

# Spring 2017 HomeLifeStyle

Local homes and gardens will be part of Virginia's Historic Garden week on Tuesday, April 25. Featured here, a home on Lake Newport. See [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)

PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON/FAIRFAX GARDEN CLUB

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# Kitchen Design Trends for 2017

## Local designer share popular design ideas.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Those looking for kitchen design ideas have a new source of inspiration: the National Kitchen & Bath Association's (NKBA) list of trends for 2017. Local designers reveal which trends are most popular in the Washington, D.C. region.

NKBA predicts that contemporary-styled kitchens will overtake traditional to become the second most popular design after transitional. Locally, Michael Winn, president of Winn Design + Build expects to see "a strong move towards transitional and contemporary styles, with no fussy designs."

Homeowners are looking for "kitchen spaces that look comfortable, calming and clutter-free," said Shannon Kadwell of Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc.

Clean lines, built-in shelving and simple door styles dominate kitchen designs. Megan Padilla, senior designer for Aidan Design reports an interest in custom storage ideas. "We're inspired by our work with clients who often have collections of table décor — everything from antique trays to vintage oyster plates," she said. "By creat-



PHOTO COURTESY OF WINN DESIGN + BUILD

**White and gray painted cabinets like those in this kitchen by Winn Design + Build will dominate kitchen color schemes in 2017.**

ing custom storage these cherished items can be readily accessible."

When it comes to painted cabinetry, gray is the new white and the popularity of both colors shows no signs of slowing down, according to the NKBA survey. However, blue painted and high gloss kitchen cabinets are emerging, especially in the Washington area, says Winn. "Blues

and grays are very popular [and] "White continues to be popular."

For overall color schemes, two-toned kitchens are gaining popularity while blue and black are emerging as sought after colors. "We're seeing a rise in product offerings available in matte black — from appliances to plumbing fixtures to cabinet hardware," said Padilla. "We love it paired

with white in a classic black and white kitchen, but also as an accent piece. Matte black also pairs beautifully with brass, which has been trending for the past couple of years."

Quartz is the most sought-after kitchen countertop material, followed by granite. "Most of our clients aren't really interested in a kitchen that [is] too trendy since they plan to have it in place for 15-20 years," said Padilla. "We've seen an uptick in interest in incorporating color by way of alternate neutrals. Navy blue is probably the top choice, but taupes and lighter blues are also on the list."

An interest among homeowners in incorporating technology in kitchen design is increasing as well. About one third of the NKBA professionals surveyed reported recent projects that included wiring and pathways for future tech integration. "I would also expect the technology side to be a focus in D.C.," said Samantha Klickna, project developer with Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. "The ease and comfort of controlling your home while at the office or on travel is very appealing and convenient for the city dweller."

Induction cooktops and convection ovens are trending higher, and microwave drawers are surpassing freestanding or built-in microwaves in popularity. "People have been purchasing appliances like steam ovens and induction ovens now more than ever before," said Kadwell. "People have less time, but still want to cook. They want to be able to cook quickly, so they're looking for appliances that can accomplish that."



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# Tour Local Gardens

## Garden Club of Virginia hosts 84th Annual Historic Garden Week.

During the last eight days of April every year nearly 26,000 visitors tour homes and gardens across Virginia.

This year, Historic Garden Week features 30 tours organized and hosted by 47 Garden Club of Virginia member clubs. Nearly 250 private homes, gardens and historic sites will be open. For nearly a century the Garden Club of Virginia has been committed to preserving the beauty of Virginia for all to enjoy. Garden Club of Virginia members were early leaders in conservation and environmental concerns. Tour proceeds fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program and a centennial project with Virginia State Parks.

### RESTON TOUR Tuesday, April 25

Hosted by Garden Club of Fairfax, the tour headquarters and

facilities are at The Lake House, 11450 Baron Cameron Ave., Reston. Tickets, maps and restrooms are available on tour day. Tickets \$40 per on tour day, advance tickets are \$30.

See [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org). By mail before April 10, send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check made out to "The Garden Club of Fairfax" to Marty Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22093. 703-978-4130. [Fairfax@vagardenweek.org](mailto:Fairfax@vagardenweek.org).

Complimentary refreshments will be served 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lake House. Reston Town Center, Lake Anne, and North Point Village Center are minutes away and offer a variety of eateries and lunch options for visitors.

