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# WINTER BUILDING & Remodeling Tips

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Celebrating our 22nd Year!

Courtesy of Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc.  
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Photos: Courtesy of Travis Industries, Inc. (www.travisproducts.com)



## Light my Fire

There is something quite magical about sitting in front of a fireplace and watching the flames flicker and dance. Time seems to stand still and the stresses of the day fade away...

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The Looking Glass gas fireplace features a one-way mirror that displays when the fire is off. It also includes a hidden aromatherapy tray.

## REFINED ELEGANCE

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When our clients purchased their West End home, they knew they would have to make some changes in the master-suite. The out-of-date bath and two smallish closets wouldn't give them the comfort, spaciousness, and storage they wanted.

After completing several projects in the public areas of their home, the homeowners asked the design team at **Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc.** to collaborate with their designer to redesign the master-suite.

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## Light my Fire

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as a pleasant dreaminess overtakes us. Add to that some fine food and soft music, and you have the recipe for a delightfully relaxing experience.

Fortunately, the fireplace is no longer limited to areas that can accommodate heavy masonry construction, and to have a realistic flame does not require chopping and hauling wood.

The fire upon the hearth is low,  
And there is stillness everywhere,  
And, like winged spirits, here and there  
The firelight shadows fluttering go.

Eugene Field



Photo: Courtesy of Hearth & Home Technologies Inc. (www.hearthhome.com)



Photo: Courtesy of Dimplex North America Limited (www.dimplex.com)

*The Soulstice gas fireplace is designed with a scaled-down footprint and low heat output for smaller rooms. It comes standard with a sleep timer so you can fall to sleep to the warmth and beauty of a fire. You can also program the unit to automatically light anytime, making it a much more inviting way to wake up than an alarm clock.*

Gas and electric fireplaces have come a long way. Today their appearance is so convincing that it often takes a second look to distinguish them from the wood-burning variety. In addition, several gas and electric fireplaces have now been sized specifically for use in bathrooms, bedrooms and other intimate spaces. Although these mini-fireplaces have the capability of warming up a chilly room, they are designed to be used year 'round and in warm climates. Often the purpose is to create that special ambience that comes from firelight and glowing embers.

If you need the crackling and popping of burning wood in order to evoke the nostalgia you desire, some gas and electric fireplaces have those realistic sounds included as a part of the operation of the appliance. Or, you can purchase a CD recording and have it merrily snap-crackling in the background.

When purchasing a fireplace, consider the following:

- ❖ Direct vent gas fireplaces do not need a foundation or a chimney, as do wood-burning fireplaces. They burn efficiently and vent any combustion byproducts and moisture straight through the wall to the outside, preserving indoor air quality. Thermostatic and remote controls are often available.
- ❖ Electric fireplaces are convenient and flexible. They don't require a chimney, vent or gas line. You simply plug them into a 110 electrical outlet. They can be moved from room to room, as you please. They operate with or without heat. ■

*The Corner Wall Mount electric fireplace conveniently fits into corner areas that are not typically used in a room. It comes with a 3-stage remote control, and the flames operate independently from the heater for year 'round use.*

Photo: Courtesy of Engineered Glass Products (www.egpglass.com)



**HOT!**  
**HOT!**  
**HOT!**

**What's hot in today's kitchen and bath appliances? The following items are hot in more ways than one!**

Engineered Glass Products introduced a stylish, elegant and easy-to-clean alternative to traditional radiator towel warmers this year. The Thermique towel warmer is made almost totally of glass, with the glass itself serving as the heating element. Invisible thin film conductors achieve a quick warm-up and uniform heating across the entire surface of glass. The glass can be customized with personal monograms and is available in different metal finishes. The towel warmer was voted the Best New Bath Product at the 2005 Kitchen/Bath Industry Show in Las Vegas.

Gaggenau's ED 220 combination steam and convection oven combines the dry heat of a convection oven with non-pressurized steam. The steam generator can produce four different degrees of humidity in the oven. It is also possible to give bread a crispy crust or poultry a golden brown finish by setting the convection mode to 0% humidity. Cooking is quick and easy with minimal need for additional oils or fat. Vitamins and other nutrients in the foods are preserved. The ED 220 has been recognized with a Good Design Award from the Chicago Athenaeum.



Photo: Courtesy of Gaggenau (www.gaggenau-usa.com)

Photos: Courtesy of Omega Cabinetry (www.omegacabinetry.com)



This multi-purpose entrance above includes cabinets outfitted like school lockers with hooks and shelving. A solid wood counter creates a handy desk for a kitchen mail center while apothecary drawers and divided shelves help you organize paperwork.

## ENTRANCE EXAM

This organized back entry below features filler boxes and pegs to capture coats, backpacks, umbrellas, etc. There are mailboxes for storing special treasures to show mom and dad, and file drawers below with files for each day of the week. Shoes can be slid underneath the elevated bench and out of the traffic path.

If you find yourself stumbling over jackets and shoes left in disarray at the back entry, or desperately trying to locate your phone bill in the piles of mail you dumped on the kitchen counter as you walked in, you need to get your home's entrance organized. There's no better way to do that than with cabinets.

Think about your family's daily activities and all those things you are constantly bringing in and out of the house—purse, keys, boots, coats, backpacks, umbrellas, newspapers, and more. The traditional hall closet does not provide enough divided space to organize and store these items.

What about including a mail center to organize bills and other correspondence, removing it from your kitchen counter? You need a place to store supplies as well—such as envelopes, paper, stamps, address labels, pens, scissors, and tape, not to mention a wastepaper basket for mail items you don't wish to keep.

Once you list all the items for which you normally need space, a design can be drawn up for a multi-purpose entrance that can provide the perfect solution for all your clutter. Using custom and/or semi-custom cabinets, a truly unique space can be created that solves organization challenges in an attractive and functional manner. ■



## REFINED ELEGANCE

(continued from page 1)

Our clients' basic wish list was deceptively simple:

- 1) a refined, elegant, restful area to begin and end their day
- 2) lots and lots of closet space
- 3) use only the existing square footage—no additions or bump-outs

Using creativity, imagination and a little inspiration to see beyond what was already there, the collaborative design team was able to visualize different floor plans and ultimately accommodate as many of the clients' desired amenities as possible.

The area previously occupied by the old master-bath was converted into a spacious closet/dressing room. Behind double French doors is custom-made cabinetry that provides his-and-hers hanging space on each side of the closet, dedicated shoe and sweater storage, drawers for jewelry and smaller items—everything has its place. There is also a full length mirror, a large Palladian window for plenty of natural light, a cushioned window seat, and many more individualized touches.

A seldom used sunroom adjacent to the master-suite provided a perfect location for the luxurious new bath. You enter through double French doors with opaque glass that allow light to filter into the bedroom while still maintaining privacy. Semi-custom cabinetry forms the two sink and vanity areas; marble in a rich brick tone was used on both the vanity walls and the tub decking; the double shower is enhanced by frameless glass doors and Antique Terracotta ceramic tile; and, on the floor, Richetti Vestibulum coordinates beautifully. A private toilet-bidet room is tucked away neatly in a small alcove. A heated floor and the thoughtful use of color and texture create an atmosphere of luxury and elegance.

Each project we design is as unique as the client who commissions it. The talented design team at



After

Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc. works closely with our clients to develop a space that more than satisfies their needs—it fulfills their dreams.

**Call us at 784-0012 and put our design and production teams to work on your dream space.** ■

