

Raising *the* Bar

STYLISH DRINKS AND DEDICATED BEVERAGE LOUNGES
UP THE ANTE ON HOME ENTERTAINING.

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GOOD SPIRITS

BUNSA STUDIO

Designer Jennifer Bunsu aims for each project to be distinct. “I like for the personality of my clients to shine through—it should really be all about them,” she explains. When the time came to renovate a residence in Connecticut for homeowners in the food and wine industry, devoting a separate area in the house to a beautiful bar was agreed upon from the outset. jenniferbunsu.com

Where is the bar located in the house?

The renovated room you see here is actually a connector between two historic structures that date back to 1790. It’s really the first thing you see when you walk in the front door. I wanted the shiplap to echo the exterior of the old farmhouse while the reclaimed beams nod to original wooden posts unearthed during building.

How is this spot used? Because of the homeowners’ line of work, we wanted to craft a special space for pouring beautiful wine and stirring cocktails—this is important to them. The wife also makes coffee here each morning, sits down and has a moment to herself after the children go to school. I like to think this nook provides a calming influence at any time of the day.

Talk to us about the materials. The idea was to create contrast within the room but to keep it elevated with warmer tones and textures like the charred pine cabinetry, striking marble surfaces and unlacquered brass hardware, which is used throughout the home. I worked closely with Amuneal on the design and they completely understood the vision!

In Weston, Connecticut, Jennifer Bunsu incorporated a Vola faucet, Miele coffee maker and Sub-Zero wine refrigerator into the bar space she designed with Amuneal, which features charred pine cabinetry and brass detailing. Benjamin Moore’s Simply White decorates the walls; the leather chairs are by Bassam Fellows.



SHELF LIFE

Master fabricators Amuneal do it all—from creating doors and stairways to designing sleek kitchens and closets—but the brand’s sophisticated bar configurations are truly top of the line. CEO Adam Kamens discusses what goes into creating these polished vignettes. amuneal.com

Make the bar specific to the space.

It’s common to see these areas against a wall but Jennifer Bunsu took a look at every angle in her project and created a beautiful combination with mounted, see-through shelving that incorporates the rest of the home.

Consider the finishes. Texture is very important and can actually create depth and warmth within a space. *Shou sugi ban* was used here, and we actually take the wood and char it, creating a very tactile effect.

Fabricate a focal point. Concealed bars used to be very popular but now people are really embracing these elegant schemes and making them an anchor of the room.

Mix up shelving. Amuneal offers open and closed storage, as shown here. Sometimes you want to hide the mess. Doors can create a nice weight, while open shelving adds airiness.

HIGH STANDARDS

BAR NECESSITIES

When outfitting the bar, don't overlook the essentials: consider appliances, fittings, hardware and ice. Elevate your sipping experience with these market introductions.

WATERED DOWN

Inspired by the meeting of the sun and the moon, Rohl's Eclissi Kitchen Faucet collection offers a touch of modernity for the most functional room in the home. The pieces showcase a bespoke approach with a large assortment of handle combinations, spout designs and finish options. Shown is the Satin Nickel U-Spout with a Satin Nickel and Satin Gold handle. houseofrohl.com



COLD CALL

LG's newest cooling model is the InstaView Side-by-Side Refrigerator, which includes several innovative features such as a UVnano water dispensing nozzle, door-in-door design and larger glass panels that allow for easy viewing inside. Ice upgrade: The dual ice maker with craft ice offers cubed, crushed or slow-melting round ice spheres (above). lg.com



HOT STUFF

Looking for a caffeine boost? The Built-in 24-inch Coffee Maker from Fisher & Paykel provides a streamlined, seamless aesthetic with all the latest bells and whistles. Program the machine to memorize your favorite order and start up at the same time each morning. The touch display holds data on refills, cleaning and maintenance. fisherpaykel.com

GOOD AS GOLD

A longtime customer of P.E. Guerin, the country's oldest hardware firm, designer Jeffrey Bilhuber knew who to call when he wanted to see his hardware vision come to life. While an antique cut-glass knob was the original starting point, the result rendered all facets of the hardware in metal for a dazzling effect. The suite includes No. 78771 Faceted Pull and No. 78740 Faceted Door Knob, shown below. peguerin.com





Working with architect Garrett P. Nelson, designer Jolee Fennebresque chose a Brizo faucet, Niemann Weeks chandelier and RH pendants for this bar room in Charlotte, North Carolina. A custom paint color from Eastway Paints and art by Sarah Helser from Hidell Brooks Gallery completes the look.

