

Remodeling Tips

Courtesy of **HUB Remodeling** Custom Design - Professional Remodeling ❄ WINTER 2003



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Tradition With a Twist

An eclectic mix of transitional and traditional, this newly remodeled kitchen is a spectacular blend of materials, textures and colors.

Cabinets in two different wood species and finishes were selected—maple with a bronze glaze and cherry with a coffee glaze. The sink base cabinet in cherry was brought forward a few inches and treated with special trim and feet to give the illusion of an antique drysink set among the maple cabinets. The hutch, with its built-in halogen lighting, is also cherry to give the impression of a free-standing piece of furniture. In the cabinet to the right of the hutch is a chrome pivot-out pantry system. Cherry panels were used to disguise the built-in Sub-Zero refrigerator which has a lift-front cabinet above.

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Photo: Courtesy of Ed Lane.

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Hickory, Dickory, Docs!

Several years ago this Radnor home underwent an extensive renovation to the rear of the house which created a clear story family room and entry. When

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Tradition With a Twist

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Maple base cabinets in the U-shaped workspace and peninsula house the built-in microwave. They also disguise two Bosch dishwashers that flank the sink and a Dacor warming drawer, in addition to supplying lots of needed storage space. Some of the maple wall cabinets have antiqued brass wire mesh grills, while others have glass fronts. A special touch—two of the upper cabinets have glass in both the doors and the cabinet backs. Installed in front of transom windows, these cabinets supply showcase storage without blocking natural light.

A custom made cabinet for the family dining area was made of old pine to blend with an existing harvest table and sideboard. The cabinet has two arched doors with antiqued brass wire mesh grills over four drawers with beaded front and bun feet.

Granite in Crystal Azul with a pencil edge was chosen to complement the warm tones of the wood and is used on the large U-shaped countertop. The granite follows the special contours of the sink cabinet with its double stainless steel sink and weathered brass and copper faucet, adding an interesting focal point. Floating above the granite



Photo: Courtesy of Ed Lane.



Photo: Courtesy of Ed Lane.

countertop is an angled breakfast bar of polished, dark gray concrete supported on antiqued copper posts. The same dark gray concrete was used for the countertop on the hutch.

Other special touches include custom designed tile backsplashes for both the range and hutch areas, a copper range hood

that was aged on site, a dual fuel commercial style stainless steel range with copper accents, iron cabinet hardware and hardwood floors.

During the day plenty of natural light pours in through two new skylights, as well as the four casement windows and arch-top picture window which overlook the natural landscaping. In addition, there is an abundance of task and general lighting in the pendant lights over the counter, recessed lights in the ceiling, and undercabinet lighting. Special over-the-cabinet lighting creates a wondrous play of shadows on the cathedral ceiling.

The final crowning touch is the faux painting in the kitchen and family dining area—a contemporary green with coppery *fleur-de-lis*.

A hard-working kitchen—a family friendly kitchen—a beautiful traditional kitchen with a contemporary twist—a kitchen for a lifetime!

Countertops: Metal

Homeowners today are rediscovering the reasons why commercial chefs prefer **stainless steel** countertops. They are heat-resistant, easy to clean, waterproof and durable. Another advantage to the homeowner is that the shiny surface reflects light, lending a feeling of spaciousness to a kitchen. When paired together with quality wood cabinets, stainless steel countertops radiate warmth and elegance. If the finish has a grain, it is easier to keep the surface free from fingerprints and noticeable scratches. The countertop will look its best if it is wiped frequently with warm water, soap, or ammonia using a sponge or a soft cloth. Rinse with water, and wipe dry to avoid water stains. If it is necessary to scour the surface, use only a mild abrasive and always rub in the direction of the grain. Use a cutting board to protect the surface from scratching.

Copper is also entering the scene as a trendy choice for countertops in residential kitchens today. When the copper countertop is first polished and set in place, it will be a lustrous orange-gold color. Over



Stainless steel and wood make a great combination.

time, however, it will oxidize into a rich dark brown with a monochromatic patina. It is the choice of the homeowner whether to polish the copper on a regular basis to maintain the luster, or to simply clean the surface with soap and water and enjoy the interesting patina. Copper is a soft metal, so it scratches easily and can become distorted through exposure to high temperatures. The use of a chopping block and a trivet is recommended.

Zinc is another metal countertop option. Polished, it resembles the silvery color of stainless steel. Like copper, however, it oxidizes and patinates over time and turns a deep blue-gray color. Maintenance is similar to that of copper countertops. Copper and zinc countertops have an old world charm and are preferred by those who welcome the look of materials aged by everyday use.

Photo: C J Design Kitchen Countertops (www.cjdesign.us)

Let There Be Light!

Most everyone can identify with that sudden lift in spirit that you get when you walk outside on a beautiful, sunny day, after having spent too much time indoors, closed off and under artificial light.

This concept has received a lot of attention in the design world during the last few years as studies have pointed to the numerous benefits of bringing natural light into building interiors. They have even coined a term, "daylighting," to describe the conscious effort to use natural light as one of the primary sources for interior illumination.

