builder in Maryland, designing large-scale residential projects, many of which have won awards.

NKBA Chapter: Georgia/South Carolina Coastal



Sarah Nielsen; Showplace Cabinetry Design Center, Urbandale, I.A.

Sarah Nielsen's passion for woodworking and design developed at an early age, learning from her construction pro/woodworker father. She graduated from Iowa State University in 2013 with a B.F.A. emphasizing Woodworking with a minor in Business. In 2014, she started at Showplace Cabinetry Design Center as an assistant designer/customer service rep, and within two years, became a full-time designer. She is studying for her AKBD and Certified Aging-in-Place Specialist (CAPS) with ADA guidelines. Nielsen's community volunteering includes serving on the leadership boards for the local Chamber Young Professionals group and local ACS Relay for Life; she belongs to local Professional Women in Building and HBA groups, and NKBA's Iowa Chapter.

NKBA Chapter: Iowa



Sarah Pierce, AKBD; Lane Homes & Remodeling, Richmond, V.A.

Sarah Pierce's passion for cabinetry and design helps clients address their unique needs in kitchens and bathrooms. She holds a B.S. in Residential Environments and Design from the NKBA-accredited program at Virginia Tech, earned AKBD certification in 2017 and is currently pursuing her CKBD. Pierce joined the award-winning design/build firm Lane Homes and Remodeling in 2018 as a draftsman and designer. She is proficient in Chief Architect Design and 2020 Design, and excels in creating virtual-reality experiences for clients. Sarah is active in NKBA's Virginia State Chapter and will serve as Communications Chair in 2020. She's also a member of the Richmond Women in Design chapter of AIA, and volunteers with the local chapter of the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

NKBA Chapter: Virginia State



Julie Russi; The Tile Shop, Matthews, N.C.

Julie Russi emigrated to the U.S from Colombia at age 4, worked her way through college and earned a B.F.A. in Interior Architecture from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. She joined The Tile Shop in 2014. Russi's designs have been featured in blogger Christin Cooper's "Cooper at Home" Instagram Story; Moffet Restaurant Group locations and the home of restaurateurs Bruce and Katrina Moffet, featured in The Wall Street Journal and other publications, and other notable projects. Russi, a consistent sales leader, became senior design associate in 2017, assistant manager in 2018, and senior assistant manager in 2019, learning the essentials of running a multimillion-dollar business. She now runs her own 22,000 square foot Tile Shop in Mathews.

NKBA Chapter: Carolina



Michelle Sauer; D'Asign Source, Marathon, F.L.

Passionate about interior design since youth, Michelle Sauer learned the basics of drafting and space planning in high school and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Interior Design from Drexel University. She began her career as a junior interior designer six years ago at D'Asign Source, a licensed architecture, construction, landscape architecture and interior design firm housed in a 25,000 square foot showroom in the Florida Keys. She is one of D'Asign's lead interior designers, working on multimillion-dollar homes, involved in estimating, design and contracting phases, interior plans, material selections and kitchen and bath design.

NKBA Chapter: South Florida



Bonnie Schmitz; Masco Cabinetry, Ann Arbor, M.I.

As Manager of Design, Trends and Innovation for Masco Cabinetry, Bonnie Schmitz monitors the pulse of the design industry, analyzing kitchen and bath trends. She gathers insights from sources inside and outside the industry to forecast and develop cutting-edge products. She's also responsible for research, analysis, and testing of product concepts in the marketplace. She received her Bachelor of Science in Architecture with a minor in Art History from the University of Michigan in 2013. Prior to joining Masco's product development team, she worked as an architectural draftsman and kitchen and bath designer. She started pursuing an MBA at Oakland University this fall.



Ryan Smith; Ferguson d.b.a. The Bath & Beyond, San Francisco, C.A.

Ryan Smith has been in the plumbing and appliance business since 2018, when he joined the team at Ferguson/The Bath + Beyond in San Francisco. He graduated from the University of the Pacific with a business degree and currently serves as a showroom consultant, focused on sales. He's a quick study, especially on technical side of the business, and knows The Bath + Beyond system inside and out. He played volleyball in college and gives back to the community as a volunteer coach for a youth team in San Jose, and is a self-professed foodie.



Samantha Souders; Reico Kitchen & Bath, Springfield, V.A.

