



Outdoor Oasis

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Remodeling on Any Budget

Many families who are very interested in remodeling their kitchens and baths, think they cannot begin the process until after they have saved enough money to bring their entire vision to completion. They look at their wish list and realize their wants are too substantial for them to afford remodeling right now. So, they wait... and wait... and get discouraged.

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Curb Appeal

Summer is considered the home remodelers' busy season and an obvious time for homeowners to re-evaluate curb appeal. After a relentless winter season and stormy spring, repairing weather damage done to home exteriors is likely to be a popular project this summer. Cosmetic fixes such as replacing front doors, repaving the driveway or new outdoor light fixtures are quick updates that can bring a whole new look to your home. Protecting your investment by upgrading the quality and life of your home with maintenance free siding and insulation is the easiest way to gain curb appeal and much more.

Refreshing what is already there with a low maintenance exterior facelift is exactly why we recommend James Hardie siding to our customers. Replacing siding not only can bring out that hidden sophistication of a mid-century home, but also can eliminate problems with insulation and energy waste. The character of a home will be enhanced, and new siding might shed light on the amount of money you could save on heating and air conditioning, maybe even enough to spring for that home addition you've been contemplating.

The consistent success we have had with James Hardie siding is backed by the 10 years of research and development of their 7th generation fiber cement building products, categorized by the HardieZone® System. This temperate zone system includes the harsh Chicago winter elements, and the HardieWrap® products maintain their durability in this climate. Possibly the most attractive component of James Hardie products is the unbeatable 30-year siding, 15-year color and 10-year HardieWrap® warranties—far and away the best in the business. **Forest Glen Construction** wants to help you set foot in the right direction when considering your home's curb appeal. We offer a free, no obligation consultation to evaluate your home's exterior. Call us today at **847-236-0895!**



Photo: Courtesy of Danver (www.danver.com)

Outdoor Oasis

The outdoor living market has experienced tremendous growth in the last few years, even during our nation's economic downturn. Some experts feel the economy has actually contributed to the growth, since homeowners have been choosing to expand their living space to the outside as an affordable way to increase the size of their home and add value. In addition, an outdoor oasis can refresh the spirit and re-energize the body, providing a welcome respite especially for those who have spent the majority of their day inside.

Since these spaces are considered extensions of the home, the same careful planning should be given to them as you would your home's interior spaces. First of all, you need to determine the best location for your outdoor kitchen.

An outdoor kitchen that is placed at a distance from your home is often referred to as a **"destination"** kitchen. Perhaps you already have in mind the perfect location. A destination kitchen can provide a wonderful escape, as

long as the space is designed to be self-sufficient. You do not want the hassle of continually returning to the main house to retrieve necessary items. Therefore, laying the groundwork for this type of kitchen is essential. The plumbing and utility lines will need to be extended from your home to service the sink, appliances, and any electronic entertainment systems. Sufficient storage must be provided for items such as food, utensils, and cleaning supplies, as well as seat cushions. You will want to include a shelter, so you do not have to carry everything back into the house, in case of inclement weather. In a remote location you cannot depend on your home's existing exterior lighting to help light up your kitchen, so provide ample lighting. Light the pathway so you and your guests may navigate safely to and from your outdoor kitchen.

For several reasons, destination kitchens have been losing ground recently to **"satellite"** outdoor kitchens, which are integrated closely with your

home. Satellite kitchens tend to be less expensive to build, and are more convenient to use. They can share your home's existing water and utility lines, as well as its exterior lighting. A simple overhang attached to the exterior of your home may serve as a shelter. Bringing groceries and other items to a satellite kitchen requires less effort. Aesthetically, these kitchens should complement the style of your home and blend seamlessly with the interior spaces.

Regardless of whether you build a destination or satellite kitchen, all the rules for designing a functional kitchen apply. You should consider designing separate zones for food prep, cooking and cleanup. Placing the grill where the chef may interact with guests makes the cooking process even more enjoyable. If your grill is located inside a partly enclosed structure, a ventilation hood is advised. Choose appliances and finishes that are intended for outdoor use. You will need both task and ambient lighting. A ceiling fan can help make the warmer days more pleasant, while a fireplace and portable heaters allow use of your outdoor kitchen through the cooler months. And do not forget to include electronic entertainment technology, such as TV, WiFi, and audio speakers to help create whatever atmosphere you desire, whether an intimate dinner or a lively party.

WHAT IS THERMOFOIL?

