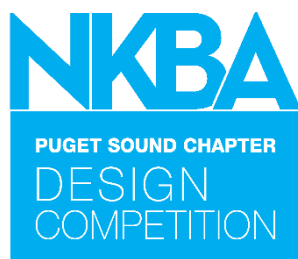




**2026 OFFICIAL
ENTRY PACKET**

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THE NKBA PUGET SOUND CHAPTER PROUDLY PRESENTS

the 2026 22nd Annual Kitchen + Bath Design Competition, open to members of Puget Sound and Olympic-West Sound NKBA chapters.

Showcase your creativity & design skills to colleagues and consumers. After an impartial peer review and judging, the winners will be announced and celebrated at the Awards Gala in July.

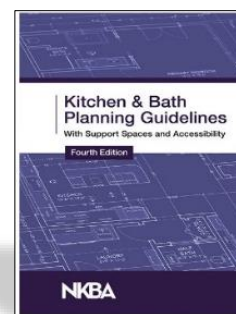
Winning projects will be showcased on our web site www.nkba-ps.com. Our media partner, Portrait of Seattle, will publish a list of all winners, as well as write an exclusive editorial article featuring selected winning projects.

NKBA Resource Documents (Online Access PDF Links)

- [Puget Sound Design Statement Requirements](#)
- [Puget Sound Graphics Presentation Standards](#)
- [Puget Sound Digital Design Board Standards](#)

NKBA Released the New 4th Edition Kitchen + Bath Planning Guidelines in January 2023

- Our local 2026 Design Competition will be judged against the new 4th Edition released by NKBA Jan 2023.
- These are available for purchase here:
 - [Amazon.com NKBA eBook / Kindle](#)
 - [NKBA.org Spiral Bound Book](#)
- PDF links of the planning guidelines will be available soon on our [chapter website](#).



Entry Forms (Online Access Fillable PDFs)

- [Client and Property Release Form](#) (Required)
- [Photography Release Form](#) (Required)
- [Business Owner Release Form](#) (Required only for Designers who are NOT self-employed)
- [Contributors Form](#) (Optional)

QUESTION?

2026 GALA CHAIR

Alisha Ottosen | Inspired Closets
alisha@inspiredclosetsseattle.com
Office 425.823.4847

JUDGING CHAIR

Laura Walsh | Synergy Sales NW
LauraW@synergynwrep.com
Mobile 206.316.0333

ENTRY CHAIR (AWARD FORCE)

Mariah Hebenthal | Sherwin-Williams
Mariah.Hebenthal@sherwin.com
Mobile 206.707.2697

2026 Design Categories (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards based on impartial judging panel results.)

CATEGORY	DESCRIPTION
Large Kitchen	300 sq ft and over
Small Kitchen	Under 300 sq ft
Open Plan Kitchen	Any size Kitchen including one or more of the following: 1. No wall(s) between kitchen and adjacent interactive living space(s) 2. Complementary/matching cabinetry installed in the adjacent space(s) 3. Integrated design details utilized throughout kitchen and adjacent space(s)
Primary Bath	Directly connected to and entered through the primary bedroom Must be shown on your floor plan
Secondary Bath	Any size
Powder Room	No Tub, No Shower
Other Room	Contains three of four products: Built-In Cabinetry, Appliance, Hard Surfaces, and/or Plumbing Fixture (Note: Fireplaces & AV equipment do not count as appliances.)

- Only residential projects can be submitted.
- A separate nook or eating area is not considered part of the kitchen square footage, unless designed as an extension of kitchen cabinetry or countertop.
- Other Room Examples: Pantry, Bar, Dressing Room, Home Office, Laundry, Mudroom, Coffee Bar, Outdoor Living
- Select the most fitting category for your project; you may enter more than one project per category.
- Each project itself may only be entered once in 2026.
- Each submission requires a separate entry packet and entry fee.
- Judges reserve the option to move a project to another category, if they feel it is appropriate.

Additional Award Categories (No entry needed. Entry is automatic.)

