

Second Edition

KITCHEN & BATH DESIGN PRINCIPLES

Elements • Form • Styles



Nancy L. Wolford, PhD,
Ellen Cheever, CMKBD, ASID, CAPS

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Elements, Form, Styles

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WILEY



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The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) is the only nonprofit trade association dedicated exclusively to the kitchen and bath industry and is the leading source of information and education for professionals in the field. Fifty years after its inception, the NKBA has a membership of more than 55,000 and is the proud owner of the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS).

The NKBA's mission is to enhance member success and excellence, promote professionalism and ethical business practices, and provide leadership and direction for the kitchen and bath industry worldwide.

The NKBA has pioneered innovative industry research, developed effective business management tools, and set groundbreaking design standards for safe, functional, and comfortable kitchens and baths.

Recognized as the kitchen and bath industry's leader in learning and professional development, the NKBA offers professionals of all levels of experience essential reference materials, conferences, virtual learning opportunities, marketing assistance, design competitions, consumer referrals, internships, and opportunities to serve in leadership positions.

The NKBA's internationally recognized certification program provides professionals the opportunity to

demonstrate knowledge and excellence as Associate Kitchen & Bath Designer (AKBD), Certified Kitchen Designer (CKD), Certified Bath Designer (CBD), and Certified Master Kitchen & Bath Designer (CMKBD).

For students entering the industry, the NKBA offers Accredited and Supported Programs, which provide NKBA-approved curriculum at more than 60 learning institutions throughout the United States and Canada.

For consumers, the NKBA showcases award-winning designs and provides information on remodeling, green design, safety, and more at NKBA.org. The NKBA Pro Search tool helps consumers locate kitchen and bath professionals in their area.

The NKBA offers membership in 11 different industry segments: dealers, designers, manufacturers and suppliers, multi-branch retailers and home centers, decorative plumbing and hardware, manufacturer's representatives, builders and remodelers, installers, fabricators, cabinet shops, and distributors. For more information, visit NKBA.org.

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Preface

Aesthetics and style in design are as important as functional space planning in kitchens and bathrooms.

Today, the consumer's definition of good design in residential kitchen and bathroom planning places equal importance on function, style, and beauty.

- Consumers expect the kitchen and bathroom to look good as well as be functional. One aspect of the plan is not given up for the other.
- Consumers pride themselves in planning their own kitchen or bathroom; however, they expect the kitchen/bath specialist to help them create a personalized, one-of-a-kind space.
- Consumers who desire luxury products as well as those on a more modest budget are interested in good style and design. Their appreciation of style and design has grown from exposure to well-designed home products, including those created by recognized designers, artists, or home fashion experts in retail stores, on television decorating shows, and on the Internet.

To meet this professional challenge and provide design excellence, both experienced and novice designers need to expand their planning expertise to encompass the elements and principles of design as well as a variety of historical or specific cultural design trends and themes, often requested

by today's clients. Doing this requires both academic study and the ability to think beyond the industry standard of covering the walls with well-engineered cabinets and specifying highly functional, well-made manufactured materials, fixtures, and appliances to create an aesthetically pleasing, creative, and personalized kitchen and/or bathroom.

The primary focus of this volume of the NKBA Professional Resource Library is on the planning of the physical appearance of the kitchen and bathroom. Included is a brief history of the design of kitchens and bathrooms (chapter 1) as well as some basics of creating a design, using skill and creativity to personalize designs for clients (chapter 2). It explains and details how to apply the academic elements (chapter 3) and principles (chapter 4) of design and selected historic and cultural style themes to specific kitchen and bathroom situations, enabling the designer to more clearly understand how to apply these tools of design to daily business practice. The historic and cultural style themes are presented as chronologically as possible. Those through and up to the end of the nineteenth century are discussed in chapter 5; those through the late nineteenth, through the twentieth and into the beginning of the twenty-first century in chapter 6, with selected cultural style themes presented in chapter 7. Although references to the design planning process, kitchen and bathroom layouts, types of equipment, and various materials are made, the major thrust of this volume is how the kitchen or bathroom visually presents itself to the customer using and enjoying the space. New and expanded illustrations of the application of each of these concepts to kitchens and bathrooms are included to enhance your knowledge and skill as a designer and serve as reference points and real-life examples to use when creating designs and working with clients.

