

The Gazette

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## Art FULL Home

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# Designer's Choice

*A peek inside a designer's home can reveal the character of both.*

Iowa News Service / Photos by Mark Tade

**M**onica Boeckenstedt, owner of 929 Design Inc. in Cedar Rapids, and her husband, Jeff, were drawn to their house in northeast Cedar Rapids eight years ago because of its location on the outskirts of the city and the barn in the backyard big enough to house Jeff's "toys." But the split-level house needed work which, as a designer, Boeckenstedt looked forward to.

"We completely remodeled it," she said.

The couple transformed the 1977-built house into a warm, inviting showcase that Boeckenstedt now uses as a sort of model and showroom for her design clients.



Monica Boeckenstedt likes mixing different materials to add texture, depth and interest to a room. In her kitchen and dining room, shown above, she incorporated three types of wood, plus granite and travertine marble.



The open, comfortable sunroom is an excellent space for entertaining. When Boeckenstedt remodeled the room she reused all the existing windows, adding only one new one.

**“A home is so much more than a house.”**

*—Monica Boeckenstedt*

Starting out with a degree in art history from the University of Iowa, Boeckenstedt ultimately followed her passion into the design business, eventually starting her own business which focuses primarily on cabinet design for the whole home.

While she provides her services for a good deal of new construction, Boeckenstedt is especially fond of remodels.

“People who have lived with a space for a while have hopes for it to function better for them,” she explains. Often that means redesigning space, tearing out at least one wall to make things flow and open it up. She interviews clients about how they use certain spaces now and how they’d like to use them in the future.

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In the family room, Boeckenstedt transformed the look of the dark fireplace by lightening the color of the grout. The artwork on the wall is an old black and white map of the United States divided into 18 sections that are individually framed.



In designing her kitchen cabinets, Boeckenstedt combined cherry with black distressed wood to lighten the room.