

OKLAHOMA

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OUR ANNUAL

Kitchen & BATHS

FEATURE

The Last Straw

The movement away from single-use plastic straws

A DOOBIE- OUS FUTURE

OKLAHOMA'S NEW MEDICAL MARIJUANA LAW AND ITS HAZY IMPLICATIONS

Medical Advancements

OKLAHOMA PHYSICIANS AT THE FOREFRONT OF NEW TECHNOLOGY

HAUNTED HOUSE *Preview*



THE MASTER BATH FEATURES DOUBLE VESSEL SINKS, ACCENTED BY STREAMLINED CABINETRY AND A GLASS ENCLOSED SHOWER.

CREAM, CRISP, METICULOUS, SLEEK. THIS BATHROOM FOLLOWS SUIT WITH THE REST OF HOUSE IN TERMS OF SIMPLISTIC YET ELEGANT DESIGN.

Midwest Modern

SLEEK, STREAMLINED AND CLUTTER-FREE IS THE DESIGN OF THIS MODERN KITCHEN CREATED BY BRIAN FREESE AND CONTRACTOR S.D. AUSTIN OF AUSTIN LEE. PHOTOS BY NATHAN HARMON

For Tulsa architect Brian Freese of Freese Architecture, this kitchen and bath project was a true first. This is the inaugural project of a series he dubs "Midwest Modern," in Tulsa's burgeoning midtown. Each home will be designed with sizes and amenities appropriate to the neighborhood and current market trends.

"This home was designed for singles, smaller families or empty-nesters," Freese says.

So, maximizing the square footage - making every inch functional and visually pleasing - was crucial to the overall design aesthetics. Throughout the home, a light, neutral color palette creates an expansive

impression.

Freese had 3,750 square feet in a two-story space to design. The biggest challenge was to create a modern home that was appropriate to the neighborhood in terms of scale, proportion and materials, yet striking and unique.

"Because of the space available, the kitchen needed to be highly efficient, yet give the impression of being roomy and spacious," Freese says. "We accomplished that by designing the north cabinets so the refrigerator and freezer didn't protrude into the kitchen space but faced outward, becoming an interesting design feature."

He also took the wasted space under the stairway and used every available inch for hidden cabinet storage.

"That was the first time I've done that," Freese says. "Challenges are opportunities."

The focal element of the kitchen is its center island, featuring a generous working and entertaining area with ample seating. Another challenge was the range hood - an issue Freese met head-on.

"We disguised the range vent by incorporating it within a simple rectangle and cladding it with the same solid surface backsplash material. So often, the range hood takes center stage. It shouldn't," he says.

Ceiling lighting is a stellar kitchen feature, punctuated

for drama with modernistic pendant lights over the center island.

"I wanted to make sure the kitchen was well lit," Freese says. "The lighting is consistent from the kitchen area into the public space."

In the master bath, Freese used LED strip lighting, emphasizing the sculptural quality of the sinks and cabinetry. The roomy yet functional bathroom is a haven for relaxation.

Overall, Freese credits the entire team's work for a stellar renovation.

"The contractor did an excellent job of execution," Freese says. "The new owner has had many large group events. It has provided a wonderful entertainment space."