

## SHORTCUTS BUSINESS



Photo: Kelli Urdahl

### Carmel Design Firm Beautifies Homes for 40 Years

BY RENEE BRINCKS

**Owner Gary Courtright of Carmel Kitchens & Baths helps clients make their spaces both functional and beautiful. The company is celebrating 40 years in business.**

**W**hen he purchased Carmel Kitchens & Baths in 2001, designer Gary Courtright, AKBD, admired the company's commitment to sourcing long-lasting products. In fact, as the design firm celebrates 40 years in 2021, he occasionally hears from families whose interiors have served them for nearly four decades.

"We want to minimize waste as much as possible. When we do a great design, it can last 30, 40, even 50 years," Courtright says.

Architect Bob Seger, AIA, first opened the downtown Carmel business in 1981. He spun off a separate bath-only showroom in 1986, and then consolidated into the current Carmel Rancho Lane location a few years later. Seger sold to employee Barry Rowley, CKD, in 1992.

Since Courtright took over, he's seen an increased demand for contemporary styles and thoughtful spaces.

"Instead of just a grand kitchen, we make functional kitchens that also look fabulous," he says. "It's about customizing rooms for individual clients, while making things look right for the house. There's a real balancing act."

Though Courtright's team completes projects between Oregon and Connecticut, most clients are local.

"We get to work with phenomenal clients who have phenomenal homes. They're good people who give back to the community, and they make this business fun," he says.

*For more information, please visit [carmelkitchensandbaths.com](http://carmelkitchensandbaths.com).*