



PET PARLOR

Photo: Courtesy of Wood-Mode (www.wood-mode.com)



Are you a pet lover whose household animals are considered valuable members of your family? If so, you may want to look for ways to better accommodate their needs next time you remodel your home. Many people today are incorporating into their homes thoughtful design features that offer not only convenience and accessibility for themselves, but also for their pets.

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Cucumber Ginger Cooler

Recipes from
Erich's Kitchen

While I was in Las Vegas in February I ran across this drink called a "Cucumber Ginger Cooler" at the lobby bar in the Wynn Hotel. I was intrigued because I truly enjoy Hendricks Gin, so I ordered one. The drink is very refreshing. So below you will find my interpretation.

Ingredients

- 2 oz Hendricks Gin
- 1 oz of Canton Ginger Liqueur
- Freshly muddled cucumber slices (3-4 thin slices)
- 1 oz of Simple Syrup
- 2 oz of Club Soda
- Slice of Cucumber for garnish.



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- Centerville Noon Optimist Club
- Team in Training – Leukemia & Lymphoma
- House of Bread

To participate in RDI Giving Back, call us at 937-438-0031 or email MarkB@remodelingdesigns.com.



PET PARLOR

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Given the fact that 68% of U.S. households own at least one pet—according to the most recent National Pet Owners Survey by the American Pet Products Association—it is not surprising that this pet-focused remodeling activity has kindled a growing trend in the industry. This equates to 82.5 million homes!

Here are some questions to ponder before beginning your pet-friendly home remodeling project:

1. Where will your pets eat and drink? Keep food and water bowls from being a tripping hazard, yet make sure they are convenient to refill.
2. Where will your pets' food be stored? Keep the food organized and protected, yet easy to serve.
3. Where will you store their collars, leashes, toys and clothing? Organize these items so you can locate them quickly and prevent clutter.
4. Where will you groom your pets? Offer an ergonomic solution that works for both you and your pets.
5. Where will your pets relax during the day and sleep at night? Provide comfortable spots for each activity, especially if you prefer to keep your pets off the furniture.

Realizing that household pets are playing an increasingly larger role in home design, Wood-Mode Cabinetry developed a concept space called Pet Parlor. This space is loaded with amenities that pamper pet-owners as well as their four-legged family members. The concept doubles as a laundry room, which means the thoughtfully designed space fulfills a dual purpose, adding both value and convenience. A mix of materials, wood finishes and natural tones bring classic design elements into the laundry. The beautifully detailed cabinetry, painted in stylish shades of gray, offers a comfortable and inviting spot to spend time grooming pets while tending to the laundry.



Photos: Courtesy of Wood-Mode (www.wood-mode.com)

Some of the unique features of the Pet Parlor are:

- Island with integrated doors and cabinets (brushing and grooming, sorting and folding)
- Built-in pet fountain with faucet system
- Custom hideaway dog dish drawer with adjacent food storage bins
- Storage solutions for bones, toys and biscuits
- Integrated lockers for leash, collar and clothing storage
- Extra large sink for bathing and grooming
- Integrated laundry appliances

As you remodel your kitchen, mudroom or laundry room feel free to grab some inspiration from the ideas shown here. These spaces offer good return on investment, as multi-purpose rooms in the back of homes remain popular and attractive to buyers. ■

New Product Introductions



Rook Captures Attention

At the 2015 Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS), Brizo unveiled its stately yet modern Rook Bath Collection of faucets and accessories for the bath. Inspired by classic chess pieces, this collection is refined and masculine in feel, featuring crisp octagonal details. It comes in five finishes, including the eye-catching Matte Black and Brilliance Luxe Nickel split finish.

The variety of options within the suite includes the choice of channel or closed spouts, as well as cross or lever handles. The channel spout design causes the water to fold in over itself and flow out in a nice cascade. Rook is the only collection on the market with a channel spout free-standing tub filler. The collection will become available in the fall. ■

WHAT IS GREEN BUILDING?

When you hear the term "green building" what is the first thing that comes to mind? Do you think of a home with solar panels harnessing energy from the sun? Solar panels can help lower your monthly electric bill, as well as protect our natural resources, but they are just a small component in the much bigger picture of what is green building.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines green building as "the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle from siting to design, construction, operation, maintenance, renovation and deconstruction." (www.epa.gov/greenbuilding)

Using this definition, you can see that green building is far more complex than you may have thought. As an example, some of the answers to the following questions may surprise you:

Q. Must I build a new house if I want my home to be green?

A. That depends—it may be a greener choice for you to stay in your existing home. Even though it may take a certain amount of energy and new materials to remodel to green standards, many components of an older home may be reused. Also, older homes in established neighborhoods often have easier access to services like schools and doctors' offices, thereby

lessening the environmental impact of transportation. With a new home, you must also consider the impact to undeveloped land, in addition to all the energy and new materials required to build.

Q. I think my home is green: it is tightly sealed and well insulated—but the indoor air smells bad. Now what?

A. Both energy efficiency and indoor air quality are important tenets of green building. If you utilize tight construction methods, yet you do not have proper home ventilation—your indoor air can cause health difficulties such as headaches and respiratory problems. Healthy green homes must include an active ventilation system to provide fresh air while exhausting the stale air. It is also important to choose paints, finishes, and materials with low or no off-gassing and reduced formaldehyde content.

Q. I want to save on my water bill, so I installed high-efficiency toilets and low-flow faucets. What else I can do?

A. Don't forget about the exterior of your home. Choose a landscape design that minimizes turf, since lawns require more irrigation than any other vegetation. Planting trees and shrubs instead of grass also helps reduce runoff and soil erosion. When you do plant grass, choose a variety that grows well in this area and is drought resistant and pest resistant. Reducing the amount of fertilizer and pesticides is also good for the environment.

Q. Is it always the better green choice to use a product like bamboo flooring instead of hardwood?

A. It is important to consider every aspect of a product—from design to distribution to installation. Bamboo flooring is made from many small pieces or strands of bamboo that are fused together. Before you install bamboo flooring, be sure its adhesive contains no VOCs that could harm your indoor air. Also, consider the amount of energy used to transport the bamboo flooring to this area. Local hardwoods from managed forests may actually be the greener choice.

We're always happy to answer your questions regarding green building or visit www.epa.gov/greenbuilding for more information. ■



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Remodeling Designs Celebrates 25 Years



Where does the time go? Erich Eggers founded Remodeling Designs in April 1990, and here we are today celebrating 25 years of nationally recognized award-winning projects! We have you—our loyal clients and friends—to thank for our success.

To show our appreciation, we're throwing a party! Please join us for great food, fun, prizes and memories:

25th Anniversary Open House Saturday, July 18 2-6 p.m.

Remodeling Designs
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For good advice—and a good laugh—check out some of Erich's "25 Tips on Cooking Fun" at our blog, www.removingdesigns.com/blog/

