

Remodeling Tips

Courtesy of **HUB Remodeling** Custom Design - Professional Remodeling SPRING 2003



765 Newtown Road
Villanova, PA 19085

Telephone (610) 688-7475

Check out our Website at
www.HUBremodeling.com

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The Laundry Room Plus

The face of American homes has been rapidly changing over the past several years. Today's large, open kitchens have turned into family gathering places. Bathrooms are luxurious spa-like getaways. Family rooms have become great rooms, complete with entertainment centers.

Laundry rooms, however, have for the most part remained an afterthought—a washer and dryer placed in a room the size of a closet, along with a few storage cabinets.

Well, that is true no longer! Forward-thinking home planners have begun to focus on the laundry room. Whirlpool® Corporation, for

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This beautiful example of the family studio concept demonstrates how the laundry appliances and other items can be concealed behind cabinet doors.

Photo: Courtesy of Whirlpool® Corporation - www.whirlpool.com

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Good Things Come in Big and Small Packages

To be a top notch design/build firm requires the ability to conform to your clients' needs. This means "one size does not fit all." At HUB Remodeling we work extensively with each client to identify his or her particular desires, whether it is a small bathroom remodeling project or a whole house remodel.

Featured on this page is a vanity in a 5' x10' master bath. Especially noteworthy are the navy blue Tech pendent lights, the graceful Jado faucet mounted on the mirror and a navy blue Kohler vessel sink set above a granite countertop. The monogrammed towels are just one way we at HUB Remodeling thank our clients for the opportunity of working with them. See page 4 for an example of a larger master bath project.

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The Laundry Room Plus

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example, introduced in 2002 their exciting new concept for the laundry room, which they call "The Family Studio."

After extensive consumer lifestyle research, Whirlpool envisioned an area that can function not only as an every day fabric care room, but also as a space that supports an endless variety of stay-at-home activities. With the average family spending up to 400 hours per year doing laundry, a flexible laundry room helps homeowners be more productive. For instance, families can use it for arts and crafts, gardening and sewing projects, gift-wrapping, pet care, kids' homework projects, and much more. This is also an ideal space for an internet computer, a television, or an extra refrigerator. The Family Studio conveniently keeps projects, daily tasks, and potential clutter organized so the rest of the house stays neater.

Basic to the idea of a Family Studio are expansive storage areas and spacious countertop surfaces for projects. In addition to this, Whirlpool has designed modular, state-of-the-art

fabric care appliances, each of which can be discreetly enclosed within cabinetry for a tidy, streamlined look.

Some of the innovative appliances Whirlpool introduced with the Family Studio concept are: the Personal Valet® clothes vitalizing system, the DryAire™ drying cabinet, and the SinkSpa™ jetted sink.

The Family Studio offers a fresh new perspective on the traditional laundry room. Now let your imagination take over and see how you can incorporate some of these ideas into your home.

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Right: The Personal Valet® clothes vitalizing system. In just 30 minutes you can smooth wrinkles and remove odors. Make fewer trips to the cleaners and spend less time ironing.



Above: The SinkSpa™ jetted sink. Three micro-jets swirl water to gently clean your delicates and hand-washables.

Photos on this page: Courtesy of Whirlpool® Corporation - www.whirlpool.com

Countertops: Glass

The idea may still seem "out there," but it is definitely on the way in. Glass, beautiful and stylish, was singled out by designers as an emerging material for countertops at both the 2002 Kitchen and Bath Industry Show, as well as the 2003 International Builders Show.

Glass countertops are fashioned from 3/4" annealed glass, which is the same process by which window glass is made. The edges are highly polished and for safety purposes, rounded.

Some of the exceptional qualities of a glass countertop are that it is non-porous, and therefore very sanitary. The countertop is shaped all in one piece, so there are no seams. It has a heavy tensile strength, and therefore can endure a great deal of weight. A 300 lb. weight, placed on a glass countertop, will not affect it. A hot pan will not scorch the surface, which can endure

heat of up to 700 degrees without cracking.