JUDGED OVERALL	MEMBER VOTED HONORARY	SPONSOR VOTED HONORARY
Best Overall Kitchen	People' s Choice Kitchen	Best Before + After
Best Overall Bath	People' s Choice Bath	Best Use of Materials
	People' s Choice Other Room	Most Interesting Detail

NOTE: Honorary Awards are at the discretion of the Design/Gala Committee. They may or may not include the above examples and are selected by award sponsors by consensus. To be considered, submit in your entry packet additional photos: before, special products/features, custom detail, unique design/craftmanship.

2026 Design Competition Guidelines

Eligibility

- Entrant (also referred to as Designer of Record or DOR) must be a member in good standing of the Puget Sound OR the Olympic-West Sound NKBA Chapters.
- The DOR is required to attend at least THREE (3) of their chapter meetings July 2025 – May 2026.
- ONLY the DOR listed will receive an award on a winning project.
- Individual entrant must be the Designer of Record (DOR) on each project.
- All design project(s) entered must be completed / installed between April 1st, 2024 and April 1st, 2026.
- Enter the project category for which it is best suited, based on size and description.
- You may enter as many projects as you would like that fit into the various categories.
- Judges reserve the option to move a project to another category if they feel it is appropriate.
- A new entry online submission is required for each project submitted and is to be completed in full.
- Each entry requires a separate fee.
- Submitted projects must not have won in previous Chapter design competitions. Website and local advertising are okay.
- **>>Just Announced!** Projects that have been previously published will now be accepted as entries.

Digital Submission Portal Link [NKBA-PS.COM/DESIGN_AWARDS](https://nkba-ps.com/design_awards)

- All entries must be completed by the DOR online within NKBA Puget Sound Award Force.
- Documents and photos to be uploaded within the assigned tabs in Award Force.
- Digital Design Boards must be submitted up front, along with the original entry.
- ALL applicable sections of the DOR tab in Award Force must be completed.
- ALL requested signatures are required.
- The DOR is now a digital signature; DocuSign or equivalent secure signatures are acceptable for photographer, client, and company owner (if not self-employed).
- Refer to the Required Materials Checklist in the Entry Packet for further details.

Online Payment

- Early Entry is \$150 per entry, February 9th - March 23rd. Submissions must be completed by March 23rd at 5pm.
- Standard Entry is \$175 per entry, March 24th - April 20th at 5pm.
- Online payment by credit or debit card must accompany all entries.
- Payment link will be accessible within Award Force.
- Entries submitted without full payment will be disqualified.
- Entry fees are non-refundable regardless of project completion, entry, or disqualification.
- In progress projects not completed by March 23rd at 5pm, will be charged the Standard Entry Fee.

Awards Gala: JULY 23rd, 2026 (Location TBD)

- Designer of Record (DOR) must be present OR have a designated person to accept the award.
 - Designers unable to attend must contact one of the Gala Co-Chairs with the name of the designated person accepting the award.
 - Alisha Ottosen aotto16@gmail.com
 - Daniela Cortes daniela@inspiredclosetsseattle.com

2026 DEADLINES + SCHEDULE

- JAN 16**.... **Entry Packets Available** via email announcement and online at [NKBA-PS.COM/DESIGN_AWARDS](https://nkba-ps.com/design_awards)
- FEB 9**..... **Early Entry Begins** via Award Force online [NKBAPS.AWARDSPLATFORM.COM](https://nkba.ps.com/awardsplatform.com)
- FEB-MAR**... **"How to Enter" Classes:** Register [NKBA-PS.COM/MEETINGINFO.PHP](https://nkba-ps.com/meetinginfo.php)
- MAR 23**... **Early Entry Deadline** at 5pm
- MAR 24**... **Standard Entry Begins**
- APR 20**... **Standard Entry Deadline** at 5pm (including Digital Design Boards)
- MAY**..... **Judges Panel:** Impartial, NKBA-certified members deliberate & finalize winners
- MAY**..... **Sponsor Representatives** meet to deliberate & finalize Honorary Award winners
- MAY-JUN**... **Members Vote Online** for People's Choice Awards, Tier One Voting
- JUL 23**.... **Awards Gala** including Tier Two Voting for People's Choice Awards

Media / Winner Recognition

Winning projects, their DOR, and sponsors will be showcased on the Chapter website [NKBA-PS.COM](https://nkba-ps.com)

