

Lane Homes & Remodeling, Inc.
12536 Patterson Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23238

(804) 784-0012 (Richmond)
(434) 973-2600 (Charlottesville)

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BUILDING & Remodeling Tips

2010

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Let the SUNSHINE IN

People are attracted to homes infused with natural light. Perhaps we humans intrinsically perceive that we will flourish in these environments. And the fact is—our daily lives are made easier, safer and healthier when careful thought is given to the natural illumination of our living spaces.

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Photo: Courtesy of VELUX (www.veluxusa.com)

Creating Your *Special Kitchen*

When remodeling, most homeowners are looking for larger kitchens with spaces for their family and guests to gather. Some of the greatest challenges that our kitchen designers face revolve around this need to expand the kitchen space into other rooms, making it spatially appealing, yet at the same time keeping the kitchen **efficient** and **functional** with **well-designed storage space**.

We work closely with the client to find creative ways to fulfill the design criteria. We incorporate their personal style and create kitchen transformations that are dramatic and appealing—wonderful spaces in which to cook and entertain!

If you have been dreaming about that special kitchen, please give **Lane Homes & Remodeling** a call. We would love to talk with you about your dream. Our creative and friendly Design/Build process will be an enjoyable experience, as witnessed by "...the nicest people" over the past 26 years.



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Let the SUNSHINE IN



A tubular skylight brings daylight to an otherwise dark hallway.

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In older homes, windows were often placed according to how they would appear on the exterior, rather than how well they served the individual rooms. Electric lights made up for any deficiencies in interior lighting. Now that energy costs have risen, homeowners are becoming interested in maximizing sunlight to provide the interior light needed in their homes. The quality of their lives may be enhanced in the process.

When planning a home remodeling project, the position of the home on its lot should first be analyzed. Whenever possible, new window placement should be designed with consideration for each room's orientation. This can help optimize both daylighting and energy efficiency.

In general, locating the majority of the windows on the south side of a home will let in maximum winter sun and minimum summer sun. An overhang or eaves designed to shade out the direct summer sun is advisable. Windows that face the east and west may let in too much sunlight in the summer and offer far less winter sunlight than south-facing windows. North-facing windows can lose heat in cooler months and, therefore, should be de-emphasized.

Retractable awnings outside are an efficient way to reduce solar heat gain in the summer, while allowing light to penetrate the home during the winter. Adjustable interior window blinds and shades are also versatile—permitting some viewing, yet screening out sun and heat when necessary. Choosing energy-efficient windows is the final step in the equation.

A second consideration is the location of the window in each room. Positioning a window to one side of the room, or adjacent to the ceiling, will reflect daylight off the wall and ceiling surfaces into the space. This significantly brightens the room without the need for additional electric lights. Interior windows, glass partitions and glass doors provide a way to borrow natural light from other rooms, allowing it to reach deep into the darker areas of the house.

A skylight or roof window adds even more light—as well as visual drama—to a room and can be particularly useful when wall space for windows is unavailable. In dim interior areas of the home, such as a hallway, installing a standard skylight may be difficult. A tubular skylight is thin enough to fit between roof rafters or trusses and ceiling joists, thereby offering an easy, less expensive daylighting solution. ■

Photo: Courtesy of Simpson Door Co. (www.simpsondoor.com)



These interior doors maintain privacy, yet allow two rooms to share natural light.

A Stone's Faux

Do you applaud the attractive stone façades on many of the new homes going up these days? You secretly wish you could have that look for your own home, but you are sure it would be too expensive.

There is a good chance what you are admiring is not natural stone, but manufactured stone veneer instead. Natural stone is heavy and requires a concrete base to support its weight. It is expensive to transport to the job site and time consuming to install.

Manufactured stone veneer is durable but lightweight, so it can

Get More SPACE

Without Adding Any

Even though your bathroom may be short on space, it need not lack style, character or the feel of a more spacious spa-like bath. What's more, you don't have to spend thousands of dollars to pump up a pint-size bath. We suggest the following ways to trick the eye into seeing more space than is truly there.

Expand the Ceiling. Create the illusion of a taller bathroom by having it painted the same color as the walls. This produces the visual sensation that the walls extend farther up than they do. Or create a roomier feel by having crown molding installed. The crown molding should be painted the same color as the ceiling so it doesn't break up the line of vision, making the space seem lower to the floor.



The Adjustable-Length Curved Shower Rod from Moen adjusts to fit shower enclosures from 54- to 72-inches.

Photo: Courtesy of Moen (www.moen.com)



In addition to a mirror, this cabinet by Robern provides welcome storage.

Photo: Courtesy of Kohler Co. (www.kohler.com)

Add Depth. One of the most cost-effective and easiest ways to optically enlarge a small bathroom is through the use of paint. Pick soft creams, light neutrals and pastels to open up the space. Lend some contrast by adding bright towels or accessories.

Round It Out. It is possible to "add" space without tearing out a wall. Have a curved shower rod installed in your shower. Simply switching from a straight rod to one that curves outward can add up to seven inches of elbow room—not to mention immeasurable style.

Let There Be Light. Light has a profound effect on the perception of room size. If you don't have a bathroom window, halogen lighting is a good solution because it offers precise light rather than the scattered light provided by fluorescent bulbs. If you have enough height in the room, consider having soft-diffused lighting installed, or several recessed lights. A skylight is another option that can make a room appear significantly larger.

Bring It into Focus. Create a focal point for the bathroom by having at least one sensational new item installed, such as an exquisite vanity or an eye-catching sink. An area of interest like this draws attention away from the size of the room.

Reflect on the Space. Mirrors are a welcome addition to any small bathroom because of the light-enhancing and reflective qualities they provide. Visually opening up a bathroom can turn it into a warm and inviting retreat that would rival any larger bathroom.

be applied to interior or exterior walls without any additional structural support, providing a cost-effective way to achieve the popular look of natural stone. It is fabricated from an aggregate that is poured into molds where it captures the contours of natural stone. It can accurately replicate the look of rough-hewn stone, as well as smooth river stone and anything in between—to fit your architectural style and personal taste.

Visualize manufactured stone veneer on a kitchen island, in a wine cellar, or at a bar. The material is non-combustible, just like natural stone, so it is safe to use for a fireplace, too. The only limit is your imagination. ■



Before



Photos: Courtesy of Eldorado Stone (www.eldoradostone.com)

Design/Build Remodeler

CREATING KITCHENS FOR THE WAY YOU WANT TO LIVE

“The kitchen Lane built exceeded our expectations. It is a wonderful place in which to cook and entertain.”
- Shelly Wiltshire

To learn more about our custom Design/Build process for all of your remodeling needs, visit our website.

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before



after



before



after



before



after

Lane is a Lead-Safe Certified Contractor

Since April 22, 2010, only Lead-Safe Certified contractors are able to renovate pre-1978 homes that contain lead paint. Is your contractor certified? Lane Homes & Remodeling is a state-certified Lead Safe Certified Firm trained to handle your home renovation while protecting you and your family's health. Call us for an explanation of the new lead law and the practices we use for your safety. ■

eNews Flash

To Our WONDERFUL CLIENTS:

Thank you for your many compliments on Lane's *Building & Remodeling Tips* newsletter through the years. We're glad you continue to enjoy it. Some of you save your issues and bring them to our design consultations!

We are in the process of developing an exciting eNewsletter so you can receive the latest in outstanding remodeling ideas for your home via email. The eNewsletter will also incorporate special offers from Lane Homes & Remodeling.

Please send your email address to info@LaneBuilt.com, or click on "Subscribe to Our eNewsletter" on our website homepage: www.LaneBuilt.com. ■

