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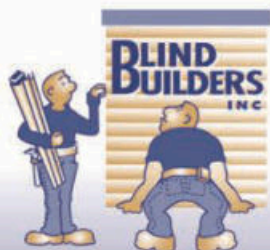
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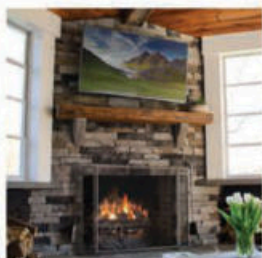


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On the cover:

House & Home is happy to present our fifth annual Best of House & Home, featuring the companies and services that our readers voted on, recognizing their industry expertise, customer service values, quality craftsmanship and overall high-quality products. Turn to page 11 for the list of winners in dozens of categories, each equipped to help with your next home improvement task.

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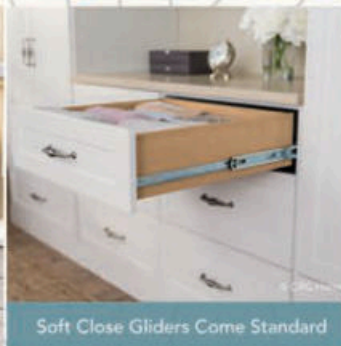
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PUBLISHER

Edward P. McCartney

EDITOR

Peter Proko

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Liz Hunter

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Matt Cosentino, Sydney Kerelo, Julie Shannon

CONTRIBUTORS

Lindsey Getz, Daniel Sean Kaye

CREATIVE DIRECTOR

Hank Alspach

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Brian Mikulski

DESIGNERS

Nicole DiPace, Abby Lurty, Rachel MacCord, Dori Shields, Lisa Zollinger

ACCOUNTING DIRECTOR

Darlene Versak

SALES DIRECTOR

Lindsay Gonzalez

SALES MANAGER

Jim Romano

NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPER

Chuck McKane

MARKETING CONSULTANTS

Rochelle Dodge, Gary Edelstein, Frank Liantonio, Rommel Magana, Jeff Mascaro, Susie Smith, Laramie Traina, Amy B. Weiss

ACCOUNTANT

Max Haggerty

DIGITAL MEDIA DIRECTOR

Leigh Stuart

PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Bob Doran

EXECUTIVE PARTNERS

Gerry Haggerty, Edward P. McCartney

Advertising Information Call: 610-272-3120

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Plus:
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We are excited to present our fifth annual Best of House & Home.

As voted by our readers, the following companies and professionals are being recognized for their quality products, expertise, top-notch customer service and reliability. We're also featuring a closer look at these companies in informative spotlights and showcases that shed some light on their dedication. For your next home project, **there is no one better than these winners.**





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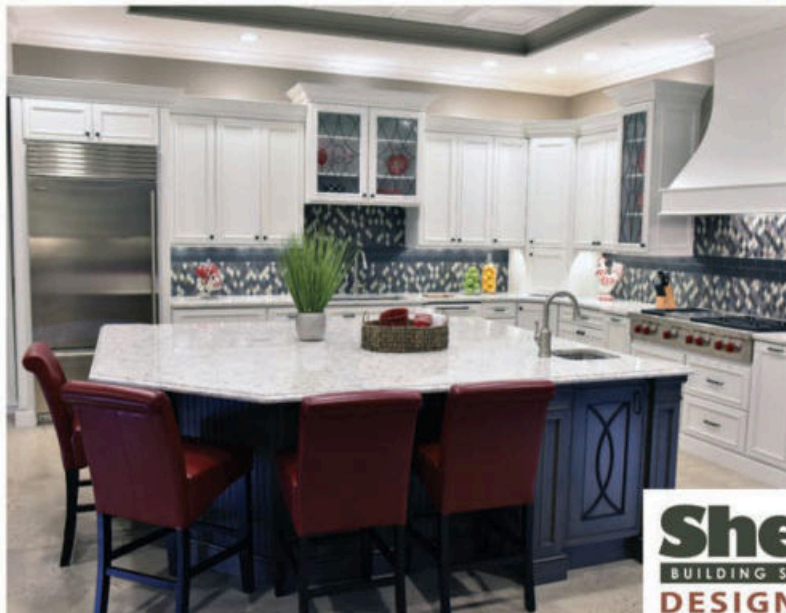
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Mark Francis, Vice President

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How many years have you been in business or in this industry?

