

Remodeling Tips

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Courtesy of Father and Son
Home Remodeling



Photo: Courtesy of VELUX (www.veluxusa.com)

Let the SUNSHINE IN

People are attracted to homes infused with natural light. Perhaps we humans intrinsically perceive that we will flourish in these environments. And the fact is—our daily lives are made easier, safer and healthier when careful thought is given to the natural illumination of our living spaces.

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GOD BLESS AMERICA!



Never Forget
September 11, 2001

Let the SUNSHINE IN



A tubular skylight brings daylight to an otherwise dark hallway.

Photo: Courtesy of VELUX (www.veluxusa.com)

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In older homes, windows were often placed according to how they would appear on the exterior, rather than how well they served the individual rooms. Electric lights made up for any deficiencies in interior lighting. Now that energy costs have risen, homeowners are becoming interested in maximizing sunlight to provide the interior light needed in their homes. The quality of their lives may be enhanced in the process.

When planning a home remodeling project, the position of the home on its lot should first be analyzed. Whenever possible, new window placement should be designed with consideration for each room's orientation. This can help optimize both daylighting and energy efficiency.

In general, locating the majority of the windows on the south side of a home will let in maximum winter sun and minimum summer sun. An overhang or eaves designed to shade out the direct summer sun is advisable. Windows that face the east and west may let in too much sunlight in the summer and offer far less winter sunlight than south-facing windows. North-facing windows can lose heat in cooler months and, therefore, should be de-emphasized.

Retractable awnings outside are an efficient way to reduce solar heat gain in the summer, while allowing light to penetrate the home during the winter. Adjustable interior window blinds and shades are also versatile—permitting some viewing, yet screening out sun and heat when necessary. Choosing energy-efficient windows is the final step in the equation.

A second consideration is the location of the window in each room. Positioning a window to one side of the room, or adjacent to the ceiling, will reflect daylight off the wall and ceiling surfaces into the space. This significantly brightens the room without the need for additional electric lights. Interior windows, glass partitions and glass doors provide a way to borrow natural light from other rooms, allowing it to reach deep into the darker areas of the house.

A skylight or roof window adds even more light—as well as visual drama—to a room and can be particularly useful when wall space for windows is unavailable. In dim interior areas of the home, such as a hallway, installing a standard skylight may be difficult. A tubular skylight is thin enough to fit between roof rafters or trusses and ceiling joists, thereby offering an easy, less expensive daylighting solution. ■

Photo: Courtesy of Simpson Door Co. (www.simpsondoor.com)



These interior doors maintain privacy, yet allow two rooms to share natural light.

A Stone's Faux

Do you applaud the attractive stone façades on many of the new homes going up these days? You secretly wish you could have that look for your own home, but you are sure it would be too expensive.

There is a good chance what you are admiring is not natural stone, but manufactured stone veneer instead. Natural stone is heavy and requires a concrete base to support its weight. It is expensive to transport to the job site and time consuming to install.

Manufactured stone veneer is durable but lightweight, so it can

Get More **S P A C E** Without Adding Any

Even though your bathroom may be short on space, it need not lack style, character or the feel of a more spacious spa-like bath. What's more, you don't have to spend thousands of dollars to pump up a pint-size bath. We suggest the following ways to trick the eye into seeing more space than is truly there.

Expand the Ceiling. Create the illusion of a taller bathroom by having it painted the same color as the walls. This produces the visual sensation that the walls extend farther up than they do. Or create a roomier feel by having crown molding installed. The crown molding should be painted the same color as the ceiling so it doesn't break up the line of vision, making the space seem lower to the floor.



The Adjustable-Length Curved Shower Rod from Moen adjusts to fit shower enclosures from 54- to 72-inches.

Photo: Courtesy of Moen (www.moen.com)



In addition to a mirror, this cabinet by Robern provides welcome storage.

Photo: Courtesy of Kohler Co. (www.kohler.com)

Add Depth. One of the most cost-effective and easiest ways to optically enlarge a small bathroom is through the use of paint. Pick soft creams, light neutrals and pastels to open up the space. Lend some contrast by adding bright towels or accessories.

Round It Out. It is possible to "add" space without tearing out a wall. Have a curved shower rod installed in your shower. Simply switching from a straight rod to one that curves outward can add up to seven inches of elbow room—not to mention immeasurable style.

Let There Be Light. Light has a profound effect on the perception of room size. If you don't have a bathroom window, halogen lighting is a good solution because it offers precise light rather than the scattered light provided by fluorescent bulbs. If you have enough height in the room, consider having soft-diffused lighting installed, or several recessed lights. A skylight is another option that can make a room appear significantly larger.

Bring It into Focus. Create a focal point for the bathroom by having at least one sensational new item installed, such as an exquisite vanity or an eye-catching sink. An area of interest like this draws attention away from the size of the room.

Reflect on the Space. Mirrors are a welcome addition to any small bathroom because of the light-enhancing and reflective qualities they provide. Visually opening up a bathroom can turn it into a warm and inviting retreat that would rival any larger bathroom.

be applied to interior or exterior walls without any additional structural support, providing a cost-effective way to achieve the popular look of natural stone. It is fabricated from an aggregate that is poured into molds where it captures the contours of natural stone. It can accurately replicate the look of rough-hewn stone, as well as smooth river stone and anything in between—to fit your architectural style and personal taste.

Visualize manufactured stone veneer on a kitchen island, in a wine cellar, or at a bar. The material is non-combustible, just like natural stone, so it is safe to use for a fireplace, too. The only limit is your imagination. ■



Before



Photos: Courtesy of Eldorado Stone (www.eldoradostone.com)

2009-2010 Cost vs. Value Return on Investment

Remodeling magazine, a leading remodeling trade publication, recently published its 2009-2010 Cost vs. Value Report. This report indicates that across the nation, all types of remodeling are a good investment.

The number one "midrange" improvement to make, based on cost vs. value, was a steel entry door replacement. The national average for returns on a steel entry door replacement was an amazing 128.9%! An attic bedroom remodel recouped 83.1% of the investment.

Other home improvements that brought a high return on investment were a wood deck addition at 80.6%, vinyl siding replacement at 79.9%, and minor kitchen remodel at 78.3%.

Of course, return on investment is not the only reason for remodeling. The wants and needs of your family are a big consideration. Remodeling a kitchen or bath can greatly improve the comfort and liveability of your home. So, even if selling is not a consideration, there are still good reasons to remodel, and it's good to know you are adding value to your home.

Father and Son Home Remodeling is a design/build remodeling company. ■

Kitchen & Bathroom Models Needed

From time to time we get requests from many local firms, as well as national magazines, looking for kitchens and bathrooms they can use for photo shoots. Sometimes the purpose may be a backdrop for a local grocery store commercial or a national brand infomercial. Other times national magazines are looking for kitchens and bathrooms to feature in their upcoming articles. Since we do not release clients' names to any third parties, we can usually only provide our showroom as a possible location.

However, after talking to some of our clients, we've found that they wouldn't mind having their kitchen or bathroom used for a photo shoot and might even enjoy the opportunity to see film making in progress. If you have any interest in your kitchen or bathroom being a model, contact **Father and Son Home Remodeling** at **866-634-7800** or jot down your name, address, phone number, as well as a brief description of your kitchen or bath, on a post card and send it to us. We'll keep your name on file for future requests from location scouts. ■

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