

Building & Remodeling Tips

Courtesy of Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc. Design/Build 🏠 SUMMER 2001

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The Greenbergs' Garden

A wonderful vitality is present in the hustle and bustle of urban life. Not only does it provide close proximity to the workplace, city living also offers the attractions of exceptional food and outstanding entertainment after a busy day in the office. It's a great place to be.

However, people who live in cities often desire to get away from all the noise and distraction. Michael and Peggy Greenberg felt this way. Their beautiful home is situated on a quarter acre lot which backs up to a rail line. For many years, their dream was to have a meditative and secluded area in their backyard which would provide an oasis away from
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Photo by Mark Stephenson

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BBB Torch Award

Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc. is honored to have been chosen a finalist in the **2001 Better Business Bureau Torch Award for Marketplace Integrity.**

A long time member of the BBB, our commitment to honesty and fair play and our mission to provide Richmond homeowners the finest value we can offer, have remained constant since we first opened our doors in 1984.



The Greenbergs' Garden

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the stresses of everyday city life. The challenge was to use natural landscaping to screen out the urban noise that surrounds them.

Their dream has finally been realized in the form of a garden centered around a Koi pond. Koi ponds are constructed to provide adequate oxygenation and filtration of the water for keeping Koi, the national ornamental pond fish of Japan. These magnificent fish, often referred to as "living jewels," are known for their gorgeous colors and entertaining habits. Like pets they will often follow a person from one end of their pond to the other, and their brilliant flashes of color are a delight to the eyes.

The Greenbergs added a small waterfall to their pond which, along with helping oxygenate the water, offers refreshing "white noise" to disguise the steady drone of traffic nearby. A variety of lush plants and colorful flowers encircle the pond in a tastefully arranged design, set off by natural rock and a curved retaining wall of manufactured stone. The arbor vitae around the perimeter of the garden provide a wonderful landscape screen for privacy.

The elegant Pau Lope deck was built within inches of the Koi pond so that the Greenbergs can relax on the deck and happily watch their ever-active fish. The unusual strength and durability of Pau Lope wood, which is naturally resistant to decay, insects and fire, make it an excellent choice for a water garden deck. The decking was run on a diagonal, drawing the focus once more to the Koi pond, and fully integrating the deck with the rest of the environs. Fanciful cast aluminum deck furniture painted copper-green lends old-world charm. All through the elements of the project an easy flow of man-made and natural materials exists.

Truly a sense of comfort and relaxation radiates from the Greenbergs' garden. Their dream has come true. The garden is, in their own words, "the eye in the center of the storm."



Countertops: Quartz Surfacing

Fashionable in Europe for more than a decade, quartz surfacing (also called engineered stone) is now rapidly gaining popularity in the kitchen and bath countertop market here. Cosentino developed their quartz surfacing product Silestone® 12 years ago in Italy. Another quartz surfacing product called Zodiaq™ was recently introduced in the United States by DuPont.

Composed primarily of natural quartz particles mixed together with binders and pigments, quartz surfaces have the weight and solid feel of natural stone. The quartz particles give quartz surfaces the glimmering radiance and brilliant clarity of granite.

Quartz surfacing is extremely dense and non-porous. Unlike natural stone, it never requires sealing, polishing or sanding to retain its shiny finish or to resist

stains. It is more resistant to scratches, heat and burns than solid surfaces. Cleaning requires simply soap and water.

Photo: Courtesy of DuPont Zodiaq™ (www.zodiaq.com)



The resin binders used to make quartz surfaces give the surface greater flexural strength than natural stone as well. This prevents much of the chipping and cracking that can sometimes occur with granite.

Although the color palette in quartz surfacing is currently more limited than natural stone, a great advantage is that computer-controlled technology duplicates the exact color shade from one year to the next. No color variation eliminates the need for additional seams as well as adding to the inconspicuousness of the seams. Quartz surfaces can be machined and manufactured with a variety of edge treatments possible.

