

27th Annual *Kitchens* of the **YEAR**

BY EVA DITLER

WHITE, BLACK and **GRAY** played leading roles in the winners of our 2018 Kitchens of the Year contest while **TURQUOISE, TANS** and **BRASSES** made up the supporting roles. Our trio of judges applauded the **FUNCTIONALITY, LAYOUTS** and **CLASSY STYLES** of their five top picks. New this year, we gave readers a chance to vote on all 50 entries. Their number one choice? A **HOMEOWNER-DESIGNED** kitchen that the judges also praised.

JUDGES:

Bonnie Bagley Catlin, Signature Designs

Traci Taylor, Arise Interiors

Megan Siason, M Studio Interior Design



WINNERS, PROFESSIONAL DESIGN

Rosella Gonzalez,
Jackson Design and Remodeling

Corine Maggio, CM Natural Designs

Susanna Samaniego, Design 4 Corners

Kelly Smiar, Kelly Smiar Interior Design

Jeff Jertberg, VanBerg Design + Remodeling

WINNER, HOMEOWNER DESIGN: *Melisse & Jason Mossy*



IT'S PERSONAL

PHOTOGRAPHY BY AMBER THRANE

The biggest headache for an out-dated, dark kitchen in a San Elijo Hills home was its centerpiece: an odd-shaped, two-level island with one counter so high it was too tall for barstools and one counter so close to the east-end wall it was, for all practical purposes, not accessible.

“When I walked in, I just couldn’t believe anyone even built this island,” says designer Susanna Samaniego of Design 4 Corners. “The kitchen is the heart of the home, and this island didn’t work in terms of entertaining, serving food or for kids’ activities.”

With two children, ages 2 and 4, Theresa Bowen’s main concern was in making the space functional for a family of four.

“Things that this kitchen had, like double ovens, we didn’t need,” she says. “What was important was double dishwashers—we have a tremendous volume of dishes. The other big problems we were looking to correct were a lack of counter space and light.”

By blowing out one wall and adding a double set of French doors, that indoor-outdoor feel everyone in San Diego County wants

became a reality—and light for the room became a non-issue. A new, rectangular-shaped island seats six and has plenty of useable countertop space for food preparation and gluey art projects (and, although its top looks like marble, thankfully it’s easy-maintenance quartz).

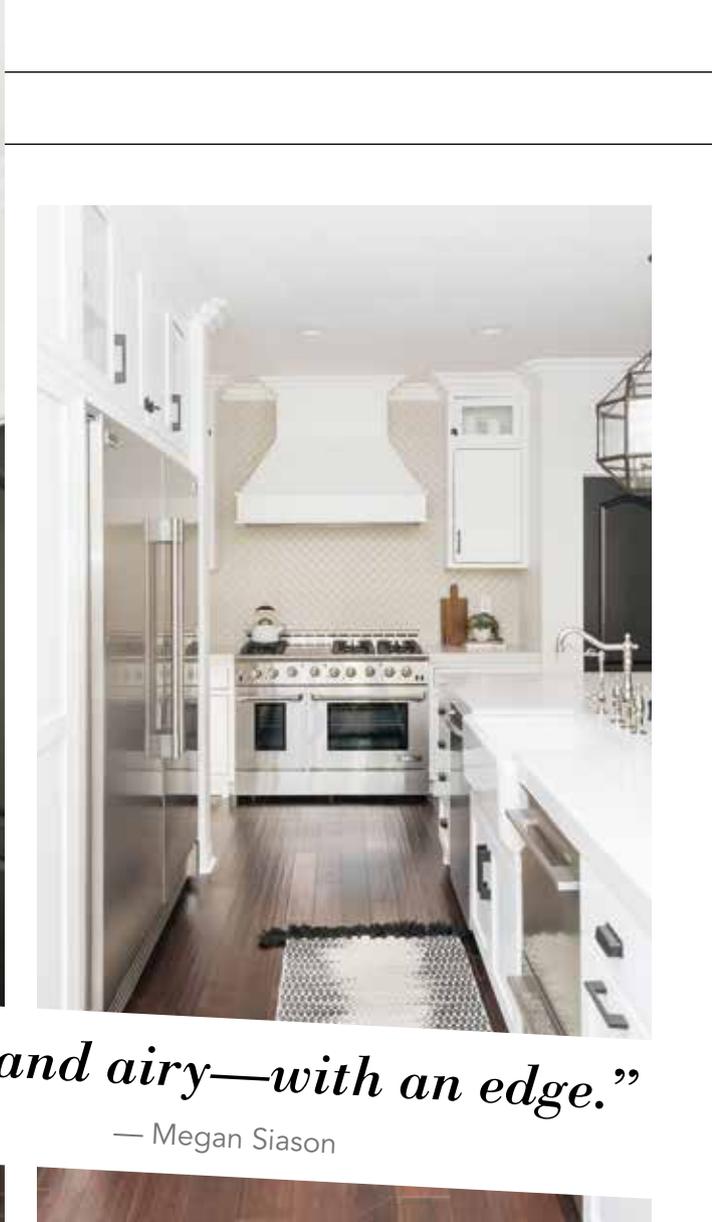
Snow-white walls and cabinetry are the perfect backdrop for sable walnut flooring, ebony matte cupboard pulls and doors painted stark black.

“The hardware gives the kitchen a little contemporary, modern feel but we have traditional crown moldings, hood, island legs and faucets,” Susanna says.

A textured backsplash wall brings more dimension and detail to the space. Its silvery medallion pattern echoes stainless-steel appliances and the minimal gray veining on the island’s countertop.

“It’s so special to be able to choose all the design details of your home,” Theresa says. “I ended up with a clean-lined, beautiful and functional kitchen with a few feminine touches—a perfect fit for my personal style.”





“Light and airy—with an edge.”

— Megan Siason



Clockwise from facing page, left: A typical crackled glaze combined with a special micro-crackle adds up to a lustrous and textural backsplash surface. • With their vintage, antiqued-metal look, the lantern-style pendants are a statement piece. • Crown moldings and a traditional hood give the kitchen a timeless, classic feel. “This is a flashy kitchen but it is also very down-to-earth and homey,” designer Susanna Samanigo says. • French doors that replaced a single door bathe the kitchen in light. • A mirror atop the family-room fireplace, across from the island, echoes the framing on doors leading to the backyard.