

Connecticut Suppliers and the 2020 Idea House on Kitchen and Bath Trends



New construction and remodeling are finally on fire in Connecticut, so there's no better time to get educated on trends for those two critical rooms – the kitchen and the master bath.

Connecticut Builder editor, Joanne Carroll canvassed the state's top suppliers, including those involved with Greyrock Homes 2020 Idea House. Here's what she identified as the biggest trends in kitchens:

Wood cabinets in mix and match colors and floating shelves

For the 2020 Idea House kitchen, Karen Berkemeyer of KB Home worked with Sandy Effren to create contemporary rustic elegance. Karen chose customized Wood Mode cabinets in a rough sawn Euro white oak for a textured finish, contemporary flat panel doors on perimeter cabinets, maple interiors, and

integrated LED lighting. A striking 5ft. X 11ft center island is stained in dark Oolong, and features columned end panels instead of a waterfall. The interior of the island drawers and cabinets is walnut.

The butler's pantry is outfitted with the same Wood Mode cabinets, lift & lock upper cabinets and dark Oolong floating shelves with LED lighting.



Organized cabinets – clever, easy to use storage...

The influential organizing guru, Marie Kondo has had a huge impact on the way we aspire to live with her mantra of Simplify, Organize and Beautify your life. In today's kitchens, built-in dividers and compartments make staying organized easier than ever.

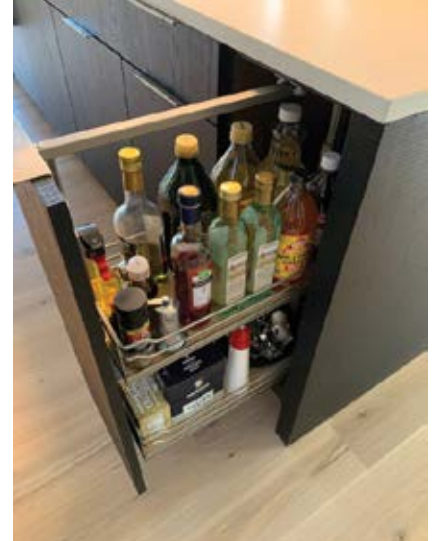
Customized pullouts and drawers in the 2020 Idea House kitchen make storing spices and organizing bar items a breeze.



Idea House spice drawer



Idea House walnut pullouts



Idea House island storage



David Trachten of Viking Kitchens discussed several kitchen trends with *Connecticut Builder*:

“While white cabinets still remain popular, there are new trends emerging. Textured melamine in both horizontal and vertical grains is gaining in popularity, catching up to something seen in Europe for quite some time. We continue to see grey and blue paints being used, especially in accent pieces, but lately we have seen an emerging trend for medium stained woods and more rustic species like Hickory and alder.

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Kitchen and Bath Trends *(continued)*

No Preheat Air Fry

“Air Fry Who wouldn’t want fried food without the health consequences? Air Fryers have become popular over the last few years – allowing you to cut down on calories by 70% to 80% while also decreasing your fat intake when compared to the traditional method. Now we are seeing customers excited when they realize they can save the counterspace and put that separate air fryer into storage.” – Kathy Dudzic, CAFD



Kitchen and Home Interconnectivity:

“Appliances interconnected using technologies like WiFi and Bluetooth, can help us save time by offering the ability to work more efficiently. Whether it be your wall oven helping you create that perfect dish; your range turning on your exhaust hood without your intervention; or something as small as your appliances syncing their clocks with one another, features are evolving to become more useful and time saving every day. This is a trend we are seeing not only in the kitchen but all throughout the house, including the Laundry Room, and even with your living room fireplace.”

– Kathy Dudzic

Bath Trends

Past HOBI Award winner, Steven Mueller Architects, won first place in the September 2020 A-List Awards for “Bath Design: Traditional/Classic”. This sleek bathroom incorporates an abundance of natural light and open space to create a peaceful spa like environment. The island features a practical hanging double-sided mirror, and the exquisite marble shower leads to a one of a kind shielded porch.



For the 2020 Idea House, Karen Berkemeyer Home used 24” X 24” Artistic porcelain wall tile and an Ocean Blue Artistic tile floor with high gloss Wood Mode floating vanities. Vanity drawers are compartmentalized for hair dryer and make-up. A freestanding Kohler Ceric tub is the focal point of the room, and the walk-in shower features a “Real Rain” overhead shower panel by Kohler.

For the Idea House powder room, KB Home used a rift sawn Wood Mode vanity with floating shelf to complement the raked stone feature wall.



