

Remodeling Tips



ARCHITECTS
& BUILDERS

TheDoingsHinsdale

#1 Pick "Readers' Choice Award"

Professional Remodeler

"Remodeler of the Year Award"



The family room furniture is made from reclaimed materials and various post-consumer regenerated fibers.

Payback TIME

Most people view their home as a major investment that will (hopefully) bring a nice return upon resale. A different way to look at your home, however, is to focus more on what dividends it can offer you while you are living in it.

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Over the years, we here at **Normandy** have collected all sorts of odds and ends from our 8,000 square foot showroom and our adventures in remodeling. Our vendor partners will occasionally send some great quality product samples or displays that either don't make it on our showroom floor or were displayed only briefly. These items weren't the right fit for any client projects or our showroom, so they were put into storage. Since these items are in near-perfect or even new condition, it seemed a shame that they were languishing in storage when they could be put to good use.

We contacted our local Habitat for Humanity ReStore and spoke with them about donating these building products to benefit our local communities. As home improvement junkies and design fanatics ourselves, we know how exciting it can be to add pieces such as these to our homes, particularly if you originally believed

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Payback TIME

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The 2011 VISION house was designed to reward its homeowners through its energy efficiency and water saving attributes, excellent indoor air quality, durability, safety and even the edible landscaping. It is the latest in a series of demonstration homes built across the country by Green Builder Media to demonstrate sustainable building practices. The common sense ideas use proven and off-the-shelf materials and products that can easily be applied to your remodeling or new home project.

The location of the house itself, in the well-established College Park neighborhood of Orlando, is one key to the home's sustainability. The area offers walkability, plus close proximity to public transportation and other community services. Remodeling projects in the same way may be considered green partly because of their location in older neighborhoods.

Green Features that Pay Back

Exterior:

1. Insulating Concrete Form (ICF) construction yields energy savings through a high R-factor.
2. Pre-painted fiber-cement siding provides durability and low maintenance.
3. Metal roof with an acrylic-coated finish. The color has one of the highest IR (initial reflectivity) color ratings. The overhanging roof design offers sun protection.
4. Spray foam insulation in the attic tightly seals the house, saving on heating and cooling costs.
5. Energy-efficient windows that block 95% of UV rays.
6. Solar-powered, high-efficiency closed loop water heating system.
7. The front porch serves as an outdoor living area that encourages interaction with neighbors, thereby increasing safety.



Interior:

1. Dimmable LED lights were used throughout the home. Unlike CFLs, they contain no mercury and they last up to 15 years.
2. The house is protected by a fire safety sprinkler system.
3. Flooring throughout made from reclaimed hardwood bonded to a no-added-urea formaldehyde substrate.
4. ENERGY STAR qualified appliances and WaterSense labeled plumbing fixtures conserve valuable resources.
5. No-VOC paint contributes to a healthy indoor environment.
6. ENERGYSTAR qualified exhaust fans maintain good air quality in the house.
7. Strategic door and window placement to maximize ventilation and daylighting.

A flexible floor plan, such the one designed for the 2011 VISION home, will continue to serve a family's ever-changing needs—another attribute of sustainability. For example, if the homeowner prefers to connect the dining area to the outdoor kitchen, the position of the dining room and family room could be reversed without tearing down any walls.



The laundry/hobby room conserves energy with ENERGY STAR qualified appliances and natural daylighting.

Photos: Courtesy of Andy Frame Photography (www.andyframe.com)

◀ ON-TREND WITH KITCHENS ▶



Photo: Courtesy of Merillat (www.merillat.com)

Latest reports on housing trends indicate the size of new homes is shrinking, with formal living rooms and dining rooms being discarded in favor of multipurpose areas. Factors behind this trend include homeowners' desire to keep energy costs down, as well as to be conscientious in their spending habits. Meanwhile, the importance of the kitchen is growing as homes become very kitchen-centric.

The following are some emerging design concepts for creating a kitchen that superbly fills the role of main living space. If you are making plans to remodel your home, you may want to keep these trends in mind.

Function and Flexibility

- **Utilize Universal Design principles:** Easy-to-use hardware; right-height appliances; accessible storage.

New Product Introductions

Faux Impressions specialty finishes from Sherwin-Williams, recently introduced at the 2011 International Builders Show, are right on target with the current trend for textured wall finishes. The collection is grouped into four categories—Metallic Impressions, Quartz Stone Impressions, Artisan Impressions and Old World Impressions. Through a variety of

application techniques, 12 distinctive looks may be achieved.