To care for a glass countertop, always use a cutting board to avoid scratching the surface. Light scratches, however, can be taken out by using a product like "Soft Scrub." Certain acidic substances, such as vinegar, if allowed to rest on the surface for a length of time, will eventually "oyster" the surface (give it the appearance of the inside of an oyster shell). This does not affect the strength of the glass, just the appearance. Of course, with glass one always has to be careful and not drop a hard, heavy object on it because it may shatter.

The sizes and shapes of glass countertops are infinitely varied. In addition, the glass can be

processed in a range of colors and textures. Curvet, for example, offers 119 different colors and/or textures for their custom glass countertops. In price, a glass countertop compares to granite or marble.

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Photo: Courtesy of Curvet USA, Inc. - www.curvetusa.com

“An unhurried sense of time is in itself a form of wealth.”

Bonnie Friedman, in New York Times

A Room With a View

After the stresses of a normal hectic day, the top priority for most Americans is to spend time relaxing and letting the pressures slip away. They often wish for a quiet, peaceful place set apart from the hustle and bustle they have just experienced.

For this reason, the passion for creating secluded outdoor living areas at home has really taken off in the past few years. Something about being outdoors and soaking up the timeless beauty of nature is the perfect medicine.

The traditional open, grassy back yard with a deck has been giving way to walled patios or interior courtyards, paved in brick or stone for easy maintenance. Flowers, trees and other plants are carefully chosen and placed for maximum enjoyment and privacy. In addition, small outdoor balconies and porches are designed to flow out from breakfast nooks and master bedrooms. Just picture being able to step outside your bedroom and enjoy the beautiful night sky from a comfortable lounge chair on your private balcony.

Depending on the size of the space and its location, your outdoor room could also include a small built-in satellite kitchen with a sink and refrigerator for those late-night hunger attacks. Or, perhaps you prefer a more complete kitchen set-up, with a



Photo: Courtesy of Timberlake Cabinet Company - www.timberlake.com

grill and rotisserie for barbecuing.

Other additions to your outdoor space that increase relaxation might be a whirlpool bath, or a swimming pool. The sounds of water flowing have been found to be very stress relieving. Adding a waterfall to your pool multiplies the enjoyment. And there is nothing like the crackling of a fire in an outdoor fireplace to enhance any evening spent on your patio.

These outdoor rooms are often furnished

with cabinetry, tables and chairs that add to the feeling of a family room or great room. Manufacturers who anticipated this trend now offer furnishings designed specifically for exterior use, but with the look of interior products. It is getting ever easier to create an outdoor room where the time you spend helps you unwind and refreshes your mind and body.



Photo by: James F. Wilson, Dallas TX/Compliments of NAHB



Above: This trend for creating outdoor rooms was very evident in The New American Home®2003 which was showcased at the International Builders Show in Las Vegas in January. Multiple layers of patios, terraces, porches and balconies were sprinkled throughout the Italianesque-style attached town home.



Photo by: James F. Wilson, Dallas TX/Compliments of NAHB



Good Things Come in Big and Small Packages

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On this page we highlight a 9' x 16' master bath that was the product of converting a split-level, walk-up attic into a 25' x 36' master suite. This is a great way to add living space to a split-level. The result is a beautiful and spacious area where all the amenities are included. The vanity tops and the whirlpool deck are both made from Zodiaq—a quartz material manufactured by DuPont. Zodiaq has the elegant look of granite, but in larger installations it also has

an advantage over natural stone in that the color can be matched perfectly from one piece to the next. The shower is enclosed with frameless glass. The shower is enclosed with frameless glass. The elegant vanity, tub and shower faucets are all by Grohe. The shower has a thermostatic valve that controls the fixed showerhead and the adjustable, bar-mounted, hand-held showerhead. The hand-held showerhead is a convenient feature for bathing and also for rinsing down the shower walls.



Whether your project is large or small, let HUB Remodeling's design/build team give it all the attention it deserves.



The 72" whirlpool tub by Pearl was undermounted for a more aesthetic and maintenance-free deck treatment.



The plumbing fixtures are the Seabury series from Grohe. The Ginger shower baskets are attractive and the wire allows for easy drainage.

