



# Where Form Meets Function

A lifetime devoted to fine architectural woodworking and custom furniture design has enabled Doug Durbin to bring nuHaus to the forefront of kitchen design.

**D**oug Durbin and the team at nuHaus lead the charge in kitchen design. Their innovative designs are built on a foundation of architectural traditions with a fresh approach.

nuHaus was founded in 1988 by master cabinetmakers Doug and his brother John, as an extension of their architectural millwork and custom cabinet company, Exclusive Woodworking. nuHaus was built on the principle that good design is a harmony of sound engineering and aesthetic value. "It's all about thoughtful design. Why shouldn't everything function well and look amazing at the same time?" asks Doug, CEO and Director of Design at nuHaus in Highland Park.

Looking around the impressive nuHaus showroom confirms the weight of Doug's belief in his design philosophy. Every vignette, from the minimalist modern to the lush traditional, clearly conveys the nuHaus brand and message. The intricate level of detail in each kitchen display engulfs you, creating an atmosphere so authentic and warm



that you expect to round the corner into an equally beautiful living or dining room. Instead, you find yourself in another fully realized kitchen, one that projects a different atmosphere, and again, your idea of the perfect kitchen is transformed. Everywhere you look, you see examples of the exquisitely designed and expertly executed ideas that nuHaus is known for.

When talking about design, Doug's eyes light up. For him, design is a message that is conveyed in many ways. Pointing to what may seem at first glance an insignificant element, such as a small mitered bead at the base of a column, Doug notes that the small details, though a whisper, can be every bit as essential to the integrity of a design as the larger elements. It is this inherent love of design and passion for woodworking that led Doug to create "the nuHaus Collection," an anthology of original products ranging from kitchen work tables, pantries, and hoods, to armoires, vanities, and decorative cabinet hardware. "The nuHaus Collection" offers the consumer a product where

someone has addressed the conflict between function and aesthetics. Each piece is as beautiful as it is operational.

When asked how "The nuHaus Collection" fits into a marketplace that is saturated with product, Doug responds, "Larger manufacturers work on a business model that succeeds on repetition. Our ideas would be such a speed bump in their operations that the market couldn't bear the price tag that it would cost to produce them. Our technical background and the fact that we have our own woodworking company allow us to build our designs efficiently. For us, a custom design is not a speed bump, it's an opportunity."

No two kitchens are alike and each environment that nuHaus designs is unique. This stems from their desire to shape each space to reflect the client. nuHaus' strength lies in their ability to tailor a design to the most discerning specifications. Doug asks, "Why provide the same kitchen over and over when we have the ability to allow each client the opportunity to express

who they are through their own intimate, personalized design?" Walking into Doug's office, you are greeted by a written statement of his philosophy: "Innovative design driven by passion, vision, and contempt for the ordinary." Doug says, "That's us, plain and simple."

"This is how we look at the world. We focus on fit and finish, proportion and scale, how things line up, how lights hang in a space, and how elements of a design balance one another. We pay attention to it all," says Doug. "nuHaus has a history of going beyond the ordinary and nothing demonstrates this better than 'The nuHaus collection.' Blending unique details with time-tested classic lines, this collection is sure to make your kitchen functional, beautiful, and truly one-of-a-kind."

*The nuHaus showroom is located at 1665 Old Skokie Road in Highland Park. For more information, call 847-831-1330, or visit them online at [www.nuhaus.com](http://www.nuhaus.com). — JOSS LAKE* □