

Building & Remodeling Tips

Courtesy of Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc. Design/Build & SPRING 2003

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The Laundry

Room Plus

The face of American homes has been rapidly changing over the past several years. Today's large, open kitchens have turned into family gathering places. Bathrooms are luxurious spa-like getaways. Family rooms have become great rooms, complete with entertainment centers.

Laundry rooms, however, have for the most part remained an afterthought—a washer and dryer placed in a room the size of a closet, along with a few storage cabinets.

Well, that is true no longer! Forward-thinking home planners have begun to focus on the laundry room. Whirlpool® Corporation, for

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Photo: Courtesy of Whirlpool® Corporation - www.whirlpool.com

This beautiful example of the family studio concept demonstrates how the laundry appliances and other items can be concealed behind cabinet doors.

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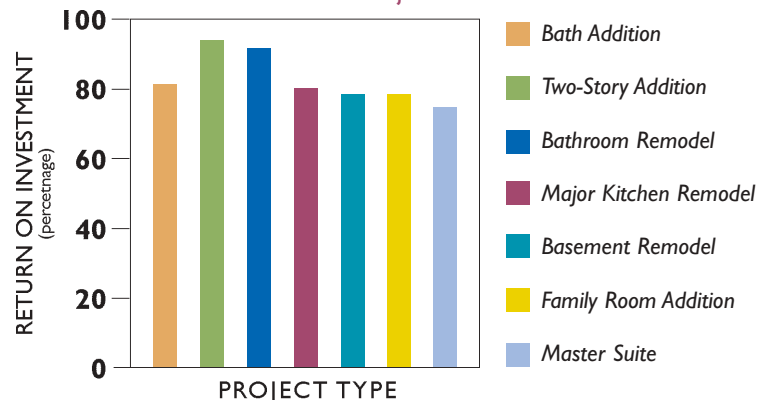
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Cost vs. Value 2002

With local property values steadily rising, recouping the cost of your improvements shouldn't be a worry. Which upgrades normally offer the greatest payback? Check out the chart to the right, which represents data published in *Remodeling* magazine's annual Cost vs. Value Report. It compares the average cost of common professional renovations with the estimated value each adds to the home.

But remodeling also pays you back by adding joy to the time you spend at home. And you can't put a price tag on that.

Cost vs. Value
Mid-Atlantic Area Projects



Data excerpted with permission from *Remodeling* magazine's 2002 Cost vs. Value Report



The Laundry Room Plus

(continued from page 1)

example, introduced in 2002 their exciting new concept for the laundry room, which they call "The Family Studio."

After extensive consumer lifestyle research, Whirlpool envisioned an area that can function not only as an every day fabric care room, but also as a space that supports an endless variety of stay-at-home activities. With the average family spending up to 400 hours per year doing laundry, a flexible laundry room helps homeowners be more productive. For instance, families can use it for arts and crafts, gardening and sewing projects, gift-wrapping, pet care, kids' homework projects, and much more. This is also an ideal space for an internet computer, a television, or an extra refrigerator. The Family Studio conveniently keeps projects, daily tasks, and potential clutter organized so the rest of the house stays neater.

Basic to the idea of a Family Studio are expansive storage areas and spacious countertop surfaces for projects. In addition to this, Whirlpool has designed modular, state-of-the-art

fabric care appliances, each of which can be discreetly enclosed within cabinetry for a tidy, streamlined look.

Some of the innovative appliances Whirlpool introduced with the Family Studio concept are: the Personal Valet® clothes vitalizing system, the DryAire™ drying cabinet, and the SinkSpa™ jetted sink.

The Family Studio offers a fresh new perspective on the traditional laundry room. Now let your imagination take over and see how you can incorporate some of these ideas into your home.

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Right: The Personal Valet® clothes vitalizing system. In just 30 minutes you can smooth wrinkles and remove odors. Make fewer trips to the cleaners and spend less time ironing.



Above: The SinkSpa™ jetted sink. Three micro-jets swirl water to gently clean your delicates and hand-washables.

