

# THE METROPOLITAN BUILDER

Greater Houston Edition  
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## Dialogue with a Designer



**BATHS**  
**OF AMERICA**  
FINE BATH & KITCHEN GALLERY

House of Cottet LLC

Houston, TX



# Dialogue with a Designer

## House of Cottet LLC

*BATHS OF AMERICA opened its doors in January 2005 when brothers Ali and Zeeshan Sultanali decided to start selling plumbing and tiles to the Houston market. Baths of America focuses on customer service and partners only with brands offering quality products and customer service. In addition to plumbing, Baths of America now offers door and cabinet hardware, major appliances, cabinetry, and countertops. It has turned into a one-stop shop for designers, builders, and architects, offering the latest designs and trends in the market.*

*This month BATHS OF AMERICA. speaks with Alison Cottet, owner of House of Cottet, LLC; providing interior design solutions to residential and commercial clients, as well as new home builders throughout Houston and surrounding area, coordinating all aspects of their projects within budget and timelines.*

*Alison is described as down to earth and easy to work with, and her design philosophy stresses a close link between the disciplines of architecture and interior decoration. The end results are gorgeous environments defined by rich color palettes, refined materials and detailing that will AWE your guests. Her expertise ranges*

*from a wide range of styles, including traditional, modern, rustic chic, and eclectic.*

**BATHS OF AMERICA: What motivated you to go into the interior design field?**

**Alison Cottet:** Being able to take a plain or nonfunctional space and turn it into something that is breathtaking and functional is what motivates me. Seeing the different styles from traveling led me into wanting to get into the field of Design. In my earlier years of my career, I became a project coordinator for a multimillion-dollar custom home builder where I was even more drawn to Interior design, and it led me to become the interior designer for all projects. The look on my clients faces when they walk into their beautifully designed home is what makes my job priceless.

**BATHS OF AMERICA: How has the field of interior design changed since you graduated?**

**Alison Cottet:** Social Media has grown, new programs have been created and a demand for E-designs has impacted the interior design industry. With social media being a big part of society now, Builders and remodeling contractors love to collab to show casing completed jobs. Clients are more interested in E-design more than ever and



we are digging it! For small room makeovers clients are not scared of taking on a project and get their hands dirty but just need direction from an interior designer and that is where I come in! With all of the new ways people are socializing new technology is made that helps designers show clients a sneak peek of what the space will look like.

**BATHS OF AMERICA:** *How can an experienced interior designer help a custom home builder or a remodeling contractor with their building or remodeling projects?*

**Alison Cottet:** Let's be honest, home builders and remodeling contractors are not interior designers plus don't have the time to be the role of designer. Partnering up with an interior designer like myself that is experienced makes the project run a million times smoother. Because of my background in project coordinating, I know how important it is to stay on schedule and have everything prepared to hand off to project managers.

**BATHS OF AMERICA:** *What sets you apart from other designers?*



**Alison Cottet:** My experience in working as a project coordinator for a custom home builder sets me apart from other designers. Knowing what builders and remodeling contractors are expecting when working with an interior designer is what has been appreciated and complimented. Knowing their processes helps me focus on deadlines and making sure my work is being completed before they are



commit to only one style for my home. If I am working on a midcentury modern project with a client then I come home wanting to add a little of that style into my living room because I am inspired.

**BATHS OF AMERICA:** *How do you begin the materials selection process when working with builders' and remodelers' clients?*

**Alison Cottet:** The key to having a successful outcome when working on a project with a builder or remodeling contractor is to finalize design selections as early in the construction process as possible. We start by looking at inspirational pictures and getting a good feel of what direction we are wanting to go for as far as style. Budgets are discussed and design plans are made. Putting together selections and designing every little detail on paper as soon as architectural plans are ready is what makes our design process different than other design firms. Imagine having all selections finalized while the foundation is being poured!

**BATHS OF AMERICA:** *What are some common mistakes made by builders and homeowners?*

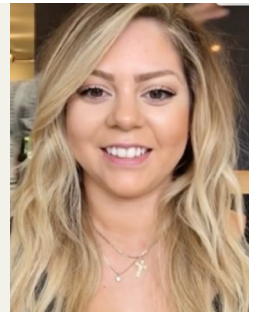
**Alison Cottet:** I run into builders and homeowners wanting or thinking their home needs to have the same two-color tone scheme throughout the entire home. This is a mistake that is on going and takes some convincing to change. A home should flow and keep the same esthetic throughout but there can be specialty rooms that make the space exiting and unique. Think of a wet bar having high gloss emerald-green cabinets with a fun black and white mosaic backsplash and brass hexagon cabinet hardware vs an all-white wet bar that matches the kitchen. Now color is not everyone's cup of tea but playing with textures, tones, and layering can do wonders to a space!

needing any of the selection. A lot of my work is using my creativity, but I also strongly enforce structure and stay organized throughout the project.

**BATHS OF AMERICA:** *What has been your most challenging project and why?*

**Alison Cottet:** Honestly it would have to be my own home! With the skill of being able to put together different design styles that I all love so much It became hard to

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