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By Janice Costa

Winning Designs

Open-plan designs, clean, contemporary looks and the creative utilization of space were some of the hallmarks of the 2015 Chrysalis Award winners.

Open-plan designs, clean aesthetics and interesting use of space were all on display in this year's Chrysalis Award winners. While the designs varied in size, scope, budget and style, each brought winning appeal to the table, with beautifully designed amenities, easy-to-navigate layouts and spaces that incorporated both aesthetic and functional pizzazz.

Founded in 1994, the Chrysalis Awards were designed to recognize exceptional design and remodeling work in a variety of categories, including kitchens and baths at a number of price points. More than 400 entries were received this year, with projects judged based upon the overall design, creative use of space and materials and the degree to which the project enhanced the original structure.

Following is a sampling of some of the winning designs.



KITCHEN REMODEL \$50,000-\$75,000

Mantis Design/Build, Minneapolis, MN

When Paul Linnebach of Mantis Design/Build was asked to remodel this kitchen, the clients explained that they wanted a family-friendly space that would allow for multitasking. Cooking was also important to the clients, so Linnebach set about designing a space that would accommodate the clients' passionate love of cooking as well as their need for a space that would promote family time.

The large island provides a visual focal point with plenty of space for family meals, or for young cooks to help with meal preparation. At the same time, the island can also work as a space for doing homework or other activities.

Double ovens facilitate cooking for larger gatherings, while the open-plan design, which connects to the living area, also makes the space perfect for entertaining friends and family.



KITCHEN REMODEL OVER \$150,000

Jackson Design & Remodeling, San Diego, CA

An open-design plan, lots of light and European sensibilities were key drivers behind this kitchen remodel. The clients wanted to "dramatically open up the kitchen and living areas" and connect the space with their home's natural environment, according to Todd Jackson of Jackson Design & Remodeling, which completed the project.

One of the key challenges was to create a flow between different spaces that did not relate to each other or the outdoors. To do this, the design team had to remove doors, windows, walls and even a fireplace to create an open space that would work for the clients' needs.

Wood beams in the ceiling help provide balance, while new windows and glass doors provide plenty of light and better circulation of air. To provide a sense of balance and texture, several different woods are contrasted with the glossy white cabinetry and countertops, with white and dark colors and open and closed spaces creating visual interest.

The end result is a modern kitchen with plenty of open space perfect for entertaining or just enjoying time with family.