After graduating in 2012 with a Bachelor's Degree from Virginia Tech's NKBA-accredited Apparel, Housing, and Resource Management program, focusing on Residential Design, Samantha Souders got as much experience as she could, from designing to measuring through the end of construction, applying NKBA guidelines, ADA guidelines and LEED applications to clients' projects. She now works for Reico Kitchen & Bath in Springfield, Va., where she sees projects through from start to finish and is part of an internal Manage-to-Lead Program, whose goal is to establish practices on how to make designing and selling more streamlined and efficient.

NKBA Chapter: Baltimore/Washington



Mark Stapperfenne; Green Forest Cabinetry, Chesapeake, V.A.

Despite being born into the industry (his mother, Maria, CMKBD, was NKBA's 2015 president), Mark Stapperfenne never saw himself in the business. In 2014, while employed in a different field, he helped NKBA's Northern New Jersey chapter with technical/AV services for presentations, was recruited as a sales rep for a member company – and joined the chapter. He served on the executive board and became Chair of the Communications Committee. Mark relocated to Chesapeake as general manager of Green Forest Cabinetry. After a year, he increased sales by 15%, dropped workplace accidents by 85%, made the factory OSHA-compliant and greatly reduced backorders. Mark was recently promoted to Director of Sales and Customer Success.

NKBA Chapter: Virginia State



Emily Tomek, AKBD; Drury Design, Glen Ellyn, I.L.

Emily Tomek, AKBD, graduated from Iowa State University College of Design with a B.F.A. in Interior Design in 2017. She was accepted into the Study Abroad Rome program; participated in the Venice Biennale art exhibition and the A2RU Collaborative Art Installation; was featured in Inspire Magazine, and received the award for competitive excellence all four years as an undergraduate. After graduation, she began working for Drury Design in the Chicago suburb of Glen Ellyn, and earned her AKBD in May 2019. Tomek says crafting a design solution that reflects someone's vision in a beautiful, functional way sparked her interest in the design industry, and continues to fuel her passion.

NKBA Chapter: Chicago Mid West



Markie Tuckett; Timber + Plumb Kitchens and Cabinetry, Windsor, Ontario

Markie Tuckett has spent the last six years building her brand and her expertise in the kitchen and bath industry. She completed the Interior Decorating program at NKBA-affiliated Georgian College and was hired by Lindsay Schultz Kitchens and Cabinetry in Midland, Ont., as a design assistant. After six months, she was promoted to designer. After three years, Tuckett was hired as an intermediate designer for Paris Kitchens, a cabinetry specialist in Richmond Hill, Ont., where she managed five builder accounts. Her next step was a managerial position with a design team for Younique Kitchens and Bath in Cobourg, Ont. In 2018, she moved to Windsor and founded Timber + Plumb Kitchens and Cabinetry to offer clients a custom, boutique experience.



Jonne Vandehey, AKBD; Square Deal Remodeling, Portland, O.R.

Jonne Vandehey knew she wanted a career in interior design since seventh grade. In high school, she was part of an elite program in which students built a home from the foundation up. She attended NKBA-Affiliated Portland Community College, graduating with an Interior Design degree and a kitchen and bath design certificate. She joined Square Deal as a design assistant in 2015, soon moving into sales/design. In 2019, she won local and regional NARI Contractor of the Year Awards on two projects. She earned her AKBD and has been a key member of NKBA's Columbia River chapter study group, and will be Committee Chair for the group in 2020.

NKBA Chapter: Columbia River



Anna Violand; Ferguson Enterprises, Columbia, M.O.

Anna Violand is the outside builder sales rep at Ferguson Bath, Kitchen, and Lighting Gallery in Columbia, Mo. Anna joined Ferguson almost three years ago after graduating from the University of Missouri – Columbia with a business marketing degree. In her first year with Ferguson as a showroom consultant, she exceeded her annual sales goal by 10.5%, was in the top five in consultant sales in her district every month, and brought in over 68% of sales the first year the showroom was open. Within six months, she increased her total sales by 55.6%. She volunteers as a track coach and at the local Home Builders Association in Columbia.



Candis Warren-Ashurst; Steiner-Houck & Associates LLC, Mount Joy, P.A.

Candis Warren-Ashurst is an interior designer with Steiner-Houck & Associates in Lancaster County, Penn. She started as an intern in 2011 and joined full-time upon graduating with a B.S. in Interior Design from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. Candis thrives in the high-end residential design arena and enjoys the unique challenges that come with this industry niche. Working with the Steiner-Houck team, she creates timeless spaces that exceed clients' expectations in function and aesthetic. Candis has been recognized by the NKBA regionally and nationally for her work as co-designer with Sandra Steiner-Houck, and she is studying for the AKBD exam.

NKBA Chapter: Susquehanna Valley

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