

# The Change Order Quarterly

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## Green is the Thing

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[www.ForestGlenConstruction.com](http://www.ForestGlenConstruction.com)

TELEPHONE: 847-236-0895

FAX: 847-948-1342

## Walk-ins Welcome

We live in a clutter-filled society. A recent *Newsweek* article stated that Americans typically burn 55 minutes a day—roughly 12 weeks a year—looking for things they know they own but can't find. A major source of stress in the morning, especially for women, is trying to locate the perfect outfit in a chaotic closet.

Walk-in closets are a big trend for the master bedroom suite because they are a practical (and even luxurious) solution for making clothing easily accessible. These closets provide individual storage areas for each size and type of item, maximizing the available space. And there is room for you to stand back and take inventory.

Before the optimal walk-in closet can be planned for your needs, you need to carefully review your wardrobe. Remove items that should not be taking up your valuable closet space. Most people wear only 20% of the clothes in their closet. If you haven't

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## We Make It Easy for You

Have you been dreaming of an updated kitchen, but the thought of moving out and having your kitchen completely gutted is just more than you can handle? The good news is that sometimes a kitchen can be totally transformed without all that trauma.

As an example, perhaps your existing cabinets are structurally sound, but simply need a more fashionable look. Using a faux finish or adding a new layer of veneer on the cabinets can achieve an entirely different appearance. Installing stylish hardware provides additional flair.

Details, such as replacing outdated wallpaper with a popular new wall texturing, or adding carved crown moldings onto an otherwise plain ceiling can make a kitchen come alive. Existing worn and scratched countertops can easily be replaced with beautiful, carefree solid surface countertops. A stunning new island can be built in an open and unused space, adding to the efficiency of your kitchen area. Installing new state-of-the-art appliances can make your food preparation experience a joy.

Call **Forest Glen Construction** at 847.236.0895 and we will be happy to discuss your dream kitchen with you. A tremendous transformation can happen before your very eyes, and it is possible for your kitchen to remain in use through almost the entire process.

# Green is the Thing

In a land of fast food and throwaway Styrofoam containers, worrying about ecology once seemed hopelessly old-fashioned. All that is changing as public consciousness about the need to protect and nurture our environment is steadily increasing. Going green has actually become the in-thing. If you've been hearing about earth-friendly building practices and would like to reduce your carbon footprint via your next remodeling project, this kitchen gives you some ideas.

Displayed at the NKBA Design Idea Center at KBIS this year, the stylish kitchen was designed with a working couple and their active kids in mind. It focuses on providing exceptional organizational and eco-friendly solutions, along with suggestions for low-maintenance materials, all of which can help improve life for busy families.

One of the first items to catch the eye is the playful backsplash utilizing glistening glass tiles in colors of green, gold and brown. The round glass tiles from Bedrock Industries are made from reclaimed wine and beer bottles. The countertops are made from Zodiaq quartz surfacing in warm and inviting new colors that contain 50% pre-consumer recycled glass.

The glossy Wolf glass induction cooktop is a green appliance. Induction cooking uses 90% of the energy produced, unlike gas and electric radiant where up to 50% of the heat dissipates into the surrounding air. Also, food heats up more quickly when the cookware is the heat source—both a time and energy savings.

Soft underfoot, yet hardworking, the Marmorette linoleum flooring alternates stripes of Parrot Green and Powder Green. Linoleum is made



Photos: Courtesy of Better Homes

*Featured in the NKBA Design Idea Center 2008: The "Organizer-in-Chief" kitchen by Better Homes and Gardens magazine.*

of natural ingredients from renewable sources (linseed oil, wood or cork powder, resin and jute) that require minimal energy to harvest. It doesn't contain harmful toxins and is entirely biodegradable.

Every kitchen needs a cutting board. The bamboo cutting board in this kitchen is a sustainable choice. Bamboo is a grass that can grow up to one foot a day, and yet is harder than oak and maple. It is a self-renewing resource in that the plant continues to grow after the mature stalks are harvested.

The recycling center, located in standard under counter cabinets next to the main sink, includes an automatic composter from NatureMill. Food waste can be deposited any time of day up to 120 lbs per month, keeping it out of landfills. The compost is ready every two weeks to be used on your garden or your indoor potted plants. In the same area, slide out recycling bins are housed under the counter.

Whether you are able to incorporate all of the above ideas in your next remodeling project or just one or two—the important thing is that you realize the opportunity is out there. If you plan ahead, your kitchen can be stylish, organized, low-maintenance—and eco-friendly—all at the same time.