Shelly's has been serving our customers since 1923. In 2013 we became a part of US LBM and have leveraged that position to grow in our ability to exceed our customers' needs with product, selection and service. Our Elevations showroom in Exton would be an excellent example of that.

What makes you the best in your industry while separating you from your competitors?

At the risk of sounding cliché, it really is all about our people. Our associates are the best in the industry. Their dedication and hard work never cease to amaze me.

How does it feel to be recognized among House & Home's Best of Winners?

Accolades are not the reason we do what we do, but I must admit it feels great to be recognized by House & Home.

What do you find most rewarding about this industry?

This industry has been built around people and relationships, maybe more so than any other industry. I believe that everyone at Shelly's would say that building long-lasting relationships is the most rewarding aspect of this industry.

BEST of **HOUSE & HOME** in **Hardscaping**



How many years have you been in business?
75 years

How does it feel to be recognized among House & Home's Best of Winners?

We're very proud to be acknowledged by the people who read the magazine.

What keeps you motivated every day to do the work you do?

Helping people achieve their objectives and making them happy.

What do you find most rewarding about this industry?

There is always a new challenge, things are always changing. Keeping up with the quick pace of change, and staying on the cutting edge is exciting.

Are there any new products or services you are offering that you'd like our readers to know about?

We have a new tile made of porcelain for indoor and outdoor applications. It looks like Pennsylvania Blue Stone; it's really beautiful and versatile.

Nyce Crete
Landis
BLOCK & CONCRETE

Jarrod Nyce,
Owner

(215) 723-5506
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of the **BEST** Spotlight

BEST of HOUSE&HOME in **Christmas Lighting**



How many years have you been in business or in this industry?

We are currently celebrating our 30th anniversary.

What makes you the best in your industry while separating you from your competitors?

For 30 years we have prided ourselves on great customer service. We have a wonderful attention to detail and provide excellent quality craftsmanship to give our clients exactly what they envision for their properties.

What keeps you motivated every day to do the work you do?

Meeting and engaging with new clients is wonderful, and then there is the satisfaction of working with them step by step to help them achieve their objective and seeing how they really enjoy the project when it is complete.

What do you find most rewarding about this industry?

I really enjoy having the ability to be creative in many different design styles and working on creating unique, one-of-a-kind outdoor living environments.



Keith Frederick, President

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BEST of HOUSE&HOME in **Fireplace & Inserts, Grills**



How many years have you been in business or in this industry?

Over 45.

What makes you the best in your industry while separating you from your competitors?

With two convenient showrooms in the Philadelphia area (Hatfield and Eagleville), Salter's stands out from most hearth retailers because we are truly a one-stop shop for sales, installation and service of fire appliances and outdoor oasis products. A new fireplace appliance is one of the top three improvements in a home's equity. If a customer is looking to replace their old, inefficient, builder-grade fireplace, Salter's has an ABC Rating System to determine if it is "acceptable," "borderline" or "condemned." Our sales staff are experienced hearth designers who take the time to consult with each customer to determine the best type of appliance, fuel and style that best complements the homeowner's living space within their budget.



Jay Stong, President
Hatfield and Eagleville, Pa.
(610) 631-9372
SaltersFireplace.com

Are there any new products or services you are offering that you'd like our readers to know about?

In May, we were forced to move to a new showroom space 1/8 of a mile from our original showroom, due to a fire at a neighboring business. Our new Eagleville showroom at 3076 Ridge Pike provides a larger space with beautifully designed burning displays. Plus, Salter's Hatfield location has gone through some updates as well to add a wider selection of fire features for residents from Bucks and northern Montgomery counties. And, don't forget, Barto Pool and Spa in Phoenixville (now part of Salter's Fireplace Company) sells above-ground pools, spas, supplies and accessories, as well as provides opening and closing services to pool and spa owners. Salter's customers have all they need within one company to create a warm indoor and outdoor living space.

BEST of HOUSE & HOME in Roofing



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How many years have you been in business or in this industry?
22 years

What makes you the best in your industry while separating you from your competitors?

We believe the best products on the market (Marvin Windows, metal roofing and James Hardie siding) also deserve the best installation! That is why we offer unmatched customer service and installation expertise before, during and after the project.

How does it feel to be recognized among House & Home's Best of Winners?

In the end, we love what we do because we love seeing happy customers. This award is affirmation for all of our hard work and dedication to customer satisfaction.

What do you find most rewarding about this industry?

