

Fully Stocked: Jarrett Design LLC takes home beverage centers to the next level



Jarrett Design LLC

By **Shannon Sigafoos of The Morning Call**

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There's real power behind a good beverage. Whether it's the aroma of coffee that gets us out of bed in the morning, the lure of weekend cocktails with friends, or a simple passion for pinot, prepared beverages are a communal good that tap into our senses, connect us with friends and can even help with stress relief.

In the past several years, there has been an increasing trend in homeowners asking interior designers to dedicate a space in their home for the perfect beverage center – one that will showcase creativity and vision while enhancing their lifestyle. With this trend, however, designers have found ways to utilize space in areas of the house outside of the kitchen, bringing both simple and complex beverage centers to dining rooms, family rooms, and game and media rooms.

With a little ingenuity, tight corners, tiny walls and underutilized nooks can turn into totally functional spaces. These dead spaces usually allow for floor-to-ceiling storage, as well, so you have room for all of the necessary

beverage center accessories. Coffee drinkers usually want a place to store mugs, K-Cups, and milk frothers; wine lovers are going to want a place to tuck away their bottles and glasses while displaying their corks.

One of the reasons beverage centers have become so popular in homes is that they offer opportunity to save money on entertaining yourself or visitors, while also having a stylish addition to the home that is appealing to prospective buyers. They can also introduce a fresh, fun dynamic to your home's aesthetic while adding convenience and efficiency.

If you're envisioning this ideal space in your own home, consider starting with the basics. A refrigerator or chiller is a necessary component, but you'll also get great use out of custom storage. A display cabinet piece is also ideal if you'd like to have a place to show off accessories such as dishes or pottery, bottles, or possibly even mementos you've collected from visits to coffee houses, distilleries, or wineries.

We contacted Jill Jarrett, CMKBD, CAPS, owner and designer at Jarrett Design LLC, in Emmaus to talk about the popularity of beverage centers and to showcase a fun "before and after" project where they installed a beverage center in the home of a Nazareth family that was having a full kitchen remodel completed.

Jarrett Design LLC was launched in 2006 and has steadily grown to now include senior designer Lauren Villano, AKBD; designer Dana Bacher; and designer Jesse Jarrett. Over the years, Jill Jarrett has continued earning certifications and the business specializes in kitchens and baths, as well as cabinetry and furniture for all areas of the home. They also have their own signature line of bespoke cabinetry and furniture that they've branded, called nest, which features hand-planed finishes, hand-peggued joinery, and other curated details while repurposing reclaimed wood.

"We have a wish list we go through with all of our clients, and beverage centers have their own section in that wish list. We've been doing beverage centers for a long time. They're very popular right now, so it's a lot of fun to bring up in that first brainstorming meeting," says Jill Jarrett. "If the budget allows, clients always love to include it. You can personalize appliances. You can do a combination center where you have space for wine bottles, cans, or even for coffee creamers. There are faucets that can produce seltzer water, and we had one client install one of those."

And when it comes to storage?

"Some people want to leave it all out, and some want to hide it all. It can be pocketed and opened when there's company, or closed up if they want to have it hidden away. There are a lot of different ways to design for people's desires."

The beverage center for the client in Nazareth was incorporated to give house guests an area to concoct their own drinks, away from the food prep happening in the kitchen. Jill Jarrett walks us through this project and discusses everything from the homeowner's vision to the final aesthetics.

Q: Did the homeowner already have the small space carved out and didn't know what to do with it, or was the plan for this room all along for a beverage center to be incorporated into the space?

A: This homeowner came to us with prior remodeling experience and a lot of great ideas. She had done plenty of research before hiring us as kitchen designers. Her son has a great eye for design, which made the collaboration even more fun. Part of their vision all along was a beverage center in this corner. This mother and son duo looked to us to fine tune their selections and to execute their vision.

Q: Is this beverage center inside of a kitchen or dining room?

A: This beverage center is in the kitchen, but off to the side, conveniently located near the dining room and eat-in area of the kitchen. We incorporated a new U-shaped layout in their kitchen, keeping everything they needed for preparing meals within arm's reach, while a central island served as a landing space and buffet for family gatherings. The wall was extended at the end of the sink run to allow us to create a small office nook, and then the adjacent beverage center was added.

Q: Did you design a space that included the stainless steel shelving to match the refrigeration unit due to the client requesting it? Or, was it an option you gave them and that's the look they liked best?

A: At some point in the design process, we all decided it would be aesthetically pleasing to tie in the stainless-steel appliances to the peripheral spaces, namely the beverage center and the desk. The client and her son sourced the metal shelves - just one example of how their experience, flair for design, and research added appeal and functionality to the overall project. Can you tell we really loved working with these folks?!

Q: The glass storage up top is see-through, which I love. Is the storage with the solid cabinet doors underneath also used for glass and/or beverage storage?

A: We designed the cabinetry to conceal the angled wall behind it. Angles can be challenging and typically steal space. Consequently, the interiors of the upper and lower cabinets are angled, limiting the storage and accessories potential. I believe the base cabinet provides storage for overflow items such as paper products, mixers and the like.

Q: How long did the project take to complete from start to finish?

A: Given that this was a complete kitchen remodel, the entire project, from design to completion, took about six months.

Q: What can readers expect from the consultation process if they contact you to incorporate a beverage center into their own home?

A: Typically, we get started with a complimentary in-home consultation. This way, we can learn more about the project while the client gets to know us and how we work. From there, we develop a wish list with the client, measure, discuss budget and start the design process. We help our clients select cabinetry style and finish, appliances, plumbing fixtures, counter tops, backsplash and hardware with their budget in mind. After a design is finalized and selections are made, the cabinetry and other items are ordered. We also help coordinate contractors and assist in project management.

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