Portrait of Seattle is our Media Partner

- This is an editorial partnership, not an advertising campaign.
- The partnership with Portrait of Seattle provides:
 - Increased awareness of NKBA locally, boosting our presence and our benefits to homeowners.
 - Increased and elevated standard of print publication for our members; encourages members to present their work for editorial recognition.
 - All winners will be listed in a publication after the Awards Gala, August issue.
- Portrait of Seattle retains editorial discretion to feature the winning projects that best suit the editorial layout of the magazine edition.
- For each winning project that Portrait of Seattle selects to feature, the Designer of Record will be contacted for accuracy and potential additional information.



PORTRAIT
OF SEATTLE

Notes on being published in Portrait of Seattle

- High quality PRINT photography is required: 300dpi minimum resolution
- In your photoshoot, please take both portrait and landscape orientations of your work.
 - Even if you do not submit them all for the competition, it is helpful to have this variety on hand for print publication, should you be asked.
 - Some projects are chosen by the editor based on the orientation required for the page limitations.
 - Winning projects may submit additional photos to the media committee after the Gala for consideration by the magazine's editorial staff.

Required Materials Checklist – Begin by reviewing the NKBA Puget Sound [2026 Resource Documents](#)

1. Register for an Account on **AWARD FORCE**

- When registering, you will create a Project Name as you see fit for your design (ex. “Traditional Charm”, “Modern Elements”, etc.). Your entry will be tracked, judged and presented by that name.
- Your Project Name must be noted on EVERY document and EVERY file name submitted.
- See Nomenclature Chart on the next page for full entry file name details.

2. Complete Online Entry Form (DOR Tab in Award Force)

- Select “Start entry” on the bottom of the page.
- Enter all the required information, clicking “Save + Next” as you complete each tab.
- Upload the required **Headshot** (high resolution 300dpi, professional photo) for the DOR only.

3. Upload Photos

- Do not use photos that identify project location or individuals (client, children, pets or site workers).
- See Nomenclature Chart on the next page for photo file naming details.
- **Best Photos** (REQUIRED - Used in judging for scored and honorary awards + media for award winners.)
 1. You must upload two (2) “Best” photos, one landscape (horizontal format), and one portrait (vertical format), which are to be color, print quality, high-resolution (300 dpi), approximately 8” x 10” or larger. These can be the same or different perspective.
 2. Note: The only exception is the Powder Room category, which only requires one (1) portrait “Best” photo, with the option to add a landscape “Best” photo, if available.
- **After Photos** (REQUIRED - Used in judging for scored awards, as well as honorary awards.)
 1. A minimum of one (1) and maximum of six (6) “After” photos can be submitted. It is the DOR’s discretion whether to include the “Best” photos as “After” photos or not.
 2. After photos should show the completed design, and can include special products/features, custom details, and/or unique design/craftmanship.
 3. After photos should be web-resolution (72 dpi), approximately 8” x 10” or larger.
- **Best + After Photos** must be uploaded individually, with a maximum file size of 10 MB each.
 1. Professional photography is highly recommended for your “Best” and “After” photos.
- **Before Photos** (OPTIONAL - Used in judging for honorary awards only.)
 1. If loading more than one (1) “Before” photo, you must save & upload as a zip folder, 10 MB max.

4. Design Statements

- Project Overview (80 word maximum “in your own words” in a narrative essay.)
 1. Describe the project as you would like it to be announced at the Gala, if it is a winner.
 2. Highlight your favorite design details.
- Design Narrative (200-400 words maximum – explain your project in a bulleted statement.)
 1. Provide the client needs & objectives, design philosophy, challenges, solutions and special features.

5. Drawings (Construction, Floorplans, Elevations)

- Scale MUST be 1/4”, 3/8”, or 1/2” and clearly labeled including dimensions.
- Identifying designer, firm and client information must be removed/omitted.

