

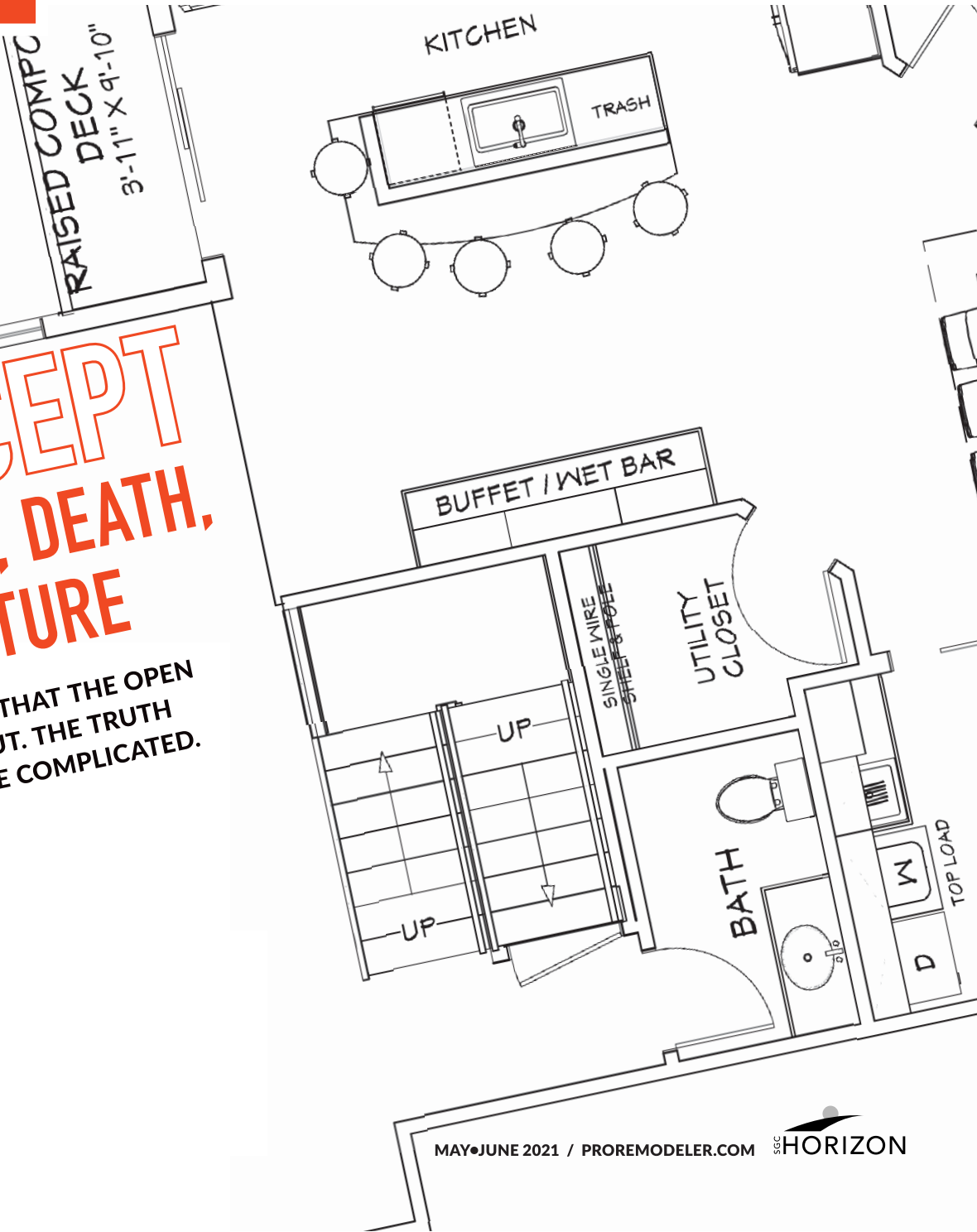


# REMODELER

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**OPEN  
CONCEPT  
ITS LIFE, DEATH,  
AND FUTURE**

RUMOR HAS IT THAT THE OPEN  
CONCEPT IS OUT. THE TRUTH  
IS MUCH MORE COMPLICATED.





# 2021 DESIGN HIGHLIGHTS

STANDOUTS OVERCOME CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN CHALLENGES TO PRODUCE ALL-AROUND EYE-CATCHING, YET FUNCTIONAL RESULTS.

BY PRO REMODELER STAFF

**E**ach year, NARI's Contractor of the Year (CotY) Awards showcase some of the best designs and most innovative solutions in remodeling. Though many of the winning projects for 2021 were already in the works before the pandemic hit, it's impossible not to look at home design differently this year as functionality

and custom touches take center stage.

Though enhanced aesthetics remain important, the industry's focus has shifted to the value that a renovation will add to the homeowner's everyday life. How much natural light will this window let in while they work from home? Could this space hold socially distant gatherings? Can the homeowner age in

place here if nursing homes aren't an option?

From a reworked kitchen with a challenging footprint to a budget-friendly bathroom that blew the client's expectations out of the water, Pro Remodeler is highlighting five standout CotY regional winners that successfully married form and function under challenging circumstances.



## ELEGANT KITCHEN EMERGES FROM FLOOR TO CEILING CONSTRAINTS

Every remodeling project has its limitations, but the challenges for this gourmet kitchen transformation truly were considerable.

At just 121 square feet, the footprint was compact. Its location in a high-rise building meant that remodeler Kitchen Design Concepts of Carrollton, Texas, had to create a design (and reno schedule) that accommodated the 1981 building's existing plumbing, flooring, and fire suppression systems. And the client, a dedicated home chef, wanted as much counter space as possible for cooking and food prep.

To accomplish all this, designer Rebecca Sutton, CKBD, started by opening up the space. A dropped ceiling was removed, replaced by a flush ceiling and recessed LED can lights. A wall between the kitchen and the living room was partially removed, connecting the two spaces and highlighting the 19th-floor views of the Dallas skyline.

Visually, the designer chose a tuxedo look, with slab door melamine cabinets in silver elm on top and black-painted maple Shaker cabinets on the bottom. Paneled undercounter appliances such as a dishwasher and two refrigerator/freezer units continue the sleek look while maximizing counter space. Roll-out LeMans units provide essential storage on either side of the induction range. In the bar area, a free-floating waterfall countertop with room for two chairs leaves space for entertaining or pasta-making. A clever cabinet-matching channel conceals the required electrical on the peninsula and even provides a hidden outlet on a cabinet's skyline-facing side.



**Firm: Kitchen Design Concepts**  
**Location: Carrollton, Texas**