

Building & Remodeling Tips

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

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Tradition With a Twist

An eclectic mix of transitional and traditional, this newly remodeled kitchen is a spectacular blend of materials, textures and colors.

Cabinets in two different wood species and finishes were selected—maple with a bronze glaze and cherry with a coffee glaze. The sink base cabinet in cherry was brought forward a few inches and treated with special trim and feet to give the illusion of an antique drysink set among the maple cabinets. The hutch, with its built-in halogen lighting, is also cherry to give the impression of a free-standing piece of furniture. In the cabinet to the right of the hutch is a chrome pivot-out pantry system. Cherry panels were used to disguise the built-in Sub-Zero refrigerator which has a lift-front cabinet above.

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Photo: Courtesy of Ed Lane.

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Meet the Wiltshires



The dramatic kitchen remodel featured in this quarter's newsletter is an excellent example of the elegant design solutions and quality construction offered to Richmond area homeowners by **Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc.** (See 'Before' picture on page 4)

We thought you might like to meet the Wiltshire family, owners of this wonderful kitchen, and hear what they say about their remodeling experience.

Shelly told us, "Curt and I had a solid relationship with **Lane Homes & Remodeling** based on a very successful addition project. We approached Lane's design team armed with tons of very specific ideas and a "wish list" of quite some length."

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Tradition With a Twist

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Maple base cabinets in the U-shaped workspace and peninsula house the built-in microwave. They also disguise two Bosch dishwashers that flank the sink and a Dacor warming drawer, in addition to supplying lots of needed storage space. Some of the maple wall cabinets have antiqued brass wire mesh grills, while others have glass fronts. A special touch—two of the upper cabinets have glass in both the doors and the cabinet backs. Installed in front of transom windows, these cabinets supply showcase storage without blocking natural light.

A custom made cabinet for the family dining area was made of old pine to blend with an existing harvest table and sideboard. The cabinet has two arched doors with antiqued brass wire mesh grills over four drawers with beaded front and bun feet.

Granite in Crystal Azul with a pencil edge was chosen to complement the warm tones of the wood and is used on the large U-shaped countertop. The granite follows the special contours of the sink cabinet with its double stainless steel sink and weathered brass and copper faucet, adding an interesting focal point. Floating above the granite

countertop is an angled breakfast bar of polished, dark gray concrete supported on antiqued copper posts. The same dark gray concrete was used for the countertop on the hutch.

Other special touches include custom designed tile backsplashes for both the range and hutch areas, a copper range hood



Photo: Courtesy of Ed Lane.

that was aged on site, a dual fuel commercial style stainless steel range with copper accents, iron cabinet hardware and hardwood floors.

During the day plenty of natural light pours in through two new skylights, as well as the four casement windows and arch-top picture window which overlook the natural landscaping. In addition, there is an abundance of task and general lighting in the pendant lights over the counter, recessed lights in the ceiling, and undercabinet lighting. Special over-the-cabinet lighting creates a wondrous play of shadows on the cathedral ceiling.

The final crowning touch is the faux painting in the kitchen and family dining area—a contemporary green with coppery *fleur-de-lis*.

A hard-working kitchen—a family friendly kitchen—a beautiful traditional kitchen with a contemporary twist—a kitchen for a lifetime!



Photo: Courtesy of Ed Lane.

Countertops: Metal

Homeowners today are rediscovering the reasons why commercial chefs prefer **stainless steel** countertops. They are heat-resistant, easy to clean, waterproof and durable. Another advantage to the homeowner is that the shiny surface reflects light, lending a feeling of spaciousness to a kitchen. When paired together with quality wood cabinets, stainless steel countertops radiate warmth and elegance. If the finish has a grain, it is easier to keep the surface free from fingerprints and noticeable scratches. The countertop will look its best if it is wiped frequently with warm water, soap, or ammonia using a sponge or a soft cloth. Rinse with water, and wipe dry to avoid water stains. If it is necessary to scour the surface, use only a mild abrasive and always rub in the direction of the grain. Use a cutting board to protect the surface from scratching.

Copper is also entering the scene as a trendy choice for countertops in residential kitchens today. When the copper countertop is first polished and set in place, it will be a lustrous orange-gold color. Over



Stainless steel and wood make a great combination.

time, however, it will oxidize into a rich dark brown with a monochromatic patina. It is the choice of the homeowner whether to polish the copper on a regular basis to maintain the luster, or to simply clean the surface with soap and water and enjoy the interesting patina. Copper is a soft metal, so it scratches easily and can become distorted through exposure to high temperatures. The use of a chopping block and a trivet is recommended.

Zinc is another metal countertop option. Polished, it resembles the silvery color of stainless steel. Like copper, however, it oxidizes and patinates over time and turns a deep blue-gray color. Maintenance is similar to that of copper countertops. Copper and zinc countertops have an old world charm and are preferred by those who welcome the look of materials aged by everyday use.

Photo: C J Design Kitchen Countertops (www.cjdesign.us)

Let There Be Light!

Most everyone can identify with that sudden lift in spirit that you get when you walk outside on a beautiful, sunny day, after having spent too much time indoors, closed off and under artificial light.

This concept has received a lot of attention in the design world during the last few years as studies have pointed to the numerous benefits of bringing natural light into building interiors. They have even coined a term, "daylighting," to describe the conscious effort to use natural light as one of the primary sources for interior illumination.

