

KITCHEN + BATH

# OPEN SEASON

CLEVER DESIGN AND UNEXPECTED SOURCES OF INSPIRATION CONVERT THE HOME’S HARDEST-WORKING HUBS INTO GUEST-READY SPACES PRIMED FOR ENTERTAINING.

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE BRUNNER

Just like the best hostesses exude warmth and hospitality so, too, do standout spaces. A home that’s fit for entertaining should make handling a crowd look effortless, especially in its most high-traffic zones. Good flow, eye-catching finishes, high-performing appliances and, of course, comfort are fundamental factors in creating areas that invite crowds to linger. Whether it’s a kitchen built for sipping and socializing around a supersized island, or a powder room with enough pizzazz to make a lasting impression, your home’s busiest rooms should be ready to face the public at a moment’s notice. Here, a look at party-ready spaces and products that are as stylish as they are functional.

Smith Hanes drew on his well of experience as an Atlanta-based restaurant designer to create this rustic-looking kitchen. The open floor plan allows for ample entertaining thanks to a generous dining table by Dave Lennard and leather chairs from Bungalow Classic.



PHOTO: ANDREW THOMAS LEE. STYLING: THOM DRIVER.





## RESTAURANT QUALITY

### SMITH HANES

The details-obsessed visionary behind the look of Atlanta's hottest eateries, including The Optimist and Le Fat, is known for his warm, industrial aesthetic. For this handsome residential kitchen, designer Smith Hanes used reclaimed materials and earthy neutrals to create an atmosphere that feels both vintage and timeless. [smithhanes.com](http://smithhanes.com)

**Share your vision for the space.** The kitchen is meant to function as a place where a large family can gather, so we did an open plan with enough seating for 10 to 12 people. The client had a photo of a wall of cabinets made from old doors and windows; that was the inspiration for the glass pantry.

**What can homeowners best learn from restaurant design?** The most important thing is the lighting. The ideal plans incorporate multiple light sources on many surfaces, like under the open shelving and in the pantry. The goal is always to put people at ease and make them look and feel their best in their surroundings.

**Describe your signature "soft industrial" look.** We use materials that are characteristic of the industrial era, such as metal, glass and brick, to create a variety of textures. Pairing them with lighter colors, like cream, blush, pale gray or even, in this case, wood tones, helps to create a softer, warming effect.

PHOTO: ANDREW THOMAS LEE. STYLING: THOM DRIVER.



## IN THE NAVY



While a simmering pot is usually best kept out of sight from guests, you might want to make an exception for the new collaboration between venerable French cookware company Staub and Food 52. Sporting the on-trend combination of midnight blue with brass accents, the collection is a stylish addition to your stovetop repertoire. [food52.com](http://food52.com)



## splash ZONE

In recent years, the wall space behind the stove has become the de rigueur place to make an artistic statement in the kitchen. Take the chevron backsplash from Nashville designer April Tomlin, for example, who created the Navajo-inspired design shown here out of MDF covered with fire-safe paint. "I was bored with traditionally used tile," she says. Open shelves and a snowy white quartz countertop ensure all eyes are on her handiwork. [apriltomlin.com](http://apriltomlin.com)



## DUTCH *treat*

For this sophisticated kitchen, San Francisco-based designer Nicole Hollis found her muse in an unusual place: a Flemish still-life painting. A moody mix of materials, including steel-framed glass upper cabinets and a gray island topped with Belgian blue limestone, stand in stark contrast with white lower cabinets and a Calacatta Gold marble backsplash. Low-lighting creates ambience and intrigue—the perfect dinner party guests. [nicolehollis.com](http://nicolehollis.com)



## COOL RUNNINGS

Ask any chef or caterer: An oversize refrigerator is the unsung hero of effortless entertaining. And with a tray that slides out to accommodate commercial-size sheet pans, the latest built-in model from Blue Star is both workhorse and eye candy—available in 750 customizable colors, including this deep indigo. Its interior is just as attractive as its exterior, thanks to a sleek stainless-steel lining, which makes it not only good-looking, but better at insulating cold air, as well. [bluestarcooking.com](http://bluestarcooking.com)





Smoky Rose wallpaper by House of Hackney sets a charming tone for this Studio McGee-designed powder room. A Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co. sconce and Kohler Purist faucet break up the high-contrast black-and-white scheme with warm, brass accents.

## *full bloom*

Just because it's a half bath doesn't mean it can't be full of style. Small in square footage but big in personality, powder rooms are the perfect forum to express your individuality and design philosophy—after all, you've got a captive audience. One way to make an impression? Let a unique wallpaper guide the overall concept, as designer Shea McGee did in this Salt Lake City powder room. "I fell in love with the vintage vibe of this rose print, which inspired the classic feel of the bath as well as the more masculine black-and-white palette," she says. For more guest-ready powder rooms, turn the page. [studio-mcgee.com](http://studio-mcgee.com)

PHOTO: LINDSAY SALAZAR



**“I wanted this bath to feel like a retreat. Brass fixtures and cement tile lend a sophisticated bohemian vibe. You could be in Malibu or Morocco!”**

—KIRSTEN MARIE,  
kirstenmarieinteriors.com



***“SINCE THIS IS THE ONLY BATHROOM DOWNSTAIRS, WE WANTED IT TO BE FUN. THE HOMEOWNER LOVES THE BEVERLY HILLS HOTEL, SO WE USED ITS SIGNATURE WALLPAPER AS A WAY TO INJECT HER PERSONALITY INTO THE SPACE.”***

—ESTEE STANLEY, esteestanley.com



**“POWDER ROOMS SHOULD BE IMPACTFUL AND STATEMENT-MAKING. HERE, A CUSTOM WOOD VANITY ANCHORS THE ROOM WITHOUT MONOPOLIZING IT.”**

—KATE MARKER,  
katemarkinteriors.com

**Clockwise from top right:** Cement tile from Ann Sacks adds flair to this Kirsten Marie-designed bath, which features a custom vanity, a mirror by Thadeus for Made Goods and a Schoolhouse Electric & Supply Co. sconce. The vanity in this Kate Marker bath is accented by a single sconce and ceiling light from Visual Comfort & Co.; the mirror is by Mirror Image Home. In this bathroom by Estee Stanley, the large-scale Martinique wallpaper makes a bold statement.

KIRSTEN MARIE PHOTO: AMY BARTLAM. KATE MARKER PHOTO: STOFFER PHOTOGRAPHY. ESTEE STANLEY PHOTO: JUSTIN COIT.