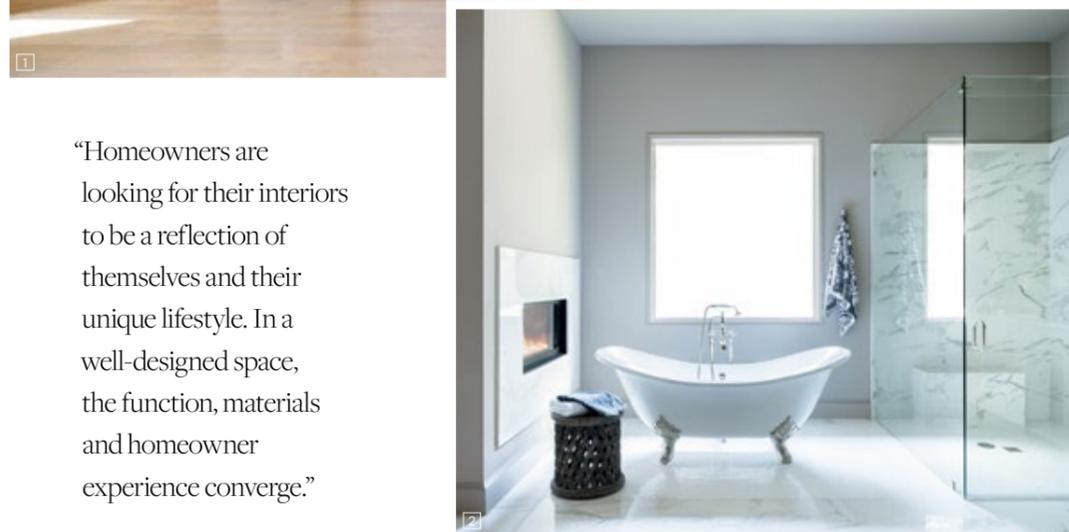


TRENDS IN RENOVATION

SMITH & RAGSDALE KITCHEN DESIGN

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With a new year comes a renewed determination to refresh and renovate living spaces. Kitchens and master baths remain at the forefront of residential remodels—and understandably so. These core spaces, when designed to their fullest potential, can be a tranquil respite from daily life or the high-functioning center of it. Prominent designers Abby Smith and Abbey Ragsdale offer insights into kitchen and bath remodeling, from the significance of well-thought-out interior lighting to how to avoid highly defined, template-esque design styles. In the realm of illumination, lighting and color palettes are not mutually exclusive, according to Smith, who says that lighting directly affects how color is interpreted, “so the two must be addressed simultaneously. Then, color on the walls affects how we see the fabrics, the flooring, the tile, the furniture, etc. Certain hues can have a psychological effect and should be used carefully and in the right spaces.” When selecting a design style, Smith and Ragsdale ask: Must it be within the confines of a particular style? “Design styles that are easy to repeat often do not reflect the unique homeowner and have a limited lifespan,” Ragsdale says. “If you can define your specific style as ‘shabby-chic’ (two words we feel should never have been paired) or ‘farmhouse,’ you ought to ask yourself why! A well-curated space endures; a well-decorated space is temporary.”



“Homeowners are looking for their interiors to be a reflection of themselves and their unique lifestyle. In a well-designed space, the function, materials and homeowner experience converge.”

Q+A WITH RENOVATION EXPERTS ABBY SMITH + ABBEY RAGSDALE

What advice would you give to homeowners living through a renovation?

Our biggest advice is to communicate with us and the contractor to make sure everyone has a clear understanding of the projected timeline to properly plan ahead. **What new and upcoming materials are you excited about?** While a wonderfully veined natural stone slab and beautiful pieces of wood are not necessarily new, we are always amazed at the inherent beauty and uniqueness of organic materials. **What often-overlooked renovations bring the most value to a home?** Laundry room and pantry.

These spaces are no longer utilitarian—they are extensions of the kitchen and need to have just as much personality and functionality. Have a little fun in these rooms with quirky tiles, chalkboard walls and great lighting.

1. This unique all-white kitchen features a custom appliance wall, with a glass-front display, that serves as a baking center and incorporates a built-in coffee system and steam oven. 2. A cast-iron claw-foot tub makes a statement in this open and airy master bath. Soft finishes and subtle contrast create a lovely backdrop.

All project photography by Costa Christ

Where design elevates function.



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