Physically and psychologically, people have a common desire to be connected to the rhythms and changes of the outdoor world. When buildings are designed for plenty of natural light, they give you a relationship to the sun, the sky, changing weather patterns and seasonal conditions. A welcome sense of the passage of time is imparted.

In addition, full-spectrum natural light is a known source of Vitamin D and a tool in the fight against the depression, mood swings and irritability associated with seasonal light deprivation.

There can also be cost and environmental

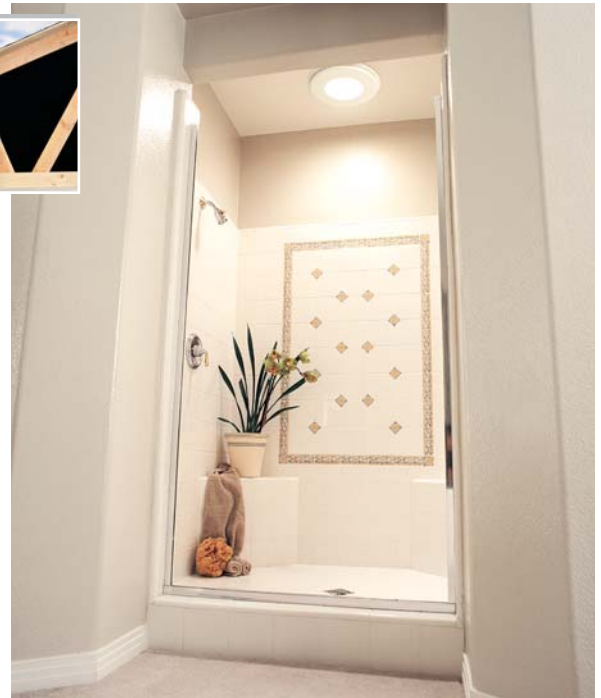
benefits to using natural light, since fewer electric lights are needed during the day.

Think about areas in your home that seem dark and dreary. It may be possible to daylight a room and increase your connectedness to the outdoors simply by replacing a small existing window with a larger one. Consider adding a wall of windows, if appropriate, or extending the space with a bay window addition.

Perhaps your kitchen windows are too far away to adequately light the work center. Maybe there is a room in the center of your home which has no exterior window walls at all. In these



This windowless shower shines with natural light through the installation of a tubular skylight. The skylight also includes a ventilation kit, ideal for high humidity environments. This minimizes the number of ceiling penetrations and fixtures.



Photos: Courtesy of Solatube (www.solatube.com)

cases, think upward. Adding skylights in the ceiling above brings the triple benefits of increased natural light, a view to the outdoors, and ventilation (if the skylight is operable).

Be sure to consider the fact that skylights can result in unwanted solar heat gains and losses, depending on the time of year. Choose your unit carefully. Manufacturers use various methods to reduce these impacts, which include multiple layers of glazing, gas fills between multiple layers, and/or low-emissivity (low-e) glazing. Purchasing blinds or shades with your skylight provides additional control.

An alternative to a traditional skylight is to install a tubular skylight. The system is comprised of a roof-mounted reflector that collects outside light and directs it down a cylinder to a light diffuser in the ceiling below. A tubular skylight can be installed in places where a traditional skylight would not be an option, such as rooms without direct roof access or small areas like bathrooms, closets and hallways. Normally, a tubular skylight is more affordable as well, especially when you consider the simplicity of installation. It does not offer the advantage, however, of a clear view to the outdoors.

Whatever your choice of method, daylighting those gloomy areas of your home increases your satisfaction with your home, and quite simply makes you feel better all around. Not a bad idea!



This dining room is washed with light from three fixed skylights, combi-flashed together above three separate shafts built between the roof trusses. The skylights are designed to fit between trusses, saving the expensive of cutting through the existing trusses. The dramatic view overhead makes the room feel much larger than it is.



Photos: Courtesy of VELUX-AMERICA INC. (www.VELUX-AMERICA.com)

Meet the Wiltshires

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"There were some design elements I insisted on —like concrete countertops ...They (Lane) were willing to try to make my ideas work."

The Wiltshire family now has a kitchen that is extremely user friendly, packed with innovative features, and adds a beautiful transitional touch to their home.



Before—This is the same view as the pictures on page 1 (notice the window and sink on the right)

"The kitchen built exceeded our expectations. It is a wonderful place in which to cook and entertain. Our family loves to be in the space. Like most families, everyone seems to wind up in the kitchen. It used to be a closed and isolated place to be; now the kitchen is open and warm and welcoming. It is such a pleasure to cook and live in our new kitchen."

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, **784-0012** and let our professional in-house design team create your perfect solution.

"The design team worked through many initial designs, all were beautiful.... They listened to our needs and concerns and budget...and the final plan they presented us was, I am thoroughly convinced, the best option for the space we had. They helped take my dream that existed in so many disconnected visual elements...and bring it to life in a perfect marriage of attractiveness and function."

"The construction process was as pleasant as it could possibly be. The design was so well conceived that there were few glitches as we built it. The suggestions made by the team in the field we usually found very insightful."



The sink cabinet in cherry was treated with special trim to give the illusion of an antique drysink set among the maple cabinets.