6. Digital Design Board REQUIRED for EACH Entry.

7. Client and Property Release Form REQUIRED for EACH Entry.

8. Photography Release Form REQUIRED for EACH Entry.

9. Business Owner Release Form REQUIRED ONLY for Designers who are NOT self-employed.

10. Contributors Form OPTIONAL for EACH Entry.

Nomenclature For Entry File Names

- Last year, the committee received 45 entries! Managing that large number of entries was a major effort which the committee was happy to undertake, but we need your help to keep files organized.
- **Please use the file name nomenclature shown below to remain anonymous and lessen the coordination workload burden on our design competition volunteers + judges.**
- The examples below are all based on an entry project named “ORNATE BATH”.
- Your project entry must remain anonymous. Therefore, do not include the file path with identifying information.
 - Example of a file name containing the full file path.
✗ Provanti Designs/Smith/ORNATE BATH Plan.pdf
 - Example of an anonymous, properly named file with no file path included.
✓ ORNATE BATH Plan.pdf

FILE NAME EXAMPLE	REQUIRED?	NOTES
DESIGNER NAME Headshot.jpg	X	Headshot required only for DOR.
ORNATE BATH Best Photo Portrait.jpg	X	*Best Photo Landscape is NOT required for Powder Room entries only. Up to 8 after photos are allowed, including the two required “Best” photos.
ORNATE BATH Best Photo Landscape.jpg*	X	
ORNATE BATH After Photo 1.jpg	X	
ORNATE BATH After Photo 2.jpg	X	
ORNATE BATH After Photo 3.jpg	X	
ORNATE BATH Before Photo 1.jpg		Optional, but helpful for judges.
ORNATE BATH Plan.pdf	X	
ORNATE BATH As-Built Plan.pdf		Optional, but helpful for judges.
ORNATE BATH Elevation 1.pdf	X	
ORNATE BATH Elevation 2.pdf		Optional, but helpful for judges.
ORNATE BATH Perspective 1.pdf		Optional, but helpful for judges.
ORNATE BATH Design Board.pdf	X	Use template provided in Award Force.
ORNATE BATH Release Form Client Property.pdf	X	
ORNATE BATH Release Form Photographer.pdf	X	
ORNATE BATH Release Form Business Owner.pdf		Required only when DOR is NOT self-employed.
ORNATE BATH Contributors Form.pdf		Optional.

Judging Criteria

- Entries will be scored based on these core areas:
 - Creativity
 - Presentation
 - Design Planning
 - Elements and Principles of Design
 - Safety and Ergonomics
 - NKBA Planning Guidelines (4th Edition)
 - NKBA Puget Sound Guidelines + Standards
- Judges will include a panel of NKBA-Certified Kitchen + Bath Designers (CMKBD/CKBD/CKD/CBD) from outside the state of Washington.
- Judging is online via Award Force by a panel of impartial judges evaluating the entries.
- A point system is used for scoring. Actual scoring results will not be released.
- After the Gala, you may request a copy of the comments on your project, as noted by the judges.
- **Judges reserve the option to move a project to another category if they feel it is appropriate.**

Awards

Awards will contain information taken directly from the data supplied by the DOR in their online submission in Award Force.

- Awards will only be given to the winning DOR.
- Be sure to proofread all DOR names, companies, and NKBA certifications.
- Awards engraved with the information submitted to Award Force, but deemed in need of correction/adjustment by the winner(s), will be re-made by the Gala committee IF this additional cost is prepaid in advance by the DOR.

Reasons for Disqualification

You will be disqualified if any of the following are found to be true:

- You have not attended three (3) chapter meetings in-person during July 2025-May 2026; either Puget Sound or Olympic-West Sound.
- Any materials are omitted or if any required criteria are not met. Incomplete entries will be disqualified.
- You state you are a member, and we find it to be false.
- Your submission is not received by 5:00 pm PT on the entry deadline date.
- Your entry fee is not paid in full.
- You do not adhere to all the competition guidelines, requirements, and deadlines.
- You do not submit all entry documentation within one digital submission; including Digital Design Boards.
- Inclusion of people or pets (or photos of them) visible within your professional project photographs OR your before photos.
- NOTE: If your professional photography or before photos do contain people or pets (in any form), you may digitally blur them beyond recognition and then submit the photo(s) as part of your entry.

NKBA Puget Sound reserves the right to disqualify a project before, during, and after the contest judging. Entry fees will not be refunded.