

HUB of The Home

Courtesy of **HUB Design/Build** Custom Design - Professional Remodeling ☎ SUMMER 2003

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This Home Takes a 180-Degree Turn

The location of the original home was perfect—in a nice neighborhood with breath-taking panoramic views. Unfortunately, the forty-four year old home was a single story building. The only way to enjoy the scenery was to climb on to the roof! It also lacked enough space for this active family of four, which included two children, ages 8 and 4.

So, rather than move, the homeowners opted to tear the house down to the subfloor and modify the foundation to support a two-story structure.



Photo by: Sol Visual Development / Courtesy of Jeff Talmadge

(continued on page 2) *There is plentiful space in the bright and airy kitchen for friends and family to gather.*

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“...change your leaves, keep intact your roots.”

—Victor Hugo

From HUB Construction...to HUB Remodeling...and now to **HUB Design/Build**, our name and our company evolves. Although we are changing our name to better reflect the nature of our business, our commitment to outstanding customer service and quality design and construction remains intact.

In conjunction with changing our name to HUB Design/Build, we are taking this opportunity on page 4 to describe the advan-

tages of choosing a design/build company for your construction needs. The accompanying photographs are of a recent project we designed around existing kitchen cabinets to improve both the function of the kitchen and the flow of the home's first floor. Structural changes include opening the space to the foyer and rerouting the top of the basement staircase in order to eliminate the doorway in the kitchen. □

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This Home Takes a 180-Degree Turn

(continued from page 1)

This practically new home was built in the Cape Cod style, with an all-shingle exterior and white painted trim. The home has three bedrooms and a den/office downstairs, while the kitchen/great room and family room are upstairs. Now, the family is enjoying the extra room to spread out, and they delight in the spectacular views from the great room.



Photo by: Sol Visual Development / Courtesy of Jeff Talmadge

The home has an open, spacious feeling with cathedral ceilings highlighted by exposed trusses. The clients have excellent tastes and chose warm, vibrant colors to paint the walls.

The kitchen and great room feature beautiful wide-plank mahogany flooring. Easy maintenance stainless steel kitchen appliances and painted cabi-

netry not only look great, but also reflect the natural light. The pre-cast concrete countertops are infused with pigment giving them the color of brown sugar. Set in an attractive running bond pattern, the tile backsplash lends an old fashioned aura to the kitchen.

The wine bar includes a wine chiller and overhead storage for bottles and glasses. A mahogany countertop is a very classy touch.

The cozy breakfast nook has built-in seating with storage beneath. Tall casement windows allow plenty of light in which to enjoy a cup of coffee with the morning paper. The ceiling over the nook has whitewashed pine boards attached to the hip rafters. A colonial style light fixture suspended over the breakfast table finishes the space with old world charm.

The owners love their new home, which exudes a sophisticated air, yet is comfortable and welcoming. An added benefit of staying in the neighborhood is that they have turned the adjoining lot, which they own, into a park for their children. □



Here's an inviting atmosphere in which to begin the day.

Photo by: Sol Visual Development / Courtesy of Jeff Talmadge

FLOORING TRENDS: Natural Linoleum

Believe it or not, what was once old and out-of-fashion is now a hot new item: natural linoleum flooring. With the ever-increasing interest in environmentally friendly products, linoleum is making a big comeback in the residential market.

Linoleum has come a long way since the 1960s, when the formerly drab material disappeared from homes with the advent of easy-care vinyl. As consumers are becoming familiar with the benefits of linoleum, they are also discovering the beauty and design possibilities of today's product.

Manufacturers are now offering an extensive palette of bright, new, bold colors as well as neutrals and softer hues. Linoleum is available in sheets or tiles, as well as standard inset geometric shapes, corners and fanciful borders. Installers may also create visually striking custom floor patterns on site. Imaginations can run wild!



Three different shades of green are arranged into a subtle pattern in this attractive linoleum floor.

Made from natural, renewable, biodegradable ingredients—linseed oil, resins, cork powder, wood flour, ground limestone, mineral pigments and a jute backing — linoleum is free of lead, formaldehyde, chlorine and solvents. Its antistatic properties repel dust and dust mites and its antibacterial properties prevent microorganisms from multiplying. When installed with solvent-free adhesives, there are no harmful air pollutants emitted.

