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Authentic Presence

KBF Design Gallery is imbuing spaces with individuality through curated designs that express a character all their own

As art imitates life, interior design reflects the ways in which people grow and adopt new modes of living. While recent times have seen an increase in modern and contemporary finishes—thanks in part to advances in smart-home technology and fabrication methods—Central Florida’s KBF Design Gallery has noticed an equally strong desire for balancing innovation with architecturally driven, character-filled design.

“There’s been an unconscious shift in design to preferring the nostalgia of when things weren’t so perfect,” says Adam Vellequette, co-owner. “The pairing of vintage-inspired elements humanizes a more modern aesthetic.”

Siblings, Vellequette and co-owner Ashley Sheaffer are finding creative ways to curate a collected feel in the kitchens, baths, and whole-home remodels their firm undertakes, whether designing an antique-inspired, built-in hutch or integrating carefully selected natural materials. Today’s projects switch brushed nickel for unlacquered brass or copper, manmade countertops for marble slabs, each unique in its presentation and prone to age gracefully.

“When you integrate these finishes into a more modern kitchen, it creates an authenticity,” Sheaffer says. “It might be a piece of history that tells a story, or a natural finish that will patina over time.”

Exuding a lived-in, well-loved warmth, some of KBF’s recent designs pull inspiration from Old World European influences, featuring a mix of metals, natural stone, and richly finished cabinetry. Each is a visual representation of clients’ individuality while reflecting a broader call to embrace the eclectic side of life.

“Integrating more handcrafted materials lends a human touch and produces an artistic space,” says Sheaffer.

“Our job is to incorporate our clients’ personalities,” Vellequette adds, “and construct an authentic design.”

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: A custom range hood with hammered-copper details stands out as the kitchen’s focal point above the marble backsplash and soapstone countertops. The curated furnishings and decor in the dining room evoke a sense of history and a connection to the past. Adam Vellequette and Ashley Sheaffer, co-owners. A handcrafted copper sink that will patina with age is centered on the kitchen’s island; the island is clad in Naica quartzite in a leathered finish that showcases the natural grain of the stone.

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