We find it most rewarding when we are able to pull off a truly unique project like a Complex Metal Roof or a Curved Marvin Window installation. Creating that "wow" factor makes it all worth while.

Are there any new products or services you are offering that you'd like our readers to know about?

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How many years have you been in business or in this industry?
More than 25 years.

What makes you the best in your industry while separating you from your competitors?

We are the only exclusive Hunter Douglas dealer in our area; we don't carry any other brands. Due to this dedication and our high sales volume, we are able to provide the very best pricing, selection and service on all Hunter Douglas products. Plus, as a small business, our team works very closely together to give our customers a personal and satisfying shopping experience—from start to finish.

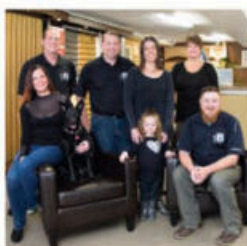
How does it feel to be recognized among House & Home's Best of Winners?

We truly appreciate being recognized. House & Home does a wonderful job providing its readers with reliable and useful content. It's a wealth of resources, ideas and advice from trusted local businesses.

What keeps you motivated every day to do the work you do?

Finding balance between our professional life and personal life can be tricky.

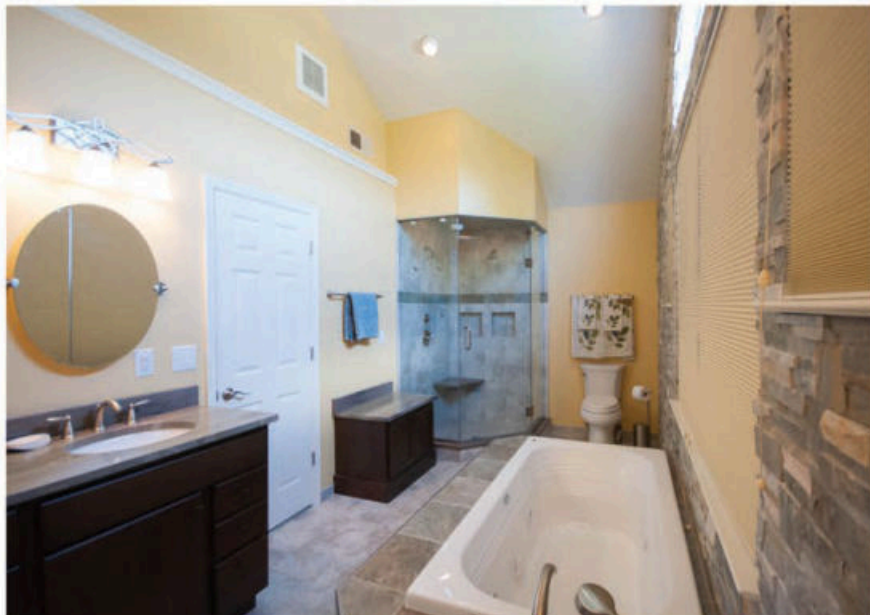
However, Brett (my husband) and I have a fantastic team that cares about us, our business and customers as much as we do. I think we naturally all motivate and appreciate each other and all really want to be here.



Nikki Rieber, Owner
Blind Builders, Inc.
(215) 322-5855
BlindBuilders.com

of the **BEST** Spotlight

BEST of HOUSE&HOME in **Bath Design**



How many years have you been in business or in this industry?

We have been in business since 1950. I have run the family business for 24 years.

What makes you the best in your industry while separating your from your competitors?

We are a complete design/build firm. We can handle the project from permits to paint. We have all trades in house: designer, carpenter, tile setter, plumber, electrician and painter. We have a system which has an 85 percent on-time completion rate.

What keeps you motivated every day to do the work you do?

Our family name is on the t-shirt and we wear it with pride. We take your home personally. We promise to own it, good or bad.

What do you find most rewarding about this industry?

The smile and hugs you get after remodeling a family's home, especially the ones who have saved for years.



Tim McHale

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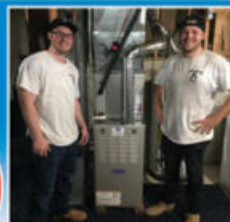
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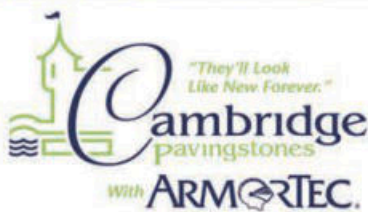
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Nyce Crete and Landis Block & Concrete

by Liz Hunter

There is something to be said about a family-owned business celebrating its 75th anniversary. Now in its third generation, Nyce Crete and Landis Block & Concrete has two locations—Souderton and Lansdale—and more than 50 employees. It is one of the area's largest suppliers of brick, pavers, landscape materials, stucco and cultured stone products.