For the design student and designers preparing for the AKBD Exam, this volume addresses the following selected competencies in the NKBA Body of Knowledge:

Body of Knowledge Competency: Design

5. Design Principles: Demonstrates knowledge of color theories and how color relates to space (chapter 3).
6. Design Principles: Demonstrates design solutions using the elements and principles of design to satisfy aesthetic criteria (chapters 3 and 4).
7. Kitchen Planning & Bath Planning: Demonstrates knowledge of kitchen and bath historical styles and shows awareness of current design trends (chapters 1, 5, 6, and 7).
8. Kitchen Planning & Bath Planning: Evaluates client needs and incorporates them in the design solution (chapters 2, 5, 6, and 7).

This volume also addresses the following selected CIDA Professional Standards 2014:

II. Interior Design: Critical Thinking, Professional Values, and Processes

Standard 2: Global Perspective for Design—Have a global view and weigh design decisions within the parameters of . . . cultural context) (chapter 7).

Standard 4: Design Process—Apply all aspects of the design process to creative problem solving . . . and generate creative solutions that optimize the human experience within the interior environment) (chapter 2).

III. Interior Design: Core Design and Technical Knowledge

Standard 8: History—Apply knowledge of interiors, architecture, decorative arts, and art within a historical and cultural context) (chapters 1, 5, and 6).

Standard 9: Space and Form—Apply elements and principles of two- and three-dimensional design (chapters 3 and 4).

Standard 10: Color—Apply color principles and theories (chapters 3 and 4).

There is an abundance of information included in this volume, meant to serve as a reference when working with clients. My hope is that it will increase and enhance your knowledge and skill as a designer. Enjoy design and creating those perfect kitchen and bathroom spaces for your clients, whatever the style or theme.

It was an honor to be asked to revise this volume, a culmination of more than 40 years of college teaching: interior design theory and history along with space planning and other interior design courses. These basic design concepts (elements and principles of design) are the backbone and building blocks of any designed space, including kitchens and bathrooms. The trend to restore, recreate, or create the feeling of a historical space to complement exterior architectural and interior style has increased in recent years, so much so that it became an integral part of my teaching in the history of interiors and space planning classes. Students have enjoyed the challenge of applying this historical and theme aspect to their design projects and have been inspirations. My thanks to them.

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A Brief History of Kitchen and Bathroom Design

It is important for the kitchen and bath designer to understand the historical background of the design of the residential kitchen and bathroom in the United States and how it evolved. These spaces are often taken for granted as being primarily functional, necessary, and convenient rooms that have always been indoors, as they have been in most Western homes for a century or more. Fewer and fewer customers or designers can remember having or using primitive outdoor spaces for these functions, except when hiking or camping or in extremely remote areas. Therefore, giving thought to the actual design of these spaces is a relatively new concept, yet it is an opportunity for the expertise of the kitchen and bath designer.

Learning Objective 1: Describe the development and evolution of the design of the residential kitchen.

Learning Objective 2: Describe the development and evolution of the design of the residential bathroom.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KITCHEN

For many centuries of recorded history, the kitchen was outside or in a separate building apart from the primary home to protect the family's dwelling from fires. The kitchen eventually became attached to the dwelling but was considered by most to be strictly a separate functional

work space rather than one that required designing, aesthetic considerations, or integration into the rest of the house. This was especially true for the wealthy, who often had staff handling the meal preparation and cleanup. Aesthetics, close or convenient location to eating/dining space, or ease of function were not considered, nor were they thought to be important. In Colonial America in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and into the nineteenth century, the kitchen became more integrated into the home, more a center of family life with the open flame from the fireplace used to warm the home and family as well as prepare the food. The kitchen of the Rundlet-May House (1807) in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, features an enclosed fireplace—an early forerunner of the modern kitchen stove (see [Figure 1.1.](#))



FIGURE 1.1 Historical kitchen

Courtesy of the Society of Preservation of New England Antiquities Photo by David Bohl

The idea of a well-planned, well-designed kitchen was first talked about in the 1920s when Hoosier cabinets were introduced by the Hoosier Company. Later, Cornell University and the US Department of Agriculture Research Station in Beltsville, Maryland, began research on functional kitchen planning. This research continued after World War II by the Small Homes Council of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. However, the room still remained primarily a workroom, where function (food preparation, storage, and cleanup), mass production of cabinetry, and ease of cleaning, rather than aesthetics or other uses, were the primary considerations (see [Figure 1.2](#)).