

AS SEEN IN  
*Architectural Digest*

EXCELLENCE IN DESIGN ♦ PITTSBURGH METRO



**CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT:** A custom radius hood painted in high-gloss white and architectural 3D tiles provide a striking contrast to the deep blue hues of the range and millwork. A palette of blue and gray punctuated by pops of white in the dining area is framed by the space's signature white oak floors and ceiling beams. A custom bar features dark blue subway tile, a waterfall bar top, copper fixtures, and shelves with integrated lighting. A custom pub table and upholstered seating extend the kitchen island, backed by wallpaper-clad sliding barn doors concealing a hidden pantry. Architecture by Shea + Simone Architects. Photos by Dave Bryce Photography

## Built Different

Elevated architecture meets its match in Black Boot Builders, the award-winning team behind some of Pittsburgh's most distinctive homes

When architectural plans called for a first-floor remodel awash in high-end details and custom features for the "White Hot Reno" project, Black Boot Builders did what it does best: executed an exacting architect-driven build to exceptionally high standards.

"It's a very cool project," says Dave Short, who founded the firm in 2018. "It exemplifies the kind of work we are drawn to—projects that are different and that other builders aren't doing."

Led by Short and his wife, Zia Marinzel, Black Boot's knack for out-of-the-box creativity and award-winning work draws some of the Pittsburgh area's most accomplished architects and designers. It

is a success story that has been built on a combination of superlative attention to quality and detail, a transparent project management process, and seamless collaboration.

"We love working with architects and designers," explains Marinzel. "That collaboration as early in the process as possible is what sets us apart, and that shows in our work. It's sharper, cleaner, and every detail has been considered."

A team of 11 highly skilled craftspeople fuels Black Boot's intentionally boutique approach to historic renovations, large-scale remodels, and new builds—a hallmark of projects like the featured White Hot Reno. Through comprehensive project management, from initial cost analysis and value engineering to consistent communication regarding budgets and schedules, the team stays closely involved in every phase of a project. It's a build experience as elevated as the homes that result.

"Great communication with our clients is central to everything we do," says Short.

"The feedback we always want to hear is that our clients loved the process," adds Marinzel. "We're building people's dream homes. That should be a great experience, start to finish."