Smart Kitchen Design for The New Senior

*adapted from Kitchen & Bath Design News—
Mary Jo Peterson*

A new wave of building is going on in our country these days, and the building and remodeling industry is sitting up and taking notice. It's the Baby Boomers again, the generation that has had such an impact on our society throughout every stage of their lives.

Now they have newly become seniors, empty nesters finally with money to spend on their own dreams and desires for their homes. And what they want is luxury, casual elegance, and individuality. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the kitchen, where these active and educated seniors are opting for high performance appliances, work islands and dual sinks.

While planning their dream kitchens, however, it also makes sense to incorporate concepts into the design that accommodate the predictable changes that occur with age. As people advance in age, their senses decline and their flexibility, balance, stamina and reflexes diminish.

Kitchen and bath designer, Mary Jo Peterson, CKD, CBD, feels that "smart" design should take this all into account. She specializes in Universal Design, which is design that is flexible enough to meet the needs of each member of a household throughout their lifetime.



The raised dishwasher and lowered ovens make appliances in this attractive kitchen easily accessible.

She is quick to point out, however, that Universal Design can also achieve classy, good looks.

The following is practical advice Peterson offers for creating an accessible kitchen:

- 1) Flush entry at the door instead of a raised threshold.
- 2) Clear floor space for maneuvering.

- 3) Slip-resistant flooring with some give—to prevent serious harm in case of a fall.
- 4) Generous amounts of task and ambient lighting.
- 5) Retractable doors to conceal an open knee space for sitting while working.
- 6) Raised dishwasher cabinet for easy loading and unloading.
- 7) Rollout trays and/or tambour doors for easily accessible storage in base cabinets.
- 8) Lower wall ovens and microwaves for easier transfer of items.
- 9) Lower counters and work areas that can be used while seated.
- 10) Rolling storage that moves to the point of use as desired.

Owning a state-of-the-art, luxury kitchen is often the fulfillment of a lifelong dream for Baby Boomers. Using the principles of Universal Design in the planning of that kitchen will help ensure they can continue to enjoy it for years to come.



The open knee space under this cooktop provides a comfortable working area.



First In A Series...

CLIENT SHOWCASE

Our clients are very special individuals, with a vast array of exciting talents and interests. In the next few issues of our newsletter, we would like to introduce you to some of these remarkable people.



great-grandmother were both painters; maybe she could excel in the arts, too.

She then attended classes in watercolor and pastels at the Virginia Museum. For the past several years, the artist has been focusing on honing her skills as a watercolorist. An active member of the James River Art League, Suzanne is a faithful student at For Art's Sake, a combination gallery and student classroom space in Carytown owned by Anne Bolton and Susan Stuller. While Suzanne favors flowers, her subjects also include buildings, outdoor scenes, still-life pieces and animals.

On a 14-foot high wall of the sunroom recently renovated by **Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc.** hang many of her colorful, realistic watercolor paintings of flowers. Two skylights and plenty of windows (with a coating to protect the artwork within) afford excellent lighting conditions for Suzanne's painting.

Through the James River Art League, a selection of her works will be at the James Center from June 3 until June 22 and at the Jewish Community Center in July. She'll have independent showings at the Medical College of Virginia in October and at St. Mary's Hospital in November. For more information about Suzanne's artwork, call 741-3137.



Suzanne Counts: Watercolor Artist

by Erin Tilley

"I was against the whole idea and now I love it," says Suzanne Counts of a recently completed renovation by **Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc.** The transformation of a screened-in porch into a sunroom was her husband Buddy's idea. Now, the open, airy room has become an ideal workspace and showcase for Suzanne's favorite pastime: watercolor painting.

Though her work suggests otherwise, Suzanne Counts has been painting for only the last seven years. As a child, she enjoyed drawing, but since her youth, she had not explored her artistic talents. That is, until one fateful day in 1994 at the Tuckahoe YMCA.

While working out on a treadmill, she struck up a conversation with a woman next to her. Her fellow exerciser was an artist who taught watercolor painting classes in her home. Having recently retired from her civilian post in the Army as a recruiter of physicians, Suzanne was excited to join the class and try her hand at a new hobby. After all, her mother and

