

Remodeling Tips



www.removedingdesigns.com
EXPECT MORE, AND GET IT

A Community Service of
Remodeling Designs, Inc.



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.

(continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

- A Stone's Faux
- Getting More Space
- Beth A. Spegal at Your Service
- 20 Years & Thriving

Remodeling Ideas Galore!

Are you interested in having your home remodeled and want to start now dreaming of the possibilities? Check out the **NEW** portfolio pictures we've just added to our website: www.removedingdesigns.com Here you will view before and after photos of our most recent work, including a brief description of each project. See how we totally transformed a cramped, dated kitchen into an exciting gathering space for the family. Start thinking about how improving the layout and traffic patterns in your home could result in a more efficient, enjoyable space that works well for you. Be inspired by these up-to-the-minute examples on our website, and then give us a call to set up your own design consultation: **(937) 438-0031**.



Photo: By Dan Feldkamp of Visual Edge Imaging (www.visualegdeimaging.com)

Let the SUNSHINE IN



A tubular skylight brings daylight to an otherwise dark hallway.

(continued from page 1)

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 SPACE

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)

Beth A. Spegal at Your Service

Remodeling Designs Inc. is pleased to offer our clients many excellent services that often are not available through smaller firms. One of those is the assistance of our talented in-house interior designer, **Beth A. Spegal**, whose skillful guidance is certain to make the remodeling process easier for you.

Beth started her interior design career in 1986, after graduating from Miami University with a B.S. in Interior Design. After 13 years at Lazarus Interior Design Studio in Cincinnati, Beth decided to continue business on her own, and in 1999 House Dressing Interior Design, Ltd. was created. Around that same time, Beth began a working relationship Remodeling Designs, assisting our clients with material selections and helping coordinate larger projects that needed more interior design input. Eleven years later, House Dressing Interior Design is still going strong. Also, Beth is now our in-house designer working with our clients to assist in space planning and cabinet designs with 20/20 software and comprehensive material selections.



Photo: By Dan Feldkamp of Visual Edge Imaging (www.visualedgeimaging.com)



Photo: By Dan Feldkamp of Visual Edge Imaging (www.visualedgeimaging.com)

Erich Eggers with Beth Spegal in the Remodeling Designs' Showroom

Over the past 10 years Beth has served on the Executive Board for the Dayton Society of Interior Designers (DSID) and has been President for the past 5 years. Beth has designed rooms in many Philharmonic Showhouses and complete houses in various Homearama shows over the past 24 years while at Lazarus and through House Dressing Interior Design. Beth currently has two model homes open for tour with Fishbaugh Homes of Middletown. Beth resides in Camden, Ohio with William, her husband of 21 years. Relaxation time for her includes gardening, sewing and, of course, working on her own home.

We encourage you to take advantage of Beth's professional interior design expertise during your next remodeling project. Her services are just one more way that you can "Expect More, and Get It" from Remodeling Designs. ■

20 Years & Thriving

Remodeling Designs is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. That is no small achievement! We wish to thank our excellent team that continues to produce outstanding, award-winning work—year after year. We also owe a debt of thanks to you, our wonderful clients who allow us the privilege of working on your extraordinary projects. We couldn't do it without you! ■