

# Remodeling Tips



ARCHITECTS  
& BUILDERS

**TheDoingsHinsdale**

#1 Pick "Readers' Choice Award"

**Professional Remodeler**

"Remodeler of the Year Award"

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## Seascapes

Photo: Courtesy of Jeffrey Talmadge



Carefree, sun-kissed days at the beach inspired the breezy design for this 50s-era kitchen remodel, part of a whole-house renovation. The purpose behind the design was to create a light-filled kitchen/great room providing the kind of open space that is conducive to entertaining, yet maintaining the character of the 50s contemporary style. The materials selected reflect a love of the beach, the desire for easy-care convenience, as well as concern for the environment.

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## Getting the (Tax) Credit You Deserve

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the "Stimulus Bill") has enacted and changed many laws relating to energy efficiency and tax credits. The rules have changed several times and manufacturers and accountants are scrambling to keep up. But basically, here is the deal: for certain products (certain window and doors, insulation, HVAC equipment, etc.), a 30% tax credit is available on the cost of the product, up to \$5,000 for 2009 and 2010 combined. Some other products (geothermal heat pumps, solar panels, small wind energy systems, etc.) have a 30% tax credit available with no upper limit.

**Normandy** is committed to providing the information you need to make an informed decision regarding the products available and the pros and cons of using them. We have always specified and built with energy efficiency in mind. Some of the new rules are very specific and need to be followed very carefully in order to take advantage of the tax credits which are available. If you have questions, just ask. Call in or email ([info@normandybuilders.com](mailto:info@normandybuilders.com)). We would love to talk. You can also get more detailed information at [www.energystar.gov/taxcredits](http://www.energystar.gov/taxcredits).



# Seascapes

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The existing kitchen was small and walled off from the rest of the house. To open up the space, two interior walls were removed and a steel beam was installed in place of the load-bearing wall. The beam was cleverly integrated within the existing ceiling by covering it with a wood veneer and then painting it to match the existing beams.

The stylish kitchen cabinets were custom built with solid white oak slab doors in keeping with a clean, mid-century vibe. Rift-sawn oak was used to achieve a straight-grain look. The wood is available in large pieces that can cover a sizeable expanse while lending a homogenous appearance. Silver Sea Green granite countertops in a soft honed finish and beach-glass inspired backsplash tile are all reminiscent of the sea. An oversized butcher-block topped island provides a perfect spot for friends to gather while meals are prepared. The unique shape of the island aids the flow of traffic through the angled kitchen.

Constructed of sandblasted slumped glass, the ceiling fixtures give an additional nod to beach glass, while their contours capture the undulating motion of ocean waves.

Extensive use of natural stone throughout the home echoes the hues of sea and sand. The antique travertine floor tile downstairs and on the back patio was carefully chosen in an appropriate shade: Silver Wave. The original brick covering the stair wall was replaced with Old Spruce Mountain Stone that blends nicely with the floor tile. The stair rails were stripped of their original white paint, allowed to rust a bit, and then sealed with a clear finish.



Before



The kitchen leads outside to a private back patio, offering the fun of a hot tub and a wet-bar. The teak bar cabinets, with their chiseled-edged granite top, boast an under-counter refrigerator, a wine cabinet, an icemaker, and a hammered-copper sink.

Every effort was made to maximize the green aspects of this remodeling project. The house was fully insulated. The drafty aluminum windows were replaced with custom designed wood windows. A defunct underfloor electric radiant heating system was replaced. A tankless water heater was installed to heat water only as needed. The lighting fixtures are fluorescent and the appliances are Energy Star qualified.

It is a delight to see how thoroughly this renovated kitchen expresses the original thoughts and visions for the space. ■

## Simple Remodeling Ideas = More Bang for Your Buck

Homeowners today want good value for their remodeling dollars. They want their living spaces at home to evoke the atmosphere of a top-notch restaurant or spa, but at the same time they want to avoid frivolous spending. If you are at the point where you really want to update your kitchen or bath, we have some simple suggestions for creating a high-style look without the high-dollar cost that is normally associated with it.



*Marrone Chiaro field tile with  
Universal Smoky Topaz glass accents*



*Pantry in Warm Cognac*

1 Pullouts are ultra-convenient, but may be pricey. Create storage walls with mostly adjustable shelving, but include pullouts in areas that are less accessible.

2 A cabinet-depth refrigerator offers the contemporary look of an integrated built-in without the expense of a built-in.

3 Metal tile and metal laminate are products that create the sleek appearance of a stainless steel backsplash for a less complicated and expensive installation.

4 Mixing countertop materials in the same kitchen or bath is a stylish treatment that can also help you trim costs. An example of this would be a sparkling quartz island flanked by coordinating solid-surface countertops.

5 Choose a relatively inexpensive field tile for the majority of your wall treatment, but make it pop with luxurious glass accent tiles.

6 Increase the visual impact of your tray ceiling by installing strips of wood that imitate the appearance of coffers, but for less money than an actual coffered ceiling.



*Backsplash from the Authentix Collection  
in Aluminum*



*Island counter in Zodiac Papyrus and  
countertop in Corian Fawn.*

### New Product Introductions

## Call Me Irresistible

If you've ever wished you could have both hands free while using your pull-down kitchen faucet—the Karbon articulating faucet is for you. Captivating in appearance (your friends will want to play with it), this faucet was inspired by lighting and construction equipment with pivoting joints that furnish a unique functionality: the Karbon maintains the exact position where you place it, keeping the sprayhead and water flow right where you want it. Additionally, the faucet provides both spray and aerated water flow options, eliminating the need for a sidespray.

The Karbon is constructed of brass along with carbon fiber composite tubing—a combination that is light weight, but incredibly strong. To increase its versatility, the faucet is now offered in deck- or wall-mount models and in a variety of colors including silver, black, gold and bronze. Kohler plans to introduce white as a color option in the future.



# Yes, We Do Baths!

Normandy has always been a dynamic group that provides the design and construction services our clients have come to expect. Staying on the leading edge of style, setting the trend, and keeping educated on where the industry is heading are the foundations of our staff training.

Many of our past clients who worked with us on a kitchen remodel or addition call us back and ask if we do baths. The answer is, "Yes, we do baths!" Clients who know us from a previous project have found it very comforting to have their bath done by the same company they already know and trust.



Before

Today more and more of our customers are staying in their homes and remodeling them into spaces they cherish. Normandy's design staff and production department are experts in bath remodeling (as well as kitchens and additions). Give us a call if you have a tired bathroom that needs a simple facelift or an extreme makeover. Let our design staff wow you and show you how a **Normandy** bath can change your life.

Take a look at some of our most recent bath remodels:



Before



440 E. Ogden Avenue, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521  
(630) 455-5600  
[www.normandybuilders.com](http://www.normandybuilders.com)