The Reston tour includes Round Pebble Lane, garden only; Stones Throw Drive home and garden; and three modern homes and gardens on Lake Newport.

For more, including tours in Alexandria and Leesburg, see [www.virginigardenweek.org](http://www.virginigardenweek.org)

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**BEFORE:** Above, owners Jack and Marie Torre wanted square footage for a larger kitchen and dining room, but “set-back” rules prohibited building in the rear, and the front-facing roof overhang limited options for re-designing the facade.

**AFTER:** Best Whole House Makeover in 10 states, left: Sun Design Remodeling’s conversion of a circa 1960s split-level into a neoclassical style residence has been named a regional “Contractor of the Year” (COTY) winner by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

# From Split-Level to Neoclassical

## Conversion wins regional “Contractor of the Year” award.

BY JOHN BYRD

Converting a circa 1960’s split-level into a spacious neoclassical-style residence has won Sun Design Remodeling a regional “Contractor of the Year” award from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. The Fairfax residential makeover was named the best whole house remodeling in the “\$250,000 to \$500,000” range in a 10-state area that extends from Maryland and Florida to as far west as Tennessee. Owners Jack and Marie Torre have been so pleased with the outcome that they’ve held an several open houses just to show the changes to curious neighbors. Another open house will be held in the annual Parade of Home, April 22-23.

To accommodate the owner’s requirements, Sun Design added a 300-square-foot addition, introduced a front veranda with a foyer, and elaborated the exterior in a wholly new architectural language.

The Torres had purchased the 3,000-square-foot brick and siding structure in 1984, and found a perfect spot for raising children. As the children moved on, however, the couple recognized that the changes they wanted to make to the house were apparently infeasible.

“We couldn’t add on to the rear because of set-back restrictions,” Jack Torre said. “The bigger problem, though, was a six-foot roof overhang in front, and the seven steps

required to walk from the ground level foyer to the primary living area.”

The couple were actively looking at relocating when a chance visit to a Sun Design remodeled split-level nearby convinced Marie Torre to make an appointment with Bob Gallagher, the company’s president.

In the first meeting, a “wish list” emerged that included a larger kitchen, a formal dining room with a tray ceiling, a family room with a view of the tree-lined back yard, and a spacious first-level powder room.

With these goals in mind, the design team focused on how best to configure the essential components within a well-inte-

grated whole.

Since new space couldn’t be added on the rear, the east side of the house was designated for the new dining room/sitting room wing.

Still more problematic: under the existing plan, one entered the house from a narrow front foyer — ascending to a main level hall that segued in three directions.

What was missing, Gallagher observed, was a “procession” in which rooms unfold in an inviting orderly sequence.

“The structural challenge was finding an optimal way to raise the front door to the main level of the house,” Gallagher said.



**The split-level’s former bow window was converted to a set of French doors which overlook the new veranda. Though the execution makes the addition hard to detect, the dining room beyond the fireplace is actually in the home’s new wing.**

“This would require extending the front foyer eight feet to get past the existing roof overhang. We also needed to redesign the front elevation to better rationalize the difference between the grade at ground-level and the home’s main living area — a distance of about seven feet.”

What evolved was not merely a larger foyer, but an improved and more appropriate architectural context that allows for a front verandah that surrounds and presents the front entrance to the home.

The resulting interior meanwhile revolves around two comparatively modest additions: a 44-square-foot foyer aligned with the front door; 300-square-foot west wing that houses a formal dining room and an adjacent rear-of-the house sitting area.

The new addition includes a two-sided fireplace visible in the living room. The enlarged kitchen now accommodates a custom-designed banquette, and storage pantries.

The gourmet kitchen, according to Marie Torre, provides spaces for all cooking utensils, even items formerly stored in the basement.

Replacing the roof over and raising the ceiling from eight feet to nine feet has made the living room feel substantially larger.

Better yet, the remade rear elevation — which includes a “bump-out” with divided light windows and French doors — invites abundant natural light.

“This is a completely different house,” said Marie Torre, “One much more satisfying to occupy.”

*Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors design and remodeling seminars as well as tours of recently remodeled homes. Headquartered in Burke, Sun Design also maintains an office in McLean. Visit [www.SunDesignInc.com](http://www.SunDesignInc.com).*