



PHOTOS BY CURTIS PENNE PHOTOGRAPHY



Smart Spaces

THE EVENT ABLAZE Design Group held a “Harmony at Home” panel discussion on tech-inspired, wellness-focused home design at its Highwood showroom. **THE PEOPLE** Featuring ABLAZE owner and CEO **George Markoutsas**, interior designer **Jessica Margot** and realtor **Lauren Mitrick Wood** and moderated by **Nevine Roberts** of Cosentino Chicago, the panel engaged with North Shore homeowners and buyers. The discussion focused on helping attendees enjoy their living spaces and make smart resale improvements. **THE PINNACLE** Guests enjoyed a tempting charcuterie-style grazing table by **Laura Allswang** of Dstressed and received swag bags filled with design essentials curated by the panel’s experts. Raffle prizes included highlights like a Buster and Punch Vertical Brass Necklace, as seen on the reality show *Selling Sunset*. *By Gavin Lipinski*

(1) Lauren Mitrick Wood, Jessica Margot, Ava Markoutsas, George Markoutsas and Nevine Roberts (2) Starmark Inset Cabinetry and Napa Home Goods were among the event’s featured brands. (3) Jessica Powell and Chrystel Lobo (4) The delectable charcuterie grazing table was curated by Laura Allswang of Dstressed. (5) The audience focused on the panelists’ remarks. (6) Joe Pasquesi (7) Iris Kohl and Renee Price



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Interior Innovations

THE EVENT NARI of Greater Chicagoland hosted its second annual Design Night at The Mart’s Moen and UGM Surfaces + Vadara Quartz showrooms, bringing together industry professionals from both the design and remodeling worlds under the theme of “Innovations in Interiors.” **THE PEOPLE** NARI’s president, **Allyson Anderson**, welcomed the exclusive group of nearly 80 attendees before **Brian Barnett** of Vadara Quartz and **Nick Leverknight** of Moen offered insights into their companies’ products and services. **THE PINNACLE** Guests enjoyed cocktails and creative catering from Marshall’s Landing and Boka (think bourbon barbecue meatballs and artichoke fritters) in The Mart while exploring top products from each showroom. From Moen’s Alexa-controlled faucets to UGM Surfaces’ finest quartz slabs, the evening was packed with hands-on experiences and innovation. *—GL*

(1) Nadejda Martinov, Albena Tsvetkova and Daiva Mazulyte (2) Raffle winner Bahri Ozmen presented his winning ticket to Nick Leverknight. (3) Brian Barnett (4) Brittany Odorn and Nate Steinheimer (5) Allyson Anderson engaged with guests. (6) The insider crowd gathered in the Moen showroom.