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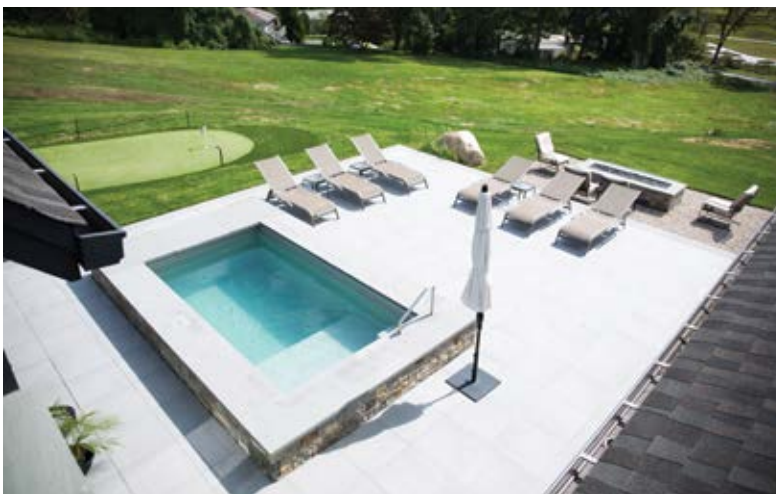
Greyrock Homes Completes This Old House 2020 Idea House On Schedule Despite the Pandemic



In our summer issue, *Connecticut Builder* featured a cover story on the 2020 Idea House under construction at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In this issue, we unveil the finished product – a striking 3,700 sf modern farmhouse designed by Jamieson Architects, and built by The Greyrock Companies.

This is a house built for golf-lovers. An outdoor putting green overlooks Shorehaven golf course, and an indoor green in the basement ensures there's a place to practice those putts year-round. The covered porch and patio are equipped with an outdoor kitchen, including Wolf grill from Aitoro Appliances and Nature Cast 100% weather-proof cabinets. Beyond the covered porch is a stunning Soake Pool and a 4,000 BTU firepit. The Soake Pool is New England's original precast plunge pool with hand tiled interior and full automation. Pool sizes range from 5' X 8'9" to 7'X13'.

Translucent panels on the contemporary three car garage doors are set in an ex-



truded aluminum frame for maintenance-free operation. Although they allow light to pass through, the doors are insulated against heat and cold.

Pictured on p. 27, a 44' X 22' vaulted family room and kitchen are lined with Marvin casement windows that frame dramatic views of Shorehaven Golf

Course and Long Island Sound. Supplied by Rings End, the windows and glass doors are from the Marvin Signature Collection, and have an Ebony Exterior, Designer Black Interior and Matte Black hardware.

Rings End rep, Len Volpe, was instrumental in coordinating all of the building materials supplied by

Rings End.

Leia Ward, LTW Design, recognized as one of the 'Top 10 Luxury Stagers' in the country, is known for her attention to detail, and talent for blending textures, natural light and clean lines. LTW brought this signature style of casual sophistication and calm to the 2020 Idea House.

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Greyrock Homes Completes This Old House 2020 Idea House On Schedule Despite the Pandemic *(continued)*



Jerry & Sandy Effren, Greyrock Homes

For the gas fireplace surround in the family room, Karen Berkemeyer Home used textured porcelain pavers from Artistic Tile to give a clean, contemporary look. An 85-inch TV sits in a niche above the firebox, and 7-inch character white oak flooring runs throughout the first floor.

The Wood Mode kitchen provided by Karen Berkemeyer Home features a 5' X 11' island with Kohler Purist single-handle swivel faucet, an extra wide sink, and luxury appliances including Subzero refrigeration, Wolf cooktop, double ovens, microwave drawer and a Cove dishwasher, all supplied by Tony Aitoro and Aitoro Appliances. The kitchen is a great spot to prepare meals without missing out on the action in the living area. For more elaborate entertaining, there's a fully-equipped butler's pantry with a convenient pass-through to the kitchen.

***Note:** The 2020 Idea House kitchen and baths are covered in detail in the Kitchen & Bath Trends feature of this issue.

The Idea House includes a spacious ground-floor master suite and two additional bedrooms and baths on the second floor, along with a bunkroom. The upper deck features 24"X24" tile pavers with no grout joint to allow for a Schluter drainage system underneath.

On October 7th, This Old House Ventures and NKBA held a Virtual Sneak Preview of the 2020 Idea House for kitchen and bath designers, and on October 14th, TOH editor, Chris Ermides hosted a Video Tour & Live Q&A with Jerry and Sandy Effren of Greyrock Homes. □