The company's experience and range of materials make it a quality resource for home improvement projects. "Our staff works with our customers to help them with their home improvement project, [figuring] out if they can do it, or if the job is too big for them," says Jarrod Nyce, vice president. Then the company assists the homeowner in connecting with qualified contractors, ones Nyce says have proven over the years to be reputable and trustworthy.

House & Home spoke with Nyce about why homeowners may be pleasantly surprised by their experience with his company.

How does the level of service you provide differ from others?

We are able to provide just about everything for any type of job. For contractors, we can deliver to all construction situations. We provide concrete pumping service, front discharge tucks and theme conveyor trucks. This makes our fleet versatile to handle all job sites, so we can service our customers. We also have piggyback fork trucks to deliver materials and get the material close



EXPERTISE: HARDSCAPING SUPPLIES

to the job site.

We consider our shop as a one-stop shop. Our staff is educated in all areas of construction including codes, installation techniques and hands-on knowledge of our products. We are here to help you figure out what is possible. We have a no-hassle approach; there's no pressure. Our staff doesn't get paid on sales so we keep it real and ask all the questions you need to be happy. That's what we do!

Is an appointment necessary for homeowners to browse your selection of products?

We are open six days a week, no appointment necessary. Just because we are a contractor service company doesn't mean we don't deal with average people. We try to help everyone make the best decision for their project.

What are the best things a homeowner should do during the winter months to plan their outdoor living spaces?

It's a matter of space, time and budget. It's really simple—we can help any customer figure out what they are capable of doing. We have lots of ideas but doing your research is always best. Once you have an idea of what you want to do, we'll help you get there.

Outdoor living spaces are so much more than patios now. How do I know what's possible for me?

What goes into making a luxurious backyard is up to many different definitions. It depends on what your vision is. We can help in many different areas. Pictures and displays are a good start and we have a lot of both. Whatever you want is limited only by your imagination and budget. Whether it's an outdoor kitchen, fire pit or outdoor fireplace, an outdoor grill area or a beautiful hard-scaped/paver backyard, it's all about going to the next level and we can help you create just about anything you would like to do. It's all up to your imagination.

What types of products do you have to help create these spaces?

One of our partners, Cambridge Pavers, has a full line of outdoor kits from pergolas and pavilions to bistro tables and waterfalls. We also have a ceramic paver that looks like flagstone. It's really cool and can be used in all kinds of applications. It looks like the real thing.

We stand behind all of the materials that we sell. Let's face it, things happen, but we will do our best to make sure a happy solution is found. H&H

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UNBELIE



Industry professionals discuss their clients' amazing basement transformations that might give you some inspiration to start a project on your space.

AVAILABLE basements

BY JULIE
SHANNON

KITCHENS ARE KNOWN TO BE THE HEART OF THE HOME AND BRING FAMILIES TOGETHER, but a finished basement is the ideal place to gather family and friends to watch the big game, have movie nights and be the ultimate hangout space away from the main living areas in the home. It's also the area where you truly make this space extra creative and personal, having the ability to create a certain theme that ties into every piece of furniture and fixture throughout the basement.

Having this large space also gives you the options to add a full bathroom or even an extra bedroom, making it a complete living area where it's easier to have company stay over.

The industry professionals we spoke with went into detail about their clients' incredible basement transformations that not only are aesthetically pleasing to the eye, but fixed problems such as leaks and mold residue, and the final results are more practical for each homeowner.

NATURALLY NAUTICAL

"This is a 1930s house and the basement had been finished in the '70s and was poorly done. There were choppy rooms and it had a side entry, along with poor lighting and an old bathroom. They had an oil tank and we did a conversion to natural gas by pulling gas from the street.

"For this transformation, the owners had this idea of a nautical theme because they had family members in the Navy, so we wanted to home in on that specific theme, which was really cool. The thought behind this is, if you're going to spend money, make it personal and be creative. All of our collective thoughts came up with the best ideas. We bought a floating boat off Craigslist

UNBELIEVABLE basements



BEFORE



Courtesy Harth Builders

AFTER

and made a bar out of it. There are glass fixtures above the sink that are like jellyfish, we wrapped a column in the basement with a nautical rope and the balusters are also done in the same rope.

