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CELEBRATING THE ARTS | APRIL 2012



AROUND *the* HOUSE

Perspective and Vision

ENVISIONING YOUR TOMORROW'S IN TODAY'S DESIGNS

BY DONNA CEDAR-SOUTHWORTH



Top: An imaginative blending of old farmhouse-style cabinets and table with the and new modern stainless steel and granite

Above: Black lacquer chairs, bright white cabinets and stunning granite make for a dazzling kitchen

When it comes to renovating an entire home, remodeling a kitchen or bathroom or adding an extension, the key to success, says Sonny Nazemian, President/CEO of Michael Nash Design Build and Homes, is “to keep the perspective and the vision of tomorrow in today’s design.” The Fairfax company’s full-service staff of architects, engineers, interior designers, electricians and plumbers promises to transform your space by understanding how you live today and how you envision future lifestyle changes.

What truly distinguishes the firm, says Nazemian, is that the entire job is done in-house: “from interior design to renovation and renovation to interior design.” With its unique “A-Z” range of professionals who have the capacity to renovate or build a home and the staff and expertise to complete the interior design, Michael Nash achieves continuity and executes the client’s vision from inception to completion. “Everybody can build a home, everybody can build a room—but who’s the one who can finish—from building it to decorating it? That’s what Michael Nash is all about,” says Nazemian.

It is precisely that vision, along with creativity, commitment to working within budget and a flair for luxury, that earned 18 prestigious 2011 National Association of the Remodeling Industry’s Contractor of the Year (COTY) Awards for the firm. “You’ve got to have a vision of the next ten years,” says Nazemian. “When people are doing additions, kitchens, bathrooms, they’re doing it for the next 15 years—they’re not just doing it for next year. If we’re coming to your house to renovate, we’ve got to think of where you’re going to be five years from now. Your home has to be comfortable for nine months, nine years and 90 years.”

The trend now and for years to come, says Nazemian, is that are opting to have their elderly parents come live with them; once the clients’ children grow up and graduate from high school/college, many of them return home to live temporarily; then they move out, have grandchildren and the grandchildren come to visit. “There’s more unity in family living,” he says, “and your home has to be comfortable for all three generations—that is a key element of interior design and



This Italianate-design kitchen expresses the essence of Old World craftsmanship.

space planning and remodeling today.”

For over 25 years, Nazemian has focused on his clients’ long-term interest and investment value, cultivating in the process a continually growing repeat client base representing a range of budgets. Thanks to its capacity to grow with changing times and needs, as well as its mark of luxury, the company has built a solid reputation and continued to thrive even during a tough economy.

Nazemian, himself a certified interior designer with a degree in engineering, began the firm 25 years ago as an interior design firm. “Interior design has changed drastically,” he says. “It started with window treatments, flooring, painting and evolved into space planning and architectural changes within the interior of the house. ... Where it used to be changing one room with paint and window treatments, now it’s ‘How can we combine these two rooms and enlarge the room?’ That was a natural progression to remodeling, designing and [building] kitchens and baths, and now we’re doing additions, extensions and building new homes.”

What differentiates Michael Nash, says Nazemian, is

that “we’re building the house, remodeling the house, and adding on. Clients don’t want to go out and get another interior designer to come in [and finish].” Michael Nash’s interior designers are equipped to bring in the furnishings, window treatments, paint and lighting. The firm’s showroom, which features complete bathrooms, kitchens, home theaters and wine cellars, helps clients visualize end products.

Having won awards for all price ranges, Nazemian cannot pick a favorite job. “Each client is unique—each has their own challenge,” he says. “When that \$50,000 client is smiling as hard as a \$150,000 client, that brings us happiness.”

What’s the most luxurious project he’s done? “Everything about renovation these days is about luxury. I try to have an element of luxury on every job I do. [Whether it’s] a \$50,000...or a \$1 million [job], that is Michael Nash’s job!”

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