

DESIGN and REMODELING

trends

additions

Things to consider before adding onto your home

Sometimes you need more space. Sometimes you want more room to entertain. Adding an addition to your home can not only increase your quality of life by making things more functional, but it can also add value to your home. Here are five questions to consider before adding to your home.

How will it change the appearance?

An addition can drastically change the way a house looks from the road or yard. And if it isn't well planned, the new space can look like it doesn't belong or match the rest of the home in terms of style or overall shape. Working with a good designer ensures that the house looks as good, or even better, than it did before the addition. The new space should look as if it was part of the original design, and not as an afterthought.

It is legally allowed?

Before you begin designing or remodeling, you should check municipal codes to see if your dream addition is even legally allowed. For example, local zoning laws or setbacks may prohibit some of your plans. An experienced, certified professional remodeler will be aware of local building codes and laws. They will also work with their local building code official to complete the proper permits and inspections to avoid problems in the future.

What will my neighbors think?

Unlike a bathroom or kitchen remodel, your neighbors have a stake in your new addition. For one, it's a remodel the whole neighborhood can actually see. To avoid any future complaints, you'll want to ensure your design complies with any homeowners association guidelines and fits the overall aesthetic of the original home and neighborhood. But you also want to talk to your neighbors to ensure your addition will not interfere with any of their rights, such as right of way, light or property lines.

How will it affect the value of my home?

Because you are adding square footage and upgrading the features, an addition will most likely raise your home's value. While it won't affect your taxes right away, it could raise your property taxes when you get a new assessment. Homeowners should also contact their insurance agent to ensure their policy covers the full value of the home and the addition.

How can I improve my home?

Building an addition is an ideal time to invest in energy-efficient fixtures and construction. Windows that prevent hot or cool air from escaping and low-energy-consuming appliances can minimize the cost of an addition by reducing energy bills and its environmental impact.

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INSIDE an addition



see how the addition appears to be part of the original design?

the new addition also improves traffic flow from the kitchen and study



large windows give this sunroom an open, airy feel

LED recessed lamps provide energy efficient lighting



the design incorporates part of the original brick facade, and a skylight brings in natural light

check out the view from the roof! eventually, this can become an outdoor deck.



for more photos of this addition by brhi, visit us at www.facebook.com/blueridgehomeimprovement or scan here!



susan & chuck GO TO KBIS

Last month, Susan Davidson, Office Manager and Selections Coordinator, and Chuck Hammack, Designer and Estimator, travelled to the Windy City to attend the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS) in Chicago. Each year, the National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) holds the world's largest international trade event dedicated to the latest products and innovative design ideas that change our industry. Susan and Chuck spent the whole week attending classes, demonstrations and exhibits to bring back new and creative products and ideas. See what they picked up from this year's show!

susan davidson

"Since we're a dealer for several companies, I was excited to put faces to the names of the people I work with when I'm ordering products. For example, we stopped by the Belwith Keeler booth, who we work with in choosing the cabinetry hardware for our projects.

Not only did I get to meet our sales rep, but she also showed us some new products like these new LED fixtures that can be installed in backsplashes, toe-kick areas of cabinets, below countertops and even behind crown molding.

And I also loved the lighting like in this blind cabinet here to allow you to see what's in those cabinets.

I also attended several classes on the 20-20 Design software, which is what we use to design, plan, and visualize kitchens and bathrooms. The program has a ton of new cool features, including more lifelike renderings, so I'm excited to start using the new changes!"



chuck hammack

"In talking with design professionals from across the country, designers have found that on the spectrum of traditional vs. transitional vs. contemporary home styling, the vast majority are investing in transitional styling.

Transitional styling takes traditional features that have been cleaned up with a modern take on linearity and innovative finishes. Take for example this bronze sink that has an organic style to it.

I also saw that a lot of people are trying to be "green," but true sustainability will start to be incorporated into deeper levels of intention. For example, conscious consumers are looking not just at smaller footprints, but the complete impact of the entire life-cycle of the product from the time it is manufactured to the time it is disposed or replaced.

We also got to reach out to new vendors with novel products, like these electrical outlets with USB ports!"



seasonal home improvement tips

- Check for loose or leaky gutters. Improper drainage can lead to water in the basement or crawl space. Make sure downspouts drain away from the foundation and are clear and free of debris.
- Low areas in the yard or next to the foundation should be filled with compacted soil. Spring rains can cause yard flooding, which can lead to foundation flooding and damage. Also, when water pools in these low areas in summer, it creates a breeding ground for insects.
- From the ground, examine roof shingles to see if any were lost or damaged during winter. Replace shingles that are cracked, buckled, loose or are missing granules.



It's National Remodeling Month, so call us to handle your home repairs!

Got some small repair items that need fixin' around the house? Give us a call and we'll send someone you trust, a BRHI carpenter, to help with your to-do list!

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VOLUME 23 NO 2 - Spring 2012

NEWSLETTER OF:



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PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS



PROJECT FILES

problem

The client wanted their new addition to include a laundry space, but wanted it to flow with the design of the open sunroom.

solution

To "hide" the washer and dryer, we created a custom cabinetry unit that allows for storage and a clothes folding space that doesn't stick out like a sore thumb.



*high efficiency
washer and
dryer units*



*custom
cabinetry
tucks it all
away!*