DARK MODE

Jolee Fennebresque of Fennebresque Interiors knew that a moody statement bar was on her client's must-have list for her new-build home in Charlotte, North Carolina. But it wasn't until Fennebresque saw the Tropical Storm Quartzite at the stone yard that the scheme started to take shape: the honey tones of the countertops

complement a custom brown-black paint color, setting the ideal backdrop for the art adorning the walls. To add warmth, she opted for brass detailing unifying the hardware, lighting, sink and faucet. The end result is a master class in balancing elements to achieve a glam but livable space. fennebresqueinteriors.com

PHOTO: DUSTIN PECK.

CHILL FACTOR

IN GOOD HANDS

Wine enthusiasts know that how bottles are stored, and at what temperature, can make all the difference when uncorking a prized vintage. As bar and beverage centers continue to morph beyond the wine cellar, refrigeration for all types of drinks is top of mind. From craft beer and cold brews to sparkling water and homemade sodas, these new appliances keep refreshments *fresh*.



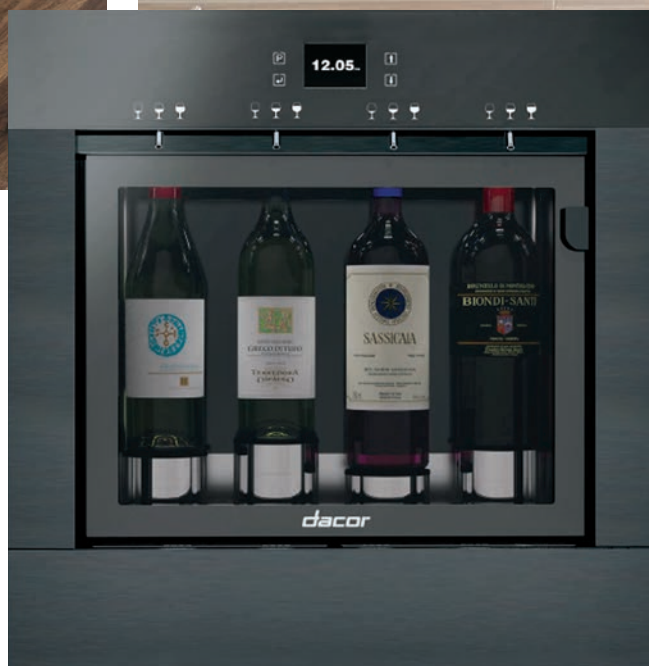
KEEP COOL

Designed for total flexibility, the innovative 24-inch Undercounter Convertible Drawer Refrigerator by Signature Kitchen Suite allows users to toggle between several temperature zones depending on what they need at the time. The six modes include pantry, fridge, bar, seafood, meat or freezer and can be instantly changed from -7° F to 50° F to accommodate grocery store purchases. Plus, Wi-Fi connectivity on the SKS app allows you to manage it all remotely from your phone. signaturekitchensuite.com



BOTTLE SERVICE

Zephyr has introduced its Presrv Panel Ready Single Zone Beverage Cooler, which can be worked into existing under-counter cabinetry or rooms like the office, gym, bar or kitchen. One of the coldest units on the market, the appliance holds 7 bottles, 112 cans and goes down to 34° F making it ideal for storing soda and beer. zephyronline.com



EASY ACCESS

Known for its amazing wine preservation systems, Dacor has added to its offerings with the 24-inch Integrated Wine Dispenser, shown in the new Graphite Stainless Steel finish. Using Argon gas technology, the latest model can store up to 4 bottles in dual temperature zones and keep the contents fresh for 60 days without the loss of flavor or aroma. dacor.com

PHOTOS: COURTESY RESPECTIVE COMPANIES.