## The Lighter Side

As energy costs rise, new lighting products continue to be introduced that take advantage of LED (light emitting diode) technology. LED is known for its ultra-low energy consumption, extremely long-lasting lamps (50,000 hours), dimming capability, attractive color temperature, and low voltage. The innovative products below provide uses for light that were never before possible.

The °eluma illuminated backsplash consists of an acrylic or etched glass insert encased in an aluminum frame. The insert contains an embedded LED that illuminates the entire backsplash. The °eluma line also includes LED panels suitable for shelving. These products do not emit heat, and therefore are safe for cosmetics, electronics and perishable products.



Photos: Courtesy of °element designs (www.element-designs.com)

# What's On at the movies?



Photos: By James F. Wilson/Tradewinds Show Home



Going to the movies is one of America's favorite pastimes. Increasingly, families are electing to watch their favorite films together in the family room where you don't have to hassle with high gas prices, long lines, and crowded parking lots. However, some people miss the theater experience when they watch movies at home—the eager anticipation you feel when the lights dim, the curtain opens, the widescreen comes to life, and the surround-sound sweeps you away. Recreating that experience at home is what dedicated home theaters are all about.

These theaters are ideally located in a soundproofed, windowless room isolated from the rest of your home, such as a basement or bonus room. Your screen should be at least 6 ft. wide with a high-definition projector mounted on the ceiling or in a booth at the back of the room. Install

surround-sound speakers throughout the room, concealing them behind fabric on the walls or behind the projection screen. Or consider using the new Onsia flat panel speakers that are completely invisible when installed. The rest of the audio and video equipment is usually placed in a closet. Colorful textiles, such as curtains and area rugs, help maximize sound quality as well as add to the décor. Soft dimmer-controlled lighting helps create the mood and allows your eyes to adjust comfortably to the screen.

Long sofas with separate tables will easily accommodate large groups of people, or you may prefer the comfort of individual recliners with built-in drink holders and pockets for remotes. Include a mini-kitchen for drinks and snacks. The sound and aroma of freshly popping corn always starts the excitement building!

The Hansacolourshower incorporates high-performance LEDs that encompass the entire chromatic spectrum for a stimulating shower experience that reduces stress, balances energy and creates a sense of well-being. A "twister" option gives homeowners the freedom to set an ideal temperature and pressure for a customizable shower.



Photos: Courtesy of Hansa ([www.hansa.us.com](http://www.hansa.us.com))

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Forest Glen Construction Co. Inc.  
2639 Forest Glen Trail  
Riverwoods, IL 60015

Tel: 847-236-0895  
Fax: 847-948-1342

Home Additions, Custom Homes, Kitchen Remodeling  
[www.ForestGlenConstruction.com](http://www.ForestGlenConstruction.com)

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## Walk-ins Welcome

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used an item for a year or more, you probably don't need it. Ask yourself: "Does it fit? Does it flatter? Will I ever wear it again?" If the answer is "no," give those clothes away.

Now a careful analysis is made of how many and what kinds of articles you do need to store. Then a plan for your custom closet system is tailored specifically to your needs. Your system may include a variety of cabinets, drawers, shelves, baskets, racks, and cubbies. Many thoughtful accessories are available for organizing belts, ties and jewelry. You may also want to consider a wardrobe conveyor system that lets you view and access your hanging garments at the touch of a button.

Clothes are usually hung by category and length to maximize the space. Double hanging your separates (one rod above the other) gets twice as much in the same amount of space. If you select an adjustable closet system, shelves and rods can be placed so there's no wasted space and then readjusted later as your wardrobe changes.

Wire systems, laminate systems, and systems that feature furniture-quality wood cabinets with raised-panel doors are available, providing attractive solutions that fit every need and budget. If you have a large enough walk-in closet, you can even turn it into an exquisite private dressing room with benches and islands positioned inside the closet, along with mirrors and the appropriate lighting.



Photo: Courtesy of Luxe Wardrobe Automation  
([www.luxewardrobeautomation.com](http://www.luxewardrobeautomation.com))

*The Luxe conveyor system, introduced at the 2008 International Builders Show, can more than double the number of items you can hang on a standard closet rod in the same linear space. There are many configurations, lengths and single or double tiers available to customize your closets.*



Photos: Courtesy of Yorktowne Cabinetry ([www.yorktownecabinetry.com](http://www.yorktownecabinetry.com))



*The Master Closet Collection is a new line of semi-custom cabinets and accessories created exclusively for the dressing room space.*