

ISSUE 1 | 2020

LA DESIGN ASID

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF INTERIOR DESIGNERS | LOS ANGELES CHAPTER

A Fresh Look At **KITCHENS AND BATHS**

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ON THE COVER: *John McClain's elegant bath is a study in design that adapts to life changes.*

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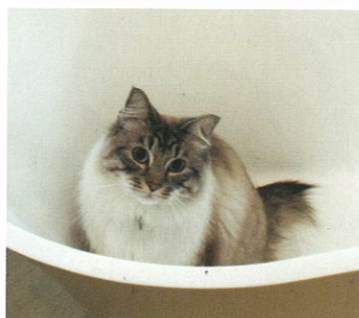
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ELEVATING THE PROCESS

PUTTING TRENDS ASIDE, HOW DO WE APPROACH KITCHEN DESIGN?

Lighting: Gerald Olesker, ADG Lighting
Interior Design: Rachael Goddard Designs
Photo: Jeff Elson

It's intriguing how we create. I am listening to pianist AyseDeniz create live music. Her audience randomly tosses out numbers, and she sequences them into her music. Some keys are a failure, others melodic or harmonic.

So please tell me why, when designing the kitchen and bath (spaces that should never go together), it is trends that designers look for? Today I am choosing to write about kitchen lighting and my approach to a solution.

It seems that design today is more about selecting items that go together. Notably, this is not design and is far from the design process. While reading this article, pick up your favorite writing device and draw in the margin as you become inspired.

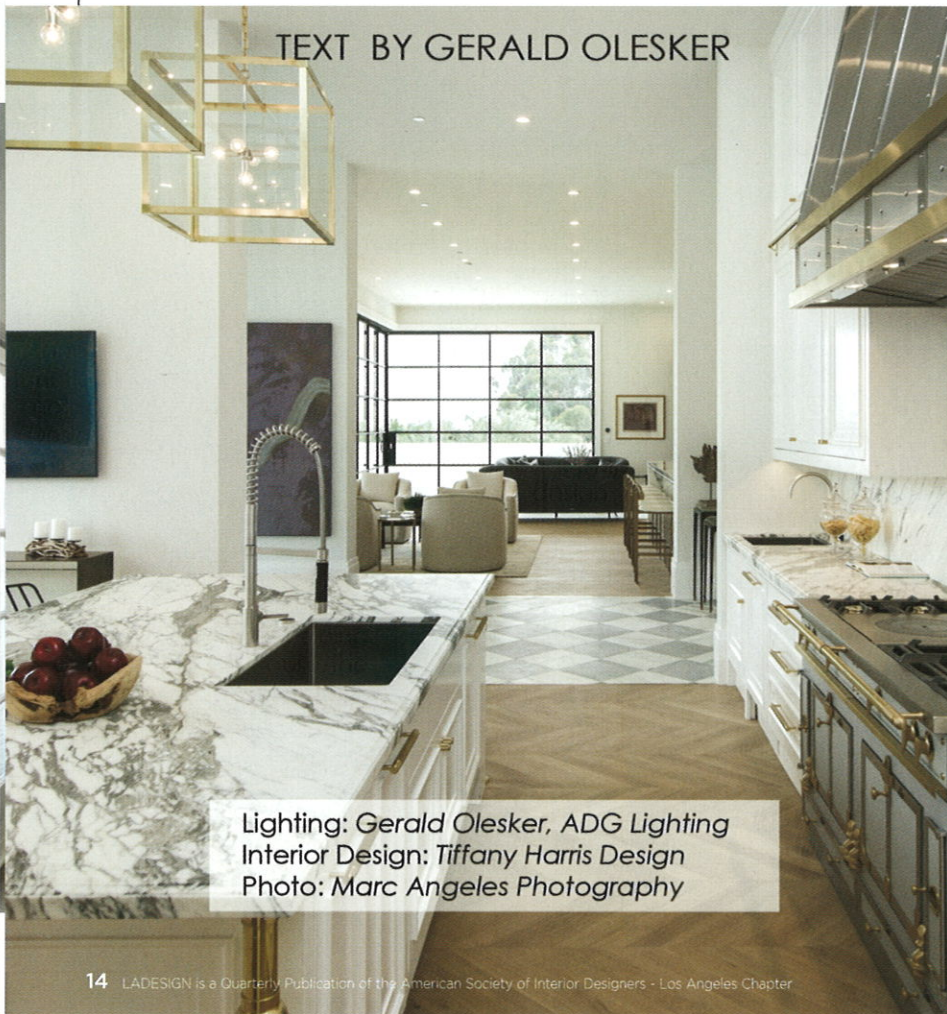
How should the design of elements in the kitchen become part of the process? Start with the need to program concept and placement, and along with that placement, sketch details. Hey, stop peeking on the internet for ideas! Just sketch, good or bad, just do it. If you are an expert like AyseDeniz, some of the momentary live keystrokes are great, others are not... but it is the ultimate in creation... it is vulnerability.

This experience is like sitting with your team of vendors, taking in the notes, opening yourself to new suggestions and composing as you go. Some of the best designers in the world give me that same opportunity -- to sit side-by-side and design lighting fixture schemas together.

So, impacting kitchen design and several standards from my fountain pen to your D sheet are about scale, contrast or complement. If there is an island, table or other elements in the kitchen, it is not about utilizing the same layout and just changing the "fixture's style." It truly is about understanding how the architecture and owner function in the space.

Design is not picking/selecting, that's decorating. Design and architecture are about leadership and collaboration. Better lighting design for the kitchen may be about concurrently working with your mill-work team, lighting team, appliance specialist and others that help complement the space. You will gain unique abilities at that point. I only get to brag about doing this thousands of times over, because the good ones engage with me, and others when we push them, opening themselves to working as design collaborators and new ideas fabricated.

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TEXT BY GERALD OLESKER

Lighting: Gerald Olesker, ADG Lighting
Interior Design: Tiffany Harris Design
Photo: Marc Angeles Photography