



Maximizing kitchen storage, space & function

When a homeowner is a gourmet cook who owns every pot, pan, utensil and gadget imaginable, a kitchen with ample storage, proper workflow and state of the art appliances is a must.

After Paul Vergara, a NARI Certified Remodeler, redesigned and remodeled this kitchen, this cook had a dream kitchen in the promised time frame and right on budget.

A load-bearing wall separating the kitchen from the family room was opened up as was a wall adjacent to the pantry and garage entrance. These structural changes improved traffic flow and enhanced the integration and sightlines of the adjoining spaces.

The open design also allowed for the placement of an island on a 45 degree angle with a five burner downdraft cooktop (remote blower) and raised snack bar counter. The angled island compliments the 48" Sub Zero built-in refrigerator also set on a 45 degree angle. This design provides a convenient, attractive workspace for a bustling household such as this.

Other enhancements to the kitchen area include a built-in broom closet, a separate desk area as well as a custom buffet piece in the eat-in area with backlit glass door wall cabinets and a flat screen television set on the granite top.



The newly painted and glazed custom cabinets were manufactured in state with numerous time and back saving accessories. The granite countertops blend perfectly with the limestone backsplash and the diagonal ceramic tile flooring.



The project also respects the principles of Remodeling Green through the re-use of existing cabinets and countertops in the adjacent pantry and laundry room. A new home was found for much of the rest of the materials removed from the existing kitchen, including appliances still in working condition.

“The level of detail in this project is typical of what our clients have come to appreciate about working with our firm,” Paul noted. “We take pride in providing unique, creative solutions to design and construction issues and our referral rate has shown us that this is a satisfying way to do business.”

Our clients say:

We love it when our clients take a few minutes to write. Here are a few comments we've received:

"I really love my new kitchen and basement. Thanks for all your help and guidance selecting our flooring, countertops, cabinets, etc. I appreciated the way you always called and filled me in on progress of work. I will miss having you around so come back quick!" —JH

"From the moment I first spoke with you on the phone about our project, I felt that you had a very 'down-to-earth' approach to the project. You made sure that I knew what I was getting into and that you and I had a good understanding of the scope of the project. As the project moved along, you kept in almost daily communication with me about what had been done and what we needed to do next. Even when we ran into those unanticipated 'snags,' you worked with me to find good solutions. Any concern I had was rapidly addressed." —CH

Green Tip of the Month



Environmental tips you can use:

- Choose a dishwasher with a "booster" heater to use less hot water.
- Run your dishwasher only when its full. A dishwasher uses 15 gallons of water per cycle, which is less than doing them by hand.
- Install aerators on your faucets. The flow will feel stronger but actually uses less water. Conventional faucets use 5 to 15 gallons of water per minute; aerated facets reduce use to 3 gallons per minute.
- Install a low-flow showerhead. You'll save 2 gallons of water per minute compared to a standard model.
- Insulate your home. You'll save approximately 20% on heating and cooling bills as well as saving energy.

Summer is just around the corner!

Before you know it, summer will be here. It's not too early to be thinking about that new deck, patio, porch or other outside space. Think summer. Think fun! Give us a call and get on our spring schedule for summer fun.



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It's not time to move, it's time to improve!

Without question, the mortgage situation is in the midst of a major, long-needed shakeout, occurring in the sub-prime market, which affects the broader financial markets. But what the doomsayers are not reporting is that there is no credit crunch for qualified buyers.

Housing, as with all markets, is cyclical. As the best long-term investment Americans can make, home ownership remains unmatched by any other purchase in terms of real benefits. Homeowners with good credit and steady income find there is still plenty of money available for remodels. In fact, for qualified borrowers, rates are running at near historic lows.

A recent study by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB, nahb.org) found American homeowners own \$21 trillion in real estate assets—a number greater than the absolute value of the entire portfolio of stocks and bonds on Wall Street. Of this amount, homeowners control \$10.85 trillion in as yet untapped equity in their homes.

It just makes sense to remodel and take advantage of the benefits within the four walls you already own. Remodeling your existing home makes it more marketable when it does come time to sell, yet you can enjoy it to its fullest potential until that time comes.

When you're making the decision to remodel, keep these points in mind:

- Home values still appreciate more than the stock market.
- Interest rates remain at an average of 6%, near-record lows so you can lock in a payment that fits your budget.
- Lenders are still eager to make loans to qualified borrow

Give us a call to learn more how we can help assess the investment value of remodeling today to realize a more marketable home when the housing market rebounds. And it will.