"This is a three-unit family—a husband, wife and son. The father constantly watches the stock market because of his job, but he and his son wanted to be able to watch sports as well, so we installed dual televisions side-by-side so they can watch both at the same time.

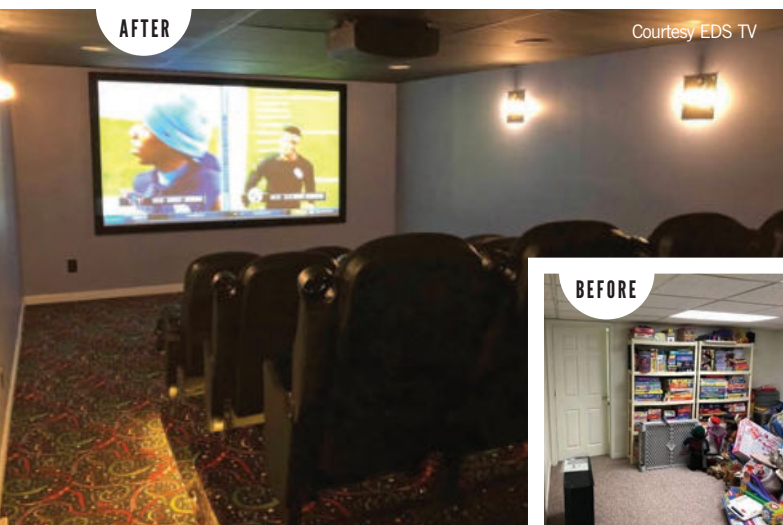
"It was an incredible project from a creativity standpoint and improved efficiency for the home. We relocated mechanicals of the home by going to natural gas and created space they didn't have previously."

*Greg Harth, owner
Harth Builders*

Spring House, Pa. | (215) 654-0364 | HarthBuilders.com

THE THEATER EXPERIENCE

"For this project, the homeowners wanted a theater in their basement. In order to do this, we had to move a wall and build risers to get to the appropriate seating heights so the person in front of you doesn't block your view. We put LED rope lighting on the tiers of the three levels of seating so no one trips on the risers. We installed a 120-inch acoustic transparent screen, a screen you'd find in movie theaters where the speakers are invisible



AFTER

Courtesy EDS TV

BEFORE



and the sound comes through the screen. We also installed a 4K Ultra HD projector and made equipment all automated through the Control4 system. This system gives homeowners complete access to operation and utilizes the ability to use Alexa and smartphones to control devices, including lighting. This minimizes frustration with multiple remotes and components. You can integrate a lighting scheme, you can set up speakers a certain way and start your DVD player with the command of one voice or button—that's automation. One command and it can shut everything down or turn everything on."

Jim Fossile, owner

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Colmar, Pa. | (215) 997-4300 | EDS-TV.com

NO MORE LEAKS

"These homeowners had a sub-floor pressure relief system installed by another company that didn't do it correctly. The basement was leaking every time it rained and this company wouldn't follow up with the homeowners and wouldn't hold the warranty up. They ended up calling us to fix it.

"First, by taking out the system, we removed the concrete 16 inches from the wall all the way around the perimeter—285 linear feet. We also did lateral across the middle of the floor because the hydrostatic pressure was so bad. We dug to the bottom of the footer and removed the existing drain system that was incorrectly installed. We installed three, 4-inch perforated PVC pipes with a mud filter sock around it. We pitched 1-inch for every 10 feet toward different sub-containers we installed. Then we surrounded that with ¾-inch triple-washed clean stone, and then installed myriad drain and poured new concrete with the existing floor.

"With our completed job, these homeowners have no more leaks and a dry basement."



Courtesy Dry Tech
Waterproofing Solutions

Matt Kropp, owner

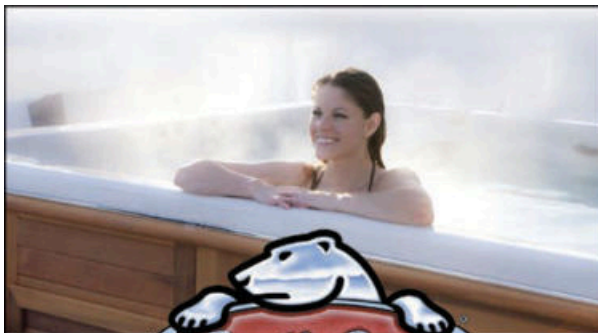
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Eagleville, Pa. | (484) 927-4326 | DryTechCorp.com

ENTERTAINING SPACE

"These homeowners have a good sized basement—well over 1,000 square feet—and wanted a complete basement renovation because they needed the space for entertaining family and friends, and having the additional bathroom was a bonus. They originally wanted a half bath, but the cost to go from a half to a full bath isn't that much more. They decided to go with the full bath and from what they told me, they've been using it when friends and family come over.

