

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN | COLORADO

FLOW AND FUNCTION

Aspen Design Studio crafts kitchens and bathrooms with seamless style

Nestled alongside the Animas River and surrounded by soaring mountains, Durango-born-and-bred designer Leigha Natzke is dually inspired. First, by the stirring scenery found outside of her showroom window. Second, by the question she encounters with every new client: "How can a space best serve its inhabitants?"

"When we meet with clients, we take the time to learn about how they will use and live in a space," says Natzke, who founded Aspen Design Studio—a cabinetry showroom that doubles as a kitchen and bath design firm—after seven years of hands-on experience in the design industry.

A niche understanding of the components necessary for functional, beautiful kitchens and bathrooms can be the difference between a space that is closed off and limiting or one that is seamless and sound.

"We like to get involved in the design immediately with both the cabinetry and overall floor plan," she says. "We review the architect's existing layout and create a kitchen or bathroom to fit."

Natzke melds clients' style with clean lines, myriad textures, and naturally inspired elements. "The homes we work in always have a lot of windows," she says. "It's fun to bring the outside in and incorporate that into a design."

For a recent mountain farmhouse home, she employed her extensive knowledge to balance unprecedentedly high material costs and the client's needs. Eclectic cabinetry is seamlessly integrated into the open ranch with lively, complementary wood, textures, and finishes. Natzke's favorite part? The resulting space fits its owners like a glove.

"We get lots of thank-you cards," she says. "I love designing for and living in a beautiful place like Durango."



CLOCKWISE FROM THE TOP: Woven chairs and warm light from slate-colored light fixtures illuminate this kitchen. A whole-picture view reveals striking wood floors and plenty of storage space under the picture window. Blue cabinetry brings a pop of unexpected color to this subtly floral bathroom. Leigha Natzke, Owner/Designer.

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