If you have been thinking about new cabinetry for your kitchen or bath, it is possible you have come across the term "thermofoil" and wondered what it is. Many major cabinet manufacturers, such as Dura Supreme, Medallion and Kraftmaid, offer thermofoil finishes.



Photo: Courtesy of Northern Contours (www.northerncontours.com)

OPPOSITES ATTRACT



Midnight Mystery



Our dark side beckons; we're irresistibly drawn to its murky depths and shadows. The colors of Midnight Mystery are moody, the vibe is masculine and the aesthetic is both Victorian and futuristic, evoking the houndstooth cloak of Sherlock Holmes.

Thermofoil is a thin plastic material that is fused to a medium-density fiberboard core (MDF) used to construct cabinet doors. MDF is valued for its dimensional stability, but not its appearance. Its surface is therefore often covered with a layer of wood veneer, melamine or thermofoil to make it more attractive. Today's thermofoil products can imitate the look of wood so precisely that you may not be able to tell the difference.

The main reasons homeowners purchase cabinetry finished with

Sherwin-Williams' colormix 2013 forecast puts today's color mood under the microscope to reveal its dueling influences. The dynamic palettes reflect our diverse mindsets, lifestyles and design philosophies. Simple vs. complex ... mystery vs. certainty ... light vs. dark ... synthetic vs. natural. "We gravitate to our personal preferences, yet we can't help being shaped by the divergent energies pulsing all around us," says Jackie Jordan, Sherwin-Williams director of color marketing.

Forty colors make up the 2013 color forecast, with the shades grouped into four palettes:

Honed Vitality



The Honed Vitality palette reflects the interplay of time and nature, taking inspiration from the layered hues of mineral deposits, sea-buffed stones and the weathered shutters of a rustic farmhouse. The colors create a softened beauty that is restful and comforting.

Vintage Moxie



Representing midcentury demure with a new, modern edge, Vintage Moxie is a pretty palette in which the retro glamour of pearls, florals and classic feminine silhouettes is tempered by funky accents and attitude. Glamour has become much more free-spirited.

High-Voltage



The electricity of Vegas neon inspires this palette. It's consumerism as self-expression, giving the bold and the not-so-bold equal permission to be nonconformists. The High-Voltage palette leaves nothing to the imagination.



thermofoil are: 1. The wide variety of beautiful textures, colors and sheens available; 2. It is easy to clean and moisture resistant; 3. It is reasonably priced.

Some drawbacks to consider:

1. Heat-generating appliances may melt the plastic, so you should install a heat shield;
2. Over time it may chip and peel, which makes the MDF core susceptible to moisture damage;
3. The finish may discolor, and it is difficult to paint over or repair.



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Opposites Attract



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Remodeling on *Any* Budget

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Here is a typical remodeling wish list for today's families. How does it compare to yours?

- A bigger kitchen
- Taller ceilings
- Privacy for the toilet (a separate W.C.)
- Better lighting
- More counter space
- Two sinks in the bath
- Better/prettier cabinets
- Better use of space
- Update colors and style
- Update fixtures and appliances

Regardless of the size of your budget, by following these steps you can start immediately down the pathway to realizing your home makeover dreams:

1. Make your wish list
2. Determine your budget
3. Set priorities
4. Meet with your remodeler
5. Work out a plan to remodel in phases, one room at a time
6. Ask your remodeler for money-saving ideas that do not sacrifice quality
7. Set up a realistic allowance from the beginning
8. Add 10% contingency for unforeseen problems (delayed work, broken products)
9. Do not forget the "little things" like curtains, furniture and rugs
10. Make sure the scope of the work is well documented

Smart design solutions to consider:

- Solve traffic flow problems first, then choose the decorative items
- Minimize traffic through the cooking area
- Always upgrade lighting
- Skip the tub that is just for show; design a bigger, better shower instead



- Gain space by removing an unused built-in kitchen desk
- New cabinets are better organized, so install fewer cabinets and buy new windows instead
- Keep the kitchen sink where it was, and splurge on new countertops
- Go with only one sink in the bathroom, and splurge on glass tile

If you really want to remodel now, but feel your budget is too small, here are some money-saving tips that can help make remodeling affordable for you today:

- Keep existing walls whenever possible—infrastructure changes cost a lot
- Refinish or resurface existing cabinetry
- Do not change the existing footprint—saves on plumbing and electrical costs
- Keep the 8' ceiling, if that is what you have
- Include some DIY work, if possible—demolition and/or painting
- Choose between wants and needs—a warming drawer may not be a necessity
- Select less expensive finishes now (Formica) and upgrade later (Silestone)