

HUB Design/Build
765 Newtown Road
Villanova, PA 19085
Phone: (610) 688-7475

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Telephone (610) 688-7475
www.HUBdesignbuild.com



ROOMS WITH ATTITUDE

Today's technological revolution has resulted in the creation of two new spaces in the home that did not exist for your grandparents: the home office and the entertainment center. These areas have now become essential places for the modern family, helping make life easier and more enjoyable.

Photo: Courtesy of Ed Lane

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Relaxing Outside

Featured on the back page are two projects completed by **HUB Design/Build** that highlight spending stress-free time at home enjoying the outdoors. How sweet it is when no traveling is involved in finding your oasis, other than stepping out your back door.

Pictured here is a 50-year-old stone patio that our clients loved from their former home and wanted to take with them when they moved, so we built one for them at their new home.

(See it on page four.)



The Ultimate Family Home 2004 and The New American Home 2004—showcase homes at the International Builders Show in Las Vegas this year—each outfitted these two areas with impressive state-of-the-art amenities. Adding a home office and/or entertainment center to a home is currently a very popular remodeling project, which also increases the value of your home at resale.

In the project featured here, the entire lower level of the home was remodeled and turned into an upscale, yet casual and comfortable space for the whole family.

The handsome home office exemplifies the newest trend in home office design in which style is given as much importance as function. The office is treated as a pleasant extension of the home. The muted colors of nature, rich hardwood floor, rough texture of stone, tray ceiling and tasteful accessories provide warmth to the setting. A stunning custom-built desk, the top

designed from a single slab of wood with the edge cut to resemble bark, is the “piece de resistance” of the room. Recessed cabinetry behind the desk includes an ample supply of lateral filing cabinets. Across the room, built-in wood-



Photo: Courtesy of Ed Lane

en bookcases flank a cozy gas fireplace and its natural stone surround. Guarding the entrance to the office is a spectacular chainsaw-carved wooden turkey that lends a very personal touch to the space.

Adjacent to the office a spacious entertainment room easily accommodates a media center, pool table, jukebox and wet bar with wine cooler and mini-refrigerator. High ceilings, French doors, large windows, and plenty of specialized lighting create a

bright and open ambience. A large screen plasma TV and other media equipment are housed in an attractive custom-designed, built-in media center. The cushy leather theater seats are Stressless® recliners manufactured in Norway by Ekornes.

The totally remodeled lower level also boasts an inviting guest suite with walk-in closet and full bath, and a craft room, complete with a generous supply of cabinets and counter space. The entire area was fitted with a central vacuum system as well as structured wiring, providing Internet and audio/visual access. The home is now equipped with a delightful new living space that will bring convenience and relaxation to the homeowners for years to come. □

FLOORING TRENDS: Concrete

Concrete—an old material used in new and intriguing ways—has captured the imagination of homeowners throughout the country. For those who want an unusual yet durable floor, few materials can compete. The natural quality of concrete, with its warmth and tactile appeal, is very attractive. Concrete can be acid-stained, dyed or faux painted to match any décor. It will accept objects, such as pieces of glass or shells, which add to its texture and color. It also can be stamped, scored, or saw-cut—giving very interesting dimensional effects that imitate just about anything, including brick, tile or slate. Grinding a concrete floor to a high-gloss finish results in a lustrous appearance similar to polished stone.

Much of the allure of concrete floors is that no two floors are alike. Since everything is custom designed, homeowners can have the fun of providing creative input. However, they also need



The bold geometric shapes comprising this floor illustrate the versatility of acid-stained concrete.

to have realistic expectations about the outcome. Because concrete is a natural material, one should expect variability, not uniformity, in the final product. The warm surface patina and hairline cracks that may appear over time are considered part of the beautiful natural attributes of concrete and only add to its earthy authenticity.

A concrete floor needs to be finished with a sealer to help resist water, stains, dirt and abrasives. For general cleaning, dust first and then use water and scrub the floor with a soft brush. For heavier soiled areas, use a natural, non-abrasive cleanser. Occasionally reapply the sealer, especially to high-traffic areas. □

Photo: Courtesy of Diamond D. Company — www.diamonddcompany.com

Photo: Courtesy of Elkay - www.elkayUSA.com



The Mystic™ sink by Elkay has faucet and drain positioned at opposite ends so that the water streams through the prep area.

Sinks That Sizzle

Homeowners are rediscovering the exceptional beauty of a material that is tough as well as resilient.

Known for their durability, stainless steel sinks have always been the backbone of commercial kitchens. They have regained popularity in residential applications as sleek stainless steel appliances have come into vogue. Homeowners are rediscovering the exceptional beauty of a material that is tough as well as resilient. Some of the best qualities of stainless steel are that it will not chip, nick or crack. It gives on impact to cushion glasses and dishes against breakage. It resists staining and fading. And it will not rust.

sink, also by Kohler, forms a graceful arc that bridges horizontally from one basin edge to another. Julien's award winning Kitchen Island 2100 takes sink design to a new level, sculpting in steel a versatile center for all the various activities of a busy kitchen.

These inspired designs, as well as many others, offer today's homeowner a wonderful opportunity to step out from the tried and true and experience something extraordinary.



Photo: Courtesy of Julien - www.julien.ca

The exciting news is that the traditional simplistic look of the stainless steel sink has been radically transformed. Stainless steel is being fashioned into innovative sinks that make a statement—melding functionality with art. Elkay's undulating Mystic sink and Kohler's Undertone Trough sink turn a kitchen island into a distinctive focal point for food prep and entertaining. The Swerve



The Swerve™ sink by Kohler

Photos: Courtesy of Kohler Co. - www.KOHLER.com

The Undertone™ Trough sink by Kohler includes wire drying racks and storage baskets for added convenience.

The Kitchen Island 2100 by Julien includes more than 15 sq. ft. of counter space, two 15-inch-wide basins, two lighted shelves, two large drawers, an integrated drip board and a raised hub with an electrical outlet. It can be installed on almost any base.



Relaxing Outside

(continued from page 1)

Here is the patio that resembles the one on our clients' former home. The stone used in the walls was chosen to duplicate the stone on the new house. Outdoor lighting is built into the stone walls and steps. You may recognize the patio furniture from their earlier house.



In this second project HUB Design/Build replaced an existing three-season room with a larger four-season room that has radiant heat in the tile floor. The flagstone patio is new, although it is difficult to tell because we meticulously matched the stone on the existing house with stone from the original quarry. On the other side of the sun-

room we added a maintenance-free TimberTech deck. As always, attention to lighting is a key ingredient in all our designs. □