Photos on this page: Courtesy of Whirlpool® Corporation - www.whirlpool.com

Countertops: Glass

The idea may still seem "out there," but it is definitely on the way in. Glass, beautiful and stylish, was singled out by designers as an emerging material for countertops at both the 2002 Kitchen and Bath Industry Show, as well as the 2003 International Builders Show.

Glass countertops are fashioned from 3/4" annealed glass, which is the same process by which window glass is made. The edges are highly polished and for safety purposes, rounded.

Some of the exceptional qualities of a glass countertop are that it is non-porous, and therefore very sanitary. The countertop is shaped all in one piece, so there are no seams. It has a heavy tensile strength, and therefore can endure a great deal of weight. A 300 lb. weight, placed on a glass countertop, will not affect it. A hot pan will not scorch the surface, which can endure

heat of up to 700 degrees without cracking.

To care for a glass countertop, always use a cutting board to avoid scratching the surface. Light scratches, however, can be taken out by using a product like "Soft Scrub." Certain acidic substances, such as vinegar, if allowed to rest on the surface for a length of time, will eventually "oyster" the surface (give it the appearance of the inside of an oyster shell). This does not affect the strength of the glass, just the appearance. Of course, with glass one always has to be careful and not drop a hard, heavy object on it because it may shatter.

The sizes and shapes of glass countertops are infinitely varied. In addition, the glass can be

processed in a range of colors and textures. Curvet, for example, offers 119 different colors and/or textures for their custom glass countertops. In price, a glass countertop compares to granite or marble.

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Photo: Courtesy of Curvet USA, Inc. - www.curvetusa.com

A Room With a View

“An unhurried sense of time is in itself a form of wealth.”

Bonnie Friedman, in New York Times

After the stresses of a normal hectic day, the top priority for most Americans is to spend time relaxing and letting the pressures slip away. They often wish for a quiet, peaceful place set apart from the hustle and bustle they have just experienced.

For this reason, the passion for creating secluded outdoor living areas at home has really taken off in the past few years. Something about being outdoors and soaking up the timeless beauty of nature is the perfect medicine.

The traditional open, grassy back yard with a deck has been giving way to walled patios or interior courtyards, paved in brick or stone for easy maintenance. Flowers, trees and other plants are carefully chosen and placed for maximum enjoyment and privacy. In addition, small outdoor balconies and porches are designed to flow out from breakfast nooks and master bedrooms. Just picture being able to step outside your bedroom and enjoy the beautiful night sky from a comfortable lounge chair on your private balcony.

Depending on the size of the space and its location, your outdoor room could also include a small built-in satellite kitchen with a sink and refrigerator for those late-night hunger attacks. Or, perhaps you prefer a more complete kitchen set-up, with a



grill and rotisserie for barbecuing.

Other additions to your outdoor space that increase relaxation might be a whirlpool bath, or a swimming pool. The sounds of water flowing have been found to be very stress relieving. Adding a waterfall to your pool multiplies the enjoyment. And there is nothing like the crackling of a fire in an outdoor fireplace to enhance any evening spent on your patio.

These outdoor rooms are often furnished

with cabinetry, tables and chairs that add to the feeling of a family room or great room. Manufacturers who anticipated this trend now offer furnishings designed specifically for exterior use, but with the look of interior products. It is getting ever easier to create an outdoor room where the time you spend helps you unwind and refreshes your mind and body.

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Photo by: James F. Wilson, Dallas TX/Compliments of NAHB



Above: This trend for creating outdoor rooms was very evident in The New American Home®2003 which was showcased at the International Builders Show in Las Vegas in January. Multiple layers of patios, terraces, porches and balconies were sprinkled throughout the Italianesque-style attached town home.



