

Remodeling Tips



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

A Fresh
New Look

Do you love older homes with the thick crown molding and ornate ceiling medallions typical of traditional-style architecture? They can evoke fond memories of long ago family gatherings, or favorite romantic films you watch again and again. Perhaps you also appreciate the sleek lines and unadorned natural materials that typify modern-style interiors and fit your active family so well.

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Beginning the New Year with Three CotY Awards!

For us at Remodeling Designs, this is a great way to start off the New Year—winning three 2011 Contractor of the Year (CotY) Awards presented by the Miami Valley NARI, the Dayton area chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry.

There are 18 different categories for the CotY award, divided by product type and budget. Our three winning projects are in the categories of Residential Interior; Residential Kitchen \$100,001 and Over; and Entire House. We plan to feature these individual projects in our upcoming issues.

We are fortunate to work for the clients we do, and our team produces incredible work for them! The two go hand-in-hand to win a CotY Award.

(photos on page 4)



A Fresh New Look



Photo: Courtesy of Laufen (www.laufen.com/usa)

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If so, these days you can have your cake and eat it, too. The latest trend is to mix modern and traditional for a fresh, new look that is perfect for today's casual lifestyle. To have a little of both—to combine modern and traditional and end up with a wonderful effect—requires some planning, however.

To begin, you should decide which style elements you want to predominate in your home. If both styles are

given equal emphasis, they will battle for attention. Is your home primarily a modern space to which you would like to add some antique accents, or would you like to integrate some modern design elements into a traditional space?

It is important for the two styles to work together in forming a unified whole. There are several ways to make that happen, and you can decide which best fits your personal taste. Do the materials used have something in common? Ornate wood bar stools may look fabulous in a kitchen with modern, streamlined wood cabinets. Does the creative use of color tie the space together? The walls of a very traditional living room can be painted in a bold color that matches a thoroughly modern upholstered sofa. Is there a similarity in the shape or texture? The sensuous curve of a modern stainless bathroom faucet may be repeated in the shape of the elegant traditional mirror hung above the vanity.

Do you prefer a restful harmony of design features in your living spaces or do you thrive on exciting contrasts? If serenity is what you are after, cabinetry and furnishings should be more alike, even if they are from two different architectural styles. Adhering to a palette of neutral colors throughout a room can blend many styles together with beautiful results. On the other hand, if you delight in contrast, juxtapose a very formal element with something quite casual. Spice things up by upholstering traditional furniture with large scale contemporary prints.

In the final analysis, it is all about having the freedom to mix finishes and periods—creating a comfortable blend that reflects your individual personality and lifestyle. ■

New Product Introductions

Wet & Wild

Feel free to take a shower while your favorite TV show is on. You won't miss a thing when the new MB Quart Waterproof Television is installed in your shower. It is ideal for wet, steamy or rainy conditions and can be mounted practically anywhere—in spas, saunas, bathrooms, kitchens, boats, pool side, patio bars, outdoor gardens, water fountains—even underwater.



Built to withstand the elements, this LCD HDTV is completely sealed against moisture and humidity, while also featuring fog-free glass. With a depth of less than 1.0", it is designed to be flush mounted. It offers high-performance internal waterproof speakers and dual controls. To operate all the TV functions, you can use either the touch panel

on the unit's face, or the waterproof floating remote that magnetizes to the television's border.

Don't want to watch just TV? Maybe you missed the end of a movie or need to check email? Plug in a DVD player or use a computer monitor. MB Quart's Waterproof Televisions have all the inputs, outputs and functions of a standard HDTV. When you are finished, turn the TV off and the unit functions as a mirror. ■



Photos: Courtesy of MB Quart (www.mbquartmirror.com)

Light Up Your Life

Even if your kitchen is blessed with multiple windows and ceiling light fixtures, some of your work area may still be in the dark. Your body and the upper cabinets often throw a shadow over the countertop where you are reading a list of ingredients or operating small appliances. Locating the bowls you need from within your dark cabinets can also be a challenge. These problems become even more pronounced in the evening when there is no natural light coming through the windows. For your ease and safety, your kitchen needs to be adequately illuminated.

Installing under-cabinet lighting helps eliminate dark corners and makes everything on the work surface easy to see. It has the added decorative benefit of showing off your tile backsplash to its best advantage.

Lights inside a cabinet make the interior space and its contents more easily accessible. Add glass doors to your cabinets and bring your favorite pottery collection into the limelight.

Placing lights in the recessed toe kick area of a cabinet floods the kitchen floor with light and adds to your overall safety. Toys your kids left behind on the floor can be seen easily and picked up—before anyone

Lighting effects in the kitchen above:

Kichler's Design Pro LED Linear utilized above the cabinets, inside the cabinets and on the toekick.



Design Pro LED discs positioned under the cabinets, close to the back wall.



Photos: Courtesy of Kichler (www.kichler.com)



trips on them. In the evening, after the overhead kitchen lights are turned off, the toe kick lights may function as a handy night light to guide you safely to the refrigerator. These lights also add drama to the kitchen.

Another impressive lighting effect can be gained from above-cabinet lighting. It can

highlight decorative objects placed above the cabinet, or accentuate an interesting wall treatment, while adding to the ambient room lighting.

Cabinet lighting fixtures are available as strip lights, puck lights and linear lights. Strip lights offer an even, diffused light while puck lights provide a more focused pool of light that can nicely highlight a decor item. Linear lights are flexible and can bend around the corners and curves of a cabinet.

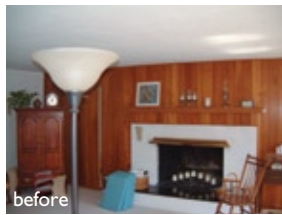
As you are thinking about types of lighting, keep in mind that fluorescent and LED lights are still the best choice for energy efficiency. Color quality on fluorescents has been improved, and now certain CFLs and LEDs are dimmable. Halogen and Xenon lights use much more electricity and burn very hot, however high-efficiency halogen bulbs have recently been introduced. ■

RDI's 2011 CotY Award Winners

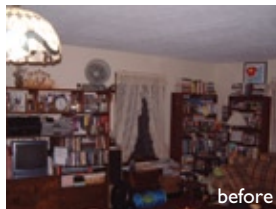
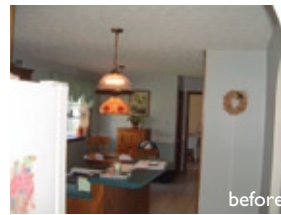


Photos: By Dan Feldkamp of Visual Edge Imaging (www.visualedgeimaging.com)

*Residential Interior,
Brian Good,
Project Manager*



*Residential Kitchen
\$100,001 and Over
Scott Pierron,
Project Manager*



*Entire House
Randy Strandin,
Project Manager*



Great Reason to Party!

Remodeling Designs and our client, Kathie Havemann, hosted our first ever Client Completion Party in December at the newly remodeled Havemann house—winner of the 2011 CotY Award for Entire House. Seventy people helped us celebrate the successful completion of this amazing project. Those attending included the Havemann neighbors who had been watching the project come together inside and out, plus co-workers and friends. Many of RDI's past and potential clients also attended.

Food was catered by "Chef's Touch Catering" and music provided by "Brian Cashwell Trio". All RDI staff were available to answer questions about this project that was completed in four phases over a seventeen month period. The whole house was transformed, including the upstairs, downstairs, sunroom and exterior, which now boasts all new siding and an attractive front porch.

"My words are insufficient to adequately express the joy I feel for all of you and all that you've done. I haven't even come down to earth yet! Thursday evening is still a beautiful blur."
—Kathie Havemann