



Our panel of award-winning designers at Blue Morel in Morristown. From left: Danielle Palmadessa-Lynch, Anna Maria Mannarino (ASID chapter president), Karen Topjian, Linda Kitson, Tracey Stephens, Diane Durocher, Maria K. Bevill and Beth Insabella Walsh.

Sealer's Choice Gold

## TRACEY STEPHENS

Tracey Stephens is keen on Sealer's Choice Gold, a nontoxic, long-lasting penetrating sealer for stone, ceramic tile and grout. The water-based sealant cures quickly and is virtually odor free. It's safe for food-prep areas and provides stain protection for up to 15 years, Stephens says. "That's a significant difference than most sealers that last only three to five years at best." Available at Home Depot.

A dedicated proponent of sustainable building and limiting waste in landfills, Stephens also shared details on Evergreen



Recycling Solutions in Newark, a facility for recycling construction debris. "Here, the stuff that used to go into landfills is repurposed," she says. "It's a pretty awesome facility."

➔ [werecyclenj.com](http://werecyclenj.com)

Paint Shield

## DIANE DUROCHER

Diane Durocher is a fan of Paint Shield, a microbicidal paint from Sherwin Williams. The product kills over 99.9 percent of bacteria that could be living on walls and remains effective for up to four years. "Within two hours of application, it kills off bacteria," says Durocher. "It comes in an eggshell finish and is applied like any other paint—two coats." The paint, available in 550 colors, is ideal for any application where bacteria is a concern, including hospitals, schools and day-care centers, but is also appropriate for home use. "The price is pretty comparable to any other paint," she adds. ➔ [swpaintshield.com](http://swpaintshield.com).



PHOTOGRAPHS: JOE POLLILLO

Mirrored Porcelain Tile

## LINDA KITSON

The mirrored porcelain tile Linda Kitson shared prompted oohs and aahs from the group. "With this, you get light and sparkle without being sparkly," she says. The porcelain sheets come in an oversized format—13 inches by 40 inches—for even more drama. It's appropriate for vertical use—think kitchen backsplashes, shower walls and accent areas. "It's part fun, part house, part fun house," she says. It's surprisingly durable too. "I did the shower test," Kitson says. "It water spots but is easy to clean with a little Soft Scrub."

➔ [porcelanosa-usa.com/products/sea-silver.html](http://porcelanosa-usa.com/products/sea-silver.html)



dECO Leather

## BETH INSABELLA WALSH

dECOLeather is a recycled, partially leather veneer by Formica, a product shared by Beth Insabella Walsh. It's made from recycled, pulverized leather fibers mixed with vinyl (70 percent leather; 30 percent vinyl). The material—recycled from the shoe and automobile industries—can be used for tabletops, cabinet fronts, accent walls, even headboards. It is pliable and manufactured to a consistent thickness (unlike real leather, which has significant variations). Plus, it's durable and washable. And it doesn't create the waste of real leather. "These products are amazing," says Insabella Walsh. "We're using it now as an inset in cabinets. It's super cool."

➔ [formica.com/en/us/products/decoleather](http://formica.com/en/us/products/decoleather)



Faux Leather

## DANIELLE PALMADESSA-LYNCH

Danielle Palmadessa-Lynch also has a variation of leather on her mind: She touted faux leathers, or pleathers, as she calls them. "Most of my clients have young children, so durability is key," she says. "I like to use very practical materials." The samples she presented look and feel just like leather. "You really can't tell the difference," she says. Palmadessa-Lynch has used pleather to upholster sofas, ottomans, chairs and stools, and even the occasional library wall. Her favorite go-to brands: Innovations, F. Schumacher and Kravet. Another bonus: The faux leathers come in standard widths, as opposed to the odd sizes of real leather hides. "And there's no smell," she adds.

➔ [innovationsusa.com](http://innovationsusa.com); [fschumacher.com](http://fschumacher.com); [kravet.com](http://kravet.com)



## Designers

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# A few of their FAVORITE THINGS

A stellar gathering of award-winning interior designers reveals exciting new products for Garden State homes.

**IT WAS AN ICY DAY** in February when *New Jersey Monthly* hosted its annual luncheon to honor award-winning members of the New Jersey chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID). The attendees represented the best of the best of Garden State design talent. For the occasion, we selected the stunning wine room at the Blue Morel Restaurant and Wine Bar in Morristown as an inspirational backdrop. It didn't disappoint. The allotted two hours turned to three as the lively discussion ran the gamut of design trends, and the designers presented their favorite new products. Everyone—editors and designers alike—walked away enlightened. Here, we share a few of the designers' top picks.—*Lauren Payne*