Physically and psychologically, people have a common desire to be connected to the rhythms and changes of the outdoor world. When buildings are designed for plenty of natural light, they give you a relationship to the sun, the sky, changing weather patterns and seasonal conditions. A welcome sense of the passage of time is imparted.

In addition, full-spectrum natural light is a known source of Vitamin D and a tool in the fight against the depression, mood swings and irritability associated with seasonal light deprivation.

There can also be cost and environmental

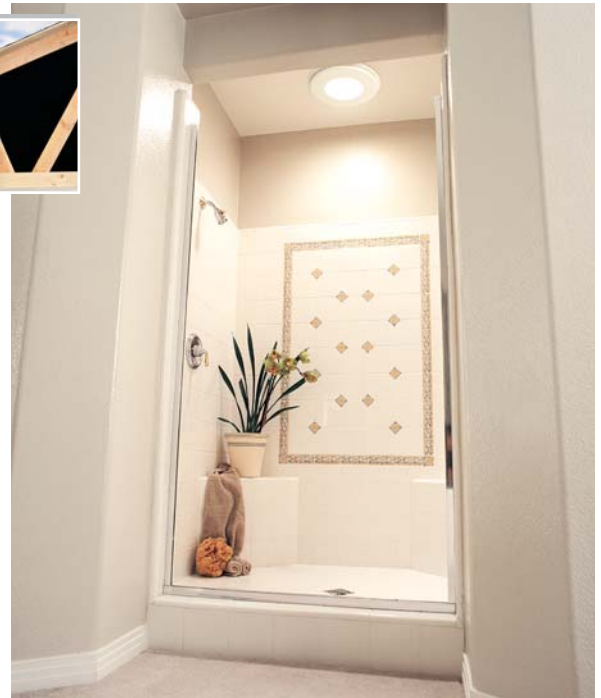
benefits to using natural light, since fewer electric lights are needed during the day.

Think about areas in your home that seem dark and dreary. It may be possible to daylight a room and increase your connectedness to the outdoors simply by replacing a small existing window with a larger one. Consider adding a wall of windows, if appropriate, or extending the space with a bay window addition.

Perhaps your kitchen windows are too far away to adequately light the work center. Maybe there is a room in the center of your home which has no exterior window walls at all. In these



This windowless shower shines with natural light through the installation of a tubular skylight. The skylight also includes a ventilation kit, ideal for high humidity environments. This minimizes the number of ceiling penetrations and fixtures.



Photos: Courtesy of Solatube (www.solatube.com)

cases, think upward. Adding skylights in the ceiling above brings the triple benefits of increased natural light, a view to the outdoors, and ventilation (if the skylight is operable).

Be sure to consider the fact that skylights can result in unwanted solar heat gains and losses, depending on the time of year. Choose your unit carefully. Manufacturers use various methods to reduce these impacts, which include multiple layers of glazing, gas fills between multiple layers, and/or low-emissivity (low-e) glazing. Purchasing blinds or shades with your skylight provides additional control.

An alternative to a traditional skylight is to install a tubular skylight. The system is comprised of a roof-mounted reflector that collects outside light and directs it down a cylinder to a light diffuser in the ceiling below. A tubular skylight can be installed in places where a traditional skylight would not be an option, such as rooms without direct roof access or small areas like bathrooms, closets and hallways. Normally, a tubular skylight is more affordable as well, especially when you consider the simplicity of installation. It does not offer the advantage, however, of a clear view to the outdoors.

Whatever your choice of method, daylighting those gloomy areas of your home increases your satisfaction with your home, and quite simply makes you feel better all around. Not a bad idea!



This dining room is washed with light from three fixed skylights, combi-flashed together above three separate shafts built between the roof trusses. The skylights are designed to fit between trusses, saving the expensive of cutting through the existing trusses. The dramatic view overhead makes the room feel much larger than it is.



Photos: Courtesy of VELUX-AMERICA INC. (www.VELUX-AMERICA.com)



Hickory, Dickory, Docs!

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the designers at HUB Remodeling began talking with the homeowners (both of whom are doctors!) about remodeling the kitchen, we were all certain that we wanted to take advantage of the existing open space in our design.

To achieve the open floor plan we removed the rear wall of the kitchen and augmented the home's original structural beam. Two full height glass windows were eliminated, and the exterior was finished to match the existing siding and trim.



with a pull-down door below the dishwasher and two bread drawers. Flanking the sink base are two separate pullouts to accommodate recycling as well as trash. The table base is a twelve-inch deep cabinet that can be accessed for additional storage. The hutch was designed to accommodate wine as well as a television in its upper section.

We specialize in providing individualized design experiences for all of our valued clients. Please call HUB Remodeling at (610) 688-7475 to schedule a design experience of your own.



The original kitchen contained a skylight and the owners opted to have another installed to balance the natural light. A casement window was added above the new sink location

Features of this kitchen include: custom hickory raised panel cabinets, hardwood floors, Verniz Tropical granite, tumbled marble backsplash, raised dishwasher, double ovens with convection capability and a cooktop with bridge burners. The 18 square foot island is attached to a stepped-down table top which can seat five. Hanging above the island are two light fixtures with hand-blown glass shades.

The cabinets were customized to include three appliance garages ganged together, a tray space

