

Southern Accents

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OUR ANNUAL
DESIGN AWARDS



KITCHEN

winner



"On winter days in Seattle," says designer **Graciela Rutkowski**, "it can be very gray. Perhaps counter-intuitively, when you use gray in interiors, it can actually help warm up the room. Bright colors don't necessarily work with the light spectrum we have in the Northwest." For the cabinets in this kitchen, part of an overall remodel of a traditional 1920s Tudor house by architect Anne Adams from Stuart Silk Architects, Rutkowski made the unexpected choice of a metallic pewter gray. "I love using metallic paints because they cast such a pretty glow and show off the lines of the woodwork," says Rutkowski, "but this was the first time I had tried them in a kitchen."

Rutkowski also took the road less traveled for the backsplash, using a long, narrow, light-colored marble tile with dark gray grout, and anchored the grays with black granite countertops. "Because the kitchen is open to the sitting and dining rooms, it needed to reflect the colors of those rooms," says the designer.

"The linen-colored stacked tiles are more modern than subway tiles, and the honed finish is a nice offset to the sheen of the cabinetry," notes Contributing Editor Rebecca Sowell Hawkins.

Despite the relatively compact 16-by-12-foot space, the kitchen incorporates two dishwashers behind cabinet fronts, a steam oven, and a built-in espresso machine. And though it's refined, it passes the ultimate test: three small children.

SOUTHERN ACCENTS ASID

national residential interior design contest winners

What makes a **successful** room? More often than not, the qualities that make a space feel just right are clear and apparent:

An interesting mix of materials and textures; a balanced, well-planned layout; pleasing colors; intriguing details; intelligent use of space; and a connection between indoors and out. As our judges sorted through all the entries in the *Southern Accents/ASID* residential design contest, several trends emerged.

Living rooms take a more eclectic view, layering styles and textures with authority but without excess. In the kitchen, glass-front cabinets have given way to the practical reality that most of us don't want to keep our cabinets immaculately styled. In the bath, natural light plays a starring role, with luxurious materials, such as marble and limestone, taking favor over ceramic tile. And in outdoor spaces, designers continue to push the boundaries of outdoor living, with well-equipped mini kitchens; televisions; and furnishings, fabrics, and lighting that are as elegant as any found indoors.

Take a look at the 12 winning designs that follow, and get a crash course in creating a beautiful space. See page 54 for what we've learned from these rooms.



living room



kitchen



bath



outdoor room

Our thanks to the distinguished judges this year: Pamela Powell, ASID, of Powell Studios in Atlanta; Deborah Griffin, ASID, of Griffin Design Group, Inc., in Brentwood, Tennessee; and *Southern Accents* Senior Editor Clinton Smith and Contributing Editor Rebecca Sowell Hawkins. The grand-prize winner will be announced at the ASID national conference, Interiors 2008, held March 13–16 in New Orleans. Visit SouthernAccents.com and ASID.org for more about the contest and the 2008 conference.

BY JILL KIRCHNER SIMPSON