The effect shown here, Textured Metallic, offers the shimmer of metallic with additional dimension resulting from hand glazing. This technique will add glamour, grace and elegance to your living space. ■

- **Maximize storage:** Adaptable; installed at the point of use if possible.
- **Practical islands:** Single-level islands are most flexible; include small second sink; incorporate seating to save space and encourage socializing.
- **Movable furnishings designed for multiple uses:** Allow for a variety of groups and activities.
- **Layer lighting for multipurpose use:** Ambient, task and accent; switched separately.

Personality and Style

- **Clean lines:** Appropriate also with traditional styling; brush stroke finishes replace glazes.
- **Cabinetry:** Contrasting finishes such as light/dark or warm wood tones/grays; a grayed-look is big.
- **Sinks:** Large single-bowl designed as prep zone; motion sensor faucets with warm artisan matte finish or chrome.
- **Surfaces:** Lots of texture; large bold patterns on walls, tile and fabric; textured wallpaper is coming back; scraped/reclaimed wood flooring.
- **Focal point:** Big bank of windows; dynamic range hood; decorative light fixtures over island; indoor kitchen garden.

Spend and Save

- **Green:** WaterSense and ENERGY STAR; products using recycled content; proper ventilation for indoor air quality; reduce sound pollution; recycling center.
- **Multi-tasking appliances:** Microwave/convection oven; sink for prep/beverage center.
- **One visible splurge adds excitement:** Use higher-priced finishes for your kitchen's focal point, lower-priced finishes elsewhere; color creates interest inexpensively. ■

ADD SOME DRAMA



Photo: Courtesy of Sherwin-Williams (www.sherwin-williams.com)

AWARD WINNING Master Bathroom & Laundry Room

Congratulations to **Normandy** designers Stephanie Bryant and Kathryn O'Donovan for their projects that were named the Midwest Regional winners of the Chrysalis Awards!

The master bathroom renovation by Stephanie Bryant transformed a builder's grade bathroom and customized it with fine details for the homeowners. The room is large enough to create intimate areas, so that is how the layout developed. The bathtub is one focal point, the vanities another. As you enter the room, the arched header creates the bath niche with displays and lighting details in the niche area. It was important that the scale of the fixtures and the layout works with the 320 square foot area. The natural Bottocino marble flooring was chosen for its neutral yet rich elements to cover the room. The additional detail of mosaic stone between the 18 x 18 floor tiles compliments the floor design. The dark cherry cabinetry contributes to the scale of the room and balances nicely with the large space. The vertical storage cabinet and the division of the 2 sinks give the homeowners additional storage space. The large 2-person shower with the four body sprays and shower head accommodates a bench. The client appreciates good design, high quality materials and installation. The project accomplished all of the above, and the owners are very happy with the new look.



Designer Stephanie Bryant



Designer Kathryn O'Donovan



Just because a laundry room is an everyday workspace, doesn't mean it needs to be boring and utilitarian. Normandy Designer Kathryn O'Donovan created this modern, stylish Laundry Room that has style as well as functionality.

This client was looking to create the Laundry Room of their dreams in their very beautiful and unique modern home. The home was originally designed by Peter Roesch, who was a protégé of Mies van der Rohe, and has a distinctive modern look. Kathryn's design goal was to both enhance and soften the home's modern stylings at the same time.

The room featured a modern cement plaster detail on the walls, which the homeowner wanted to preserve and show off. Open shelving with exposed brackets reinforced the overall industrial look, while the walnut cabinetry and honed limestone countertop introduced warmth to the space.

This happy client has now added more functions to this room than originally thought possible. The space now functions as the gift wrapping center, gardening center, as well as laundry room.

As always, our thanks go to out to the wonderful homeowners who graciously allow us to create these amazing spaces in their homes. Thank you for allowing **Normandy** to be part of your home! ■

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY through Habitat for Humanity

them to be beyond your reach. We knew that by donating to Habitat for Humanity ReStore we'd be able to help others realize their goals for their own homes.

The Habitat for Humanity ReStore truck pulled up to our showroom and corporate headquarters and we gladly loaded up the truck with windows, toilets, plumbing fixtures, cabinetry and lots of other miscellaneous hardware and parts.

Our entire company and even our client base has been excited by this new partnership with Habitat for Humanity ReStore. In fact, we already have several clients who chose to donate their gently used kitchen cabinetry and appliances to make way for their new kitchen remodel. If you are considering making some updates to your home, be sure to talk to your designer about the ways your project may be able to benefit the local Habitat for Humanity projects as well. ■