Some manufacturers suggest cleaning linoleum simply by vacuuming or sweeping. Others suggest using neutral detergents and only a small amount of water. Either way, some type of floor polish is usually recommended to keep stains and dirt from penetrating the surface. Minor burns or scratches can be buffed out of the floor with a soft nylon cleaning pad. □

Photo: Courtesy of Armstrong - www.armstrong.com



Bringing Your Kitchen Outdoors

One of the many delights of a warm, sunny day or a beautiful, balmy evening can be a back yard cookout. With family and friends gathered around, nothing tastes better than food cooked outside. It has become an American tradition, and one that is steadily gaining in popularity. In years past, the equipment available for outdoor cooking was usually limited to a portable charcoal grill and a picnic table. Homeowners today can outfit an entire permanent outdoor kitchen, which along with a gas grill, may include a rotisserie, side burners, a sink, refrigerator, ice maker, warming drawers, wok/cooker, smoker, beverage dispenser, wine cooler and plenty of cabinets and counter space for food preparation.

When planning an outdoor kitchen, one of the first questions to consider is how you will use the space. If you simply want to grill steaks every couple of weekends, your kitchen could be less elaborate. However, if you plan on being in your outdoor kitchen whenever the weather is cooperative, you will want to include all the conveniences of your indoor kitchen.

The location is also important. You may find it most advantageous to build an outdoor kitchen close to your home, either alongside an exterior wall or in a back yard patio. This way, if you need to

run inside your house to grab another roll of paper towels or a missing utensil, you won't have far to go. However, another favorite spot for an outdoor kitchen is beside a swimming pool or in a garden. In this case you may decide that shortening the distance from your outdoor kitchen to your house is not the top priority.

Outdoor appliances come as freestanding units or they can be dropped into your own specially designed island base, which includes built-in storage. The appliances are usually constructed of stainless steel, and the island bases of a non-combustible material, such as steel, brick, stone or concrete. Tile makes a wonderful all-weather countertop material.

Whatever equipment you choose, make sure that the materials are designed to withstand outdoor use and meet established safety standards. A heavy-duty

custom-made cover for the outdoor kitchen will protect the appliances when not in use.

Finally, to complete your outdoor kitchen, do not forget comfortable chairs and a table, perhaps an umbrella or two, or an overhead trellis to provide shade as you devour the delicious barbeque. Suddenly, you have gained a wonderful new "room" to your home that will provide many hours of leisurely, fun-filled enjoyment. □



A back yard patio provides the perfect spot to practice your latest barbequing techniques.

Photo: Courtesy of KitchenAid - www.kitchenaid.com

After a dip in the pool, refreshments are only a step away.



Photo: Courtesy of Viking Range Corporation - www.vikingrange.com



Why Choose Design/Build?

A successful design/build business packages high-quality, professional design services with high-quality professional construction services.

This marriage of operating style and service mode provides you, the client, with a seamless, cost-effective, functional project from one source that is fully accountable for the outcome.

This concept is hardly new or radical. Early craftspeople were frequently designers as well. In medieval times, guildsmen were directed by the master mason who functioned in much the same role as today's designer/builder. He not only sketched the plans for the project but managed the construction as well.

The demographics of today's population explain why consumers have embraced the design/build model. Unique family requirements translate into the need and desire to customize our homes.

For those of you who are considering home renovations, design/build provides many advantages:

Cost-effective, Practical Construction

The single most important reason to consider design/build is that the designer/builder has the expertise to design and construct within a realistic, specified budget. Guarding your budget requires diligent estimating, purchasing and assessing of actual job costs. A design/build company knows which products work well, have reliable warranties and are locally available at competitive prices.

One-Stop Shopping

Design/builders manage every aspect of a project from start to finish. The concept of one accountable expert is attractive in that it keeps your project free of "interpretations" as it moves from design to production. Should problems arise, sole accountability prevents your project from becoming bogged down with finger-pointing. Cohesiveness between design and construction is enhanced.

Customized, Professional Design

Design/build firms have made customized, professional design affordable to a wider population. Using a design/build company to produce plans ensures that the design you love is one that can actually be constructed within your budget. The designs are geared toward production, thus saving you money through a more streamlined process.

Saves Time

With design/build you are likely to save one or two months in completion of a project over conventionally separated

design and construction services. Entering into the design phase the designer/builder already knows where your project fits into the schedule. You are not in the position of having to complete the design phase of the project before you begin to interview the builder. For some projects specific planning and construction phases can be overlapped.

Strong Working Relationship

The tenor of your relationship with your builder is established during the design phase of your project. Your builder learns what is important to you, and your comfort level increases through getting to know the company before construction actually begins.

During the design phase you establish a manner of working with your builder that will carry over into the construction phase. You know your contact person within the company, the company's procedures and its attitude toward customer service.

Design/build is an operating style that fits the times. One-stop shopping, accountability, functional and cost-efficient design are highly valued by today's time-challenged consumer. HUB Design/Build is the team that can provide expert design and quality construction of your remodeling project. Call us today at (610) 688-7475. □

During the renovation, the island and hutch were added to the existing cabinetry.



The opening to the foyer is new as are the patio doors, floors, countertops and tile.

