

Meet Next Year's Thirties

A shoutout to a younger generation making a difference in the industry

By **DIANNE M. POGODA**

NKBA'S PRESTIGIOUS THIRTY UNDER 30 program recognizes accomplished young professionals under the age of 30 who are making a mark in kitchen and bath design, remodeling, sales and manufacturing.

Since 2013, the annual program has selected these rising stars based on their career or educational achievements, leadership and their commitment to excellence, continuing professional development and the advancement of the industry. The Class of 2022 is the 10th group of honorees, bringing the total of current and alumni members in the Thirties program to 300. The 2022 program is generously sponsored by Delta Faucet Co. and Signature Kitchen Suite.

Many are active in their local NKBA chapters, including holding leadership positions within chapter governance or on committees, and some already have earned NKBA certification and are qualified CEU speakers and mentors in their communities.

"It's always a thrill to welcome the incoming Thirties," said Bill Darcy, NKBA CEO. "This is the 10th class in the program's history, and it's been so inspiring to see how much these rising young stars have accomplished in their careers. We are proud to celebrate them and provide opportunities to nurture them and help them grow in our industry. I know their future is bright."

This year's class selection committee, comprising Thirty Under 30 alumni, included Justin Dedio, Class of 2013; Aimee Inouye, Class of 2018; Brandon Drum, Class of 2016; Celestina Demers, Class of 2017, and Karina Gaft, Class of 2020.

The incoming class will be formally inducted on the KBISNeXT Stage, Feb. 8 at 9:30 a.m. during KBIS 2022 in Orlando.

Following are snapshots of the Class of 2022, along with their companies and NKBA chapter affiliation, where applicable.



2022 NKBA Thirty Under 30 SELECTION COMMITTEE



JUSTIN DEDIO

Class of 2013



AIMEE INOUYE

Class of 2018



BRANDON DRUM

Class of 2016



CELESTINA DEMERS

Class of 2017



KARINA GAFT

Class of 2020



CLASS OF 2022

HANNAH GUILFORD

**Designer, Remodeler, Co-Founder, Heart & Hammer Homes, Fryeburg, Maine
Maine Chapter**

With just three years of kitchen and bath design experience, Hannah Guilford has completed nearly 80 kitchen and bath projects and has opened her own K&B showroom. She and her carpenter-husband Cody are general contractors and project managers for their company, Heart & Hammer. Her deep passion for design grew along with the company, and the couple realized that they needed to open their own showroom and add staff – including more designers to help manage projects from design concept to finish.



CARA HANSEN

Designer/Founder, Triple Dot Design Studio, North Vancouver, B.C., British Columbia Chapter

Vancouver-based interior designer Cara Hansen is founder of the award-winning Triple Dot Design Studio. She was exposed to the intricacies of design and remodeling through her family’s construction business and continues to draw on that knowledge and experience. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Vancouver Island University. Between her second and third years in business, she increased sales by 180% and has led Triple Dot with nominations and wins of Georgie and HAVAN awards. Her HAVAN-winning projects have been published by HGTV online, Style At Home magazine and Western Living. She has also appeared on the HAVAN podcast “Measure Twice Cut Once,” which educates listeners about renovation and building.



JESSE JARRETT

Senior Designer, Jarrett Design, Emmaus, Pa., Susquehanna Valley Chapter

Jesse Jarrett graduated from the University of Miami with a B.S. in electrical engineering and a focus on audio engineering. During college, he worked for commercial and residential contractors, where he combined technical engineering with creativity. His interest in kitchen design developed while interning for a countertop manufacturer specializing in custom wood crafting. He educated himself about sustainable living, home renovations, agriculture and all aspects of the kitchen and bath design business. He’s a full-time, detail-oriented designer and pushes the limits to transform ordinary spaces into dream homes. Jesse is also Jarrett Design’s exclusive photographer and social media manager.

BECKY LEU

Founder & Principal Designer, Leu Interiors, West Des Moines, Iowa, Iowa Chapter

The daughter of a master carpenter, Becky Leu always had a passion and respect for home construction and design. After working as lead designer at a residential remodeling firm, Becky founded Leu Interiors in 2016, where she oversees creative and business operations. Her work has been published several times, she’s been a university guest lecturer of interior design, and she established a local networking organization for entrepreneurs. Becky holds a BFA in interior design from Iowa State University and belongs to NKBA’s Iowa Chapter, the Des Moines Home Builders Association, the Remodelers Council and Professional Women in Building. Her projects have included producing technical drawings for Mayo Clinic renovations and planning an entire K-12 school district development.



ANDREA LISTON-JONES

Director of Design, Liston Design Build St. Charles, Mo., Missouri/Southern Illinois Chapter

Andrea Liston-Jones, Liston Design Build’s director of design, joined the company in 2016, becoming the third-generation Liston to bring her creative energy into the family business. Andrea works with clients to revamp their spaces and inject their personalities into their home design, selecting materials, visiting job sites and creating renderings and construction documents. She says the best part of her job is building client friendships that enable her to find the perfect balance of form and function to fit their lifestyle. When it comes to making a client’s design dreams come true, Andrea’s motto is “don’t be afraid to think – or go – outside the box!”