Photo: Courtesy of Timberlake Cabinet Company - www.timberlake.com

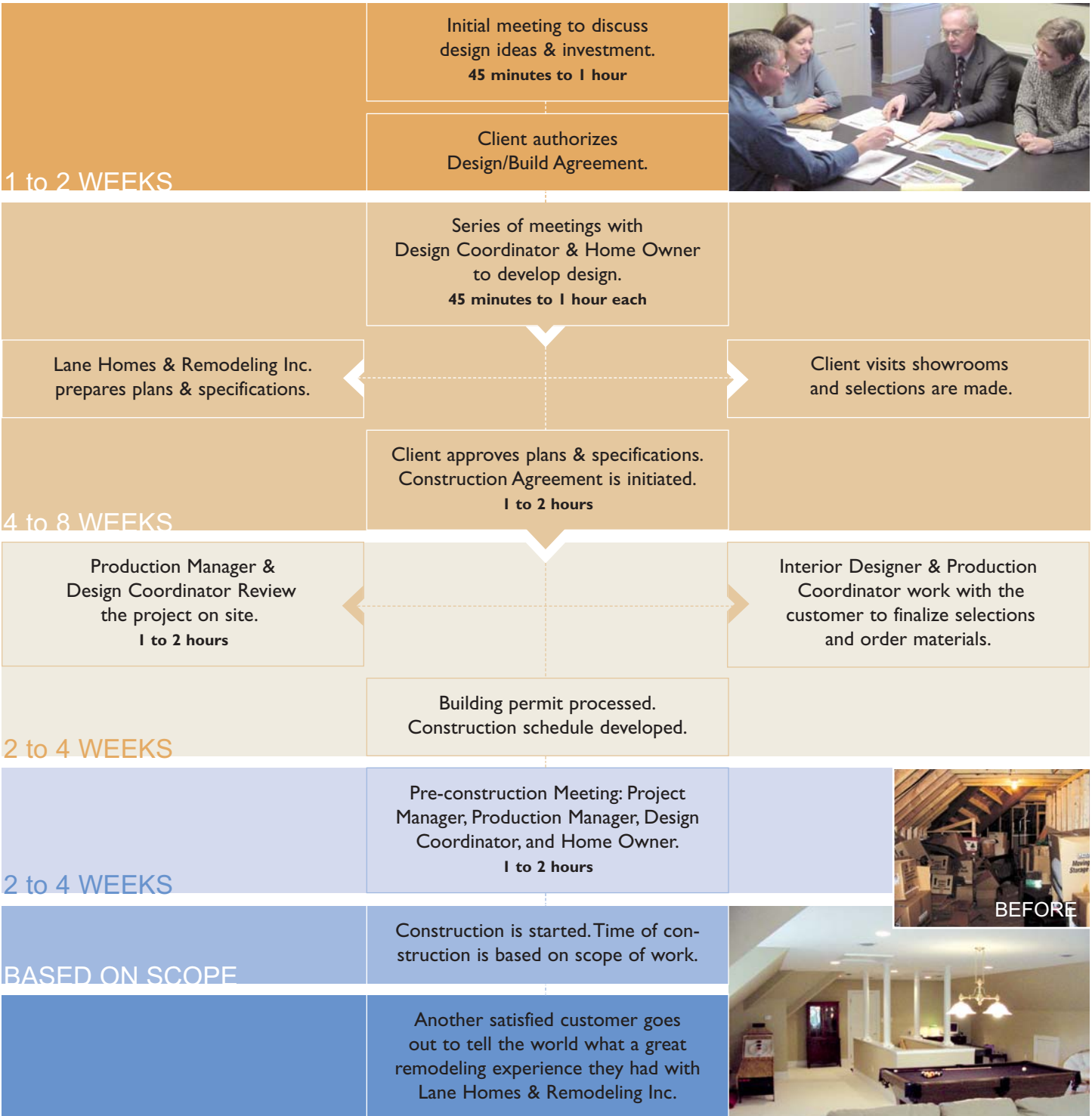
Photo by: James F. Wilson, Dallas TX/Compliments of NAHB



Design/Build Time Line

We at Lane Homes & Remodeling Inc. are often asked, "What is the design/build process? How does this whole thing work?" To take some of the mystery out of the remodeling process, we have

put together a rough outline of a typical project. Of course, your project may not have all of these steps, or you may have a few additional items that are special to your project.



Whether it's a kitchen remodel, a new addition, updating your master suite, or finishing off the attic or basement, call **Lane Homes & Remodeling Inc.** today at **784-0012** and let our professional in-house design team create your perfect solution.

Attic Remodel Project by Lane Homes & Remodeling