"The customers had a very nice home to begin with. They wanted the finishes to reflect the rest of the house so it didn't look like the basement was an afterthought, from the trim to the paint colors, doors, surface-mounted fixtures and lighting fixtures. We had a similar approach to the bathroom—matching up similar to what they had upstairs with nicer finishes. So when you come downstairs in a finer home into the basement, it has to mirror all



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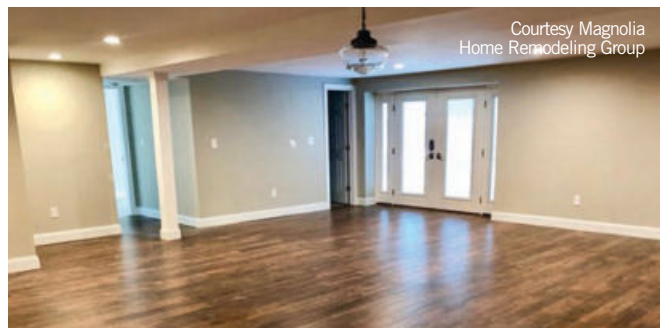
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UNBELIEVABLE basements



Courtesy Magnolia Home Remodeling Group



BEFORE

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the finishes from the upstairs. It checked all the boxes they were looking for.”

*Chris Fontana, owner
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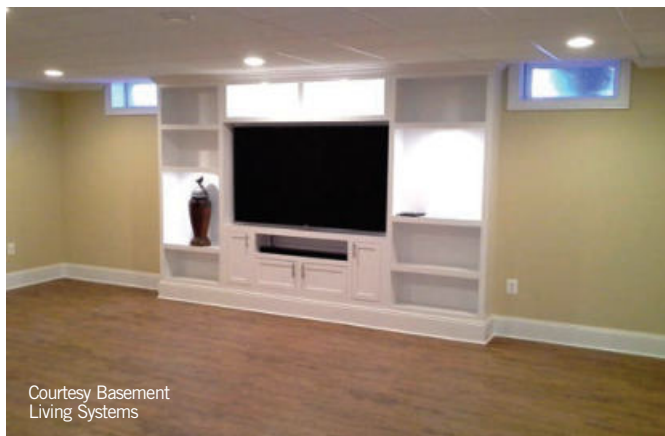
“We worked on a large home—2,200 square feet—with a big basement. We installed a bedroom with an egress window, which is a window big enough for someone to escape, which is required in a bedroom in a finished basement. We also installed a full bar, a custom-built enter-

tainment center that was customized to the size of their television, LED lighting and a full bathroom

that was also customized to their needs and looks like the master bathroom.

“Another room we added to the basement was a gym and within that gym I used a wall system with the combination of traditional drywall and purple board drywall. The benefits are that it’s mold- and mildew-resistant and it’s breathable; it allows moisture to come through. It also has 90 percent sound efficiency. It absorbs 90 percent of ambient sounds as opposed to drywall where it bounces and doesn’t absorb it.”

*Tom Meier, owner
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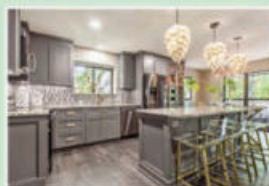
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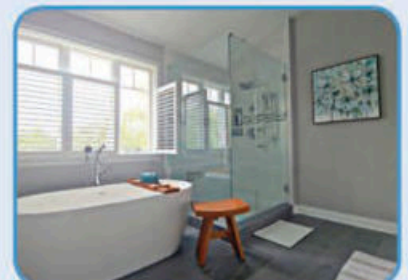
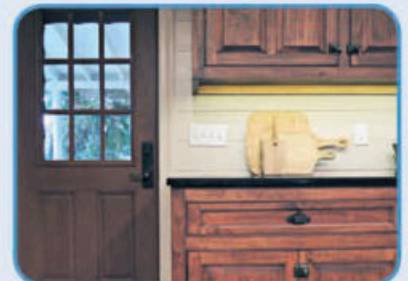


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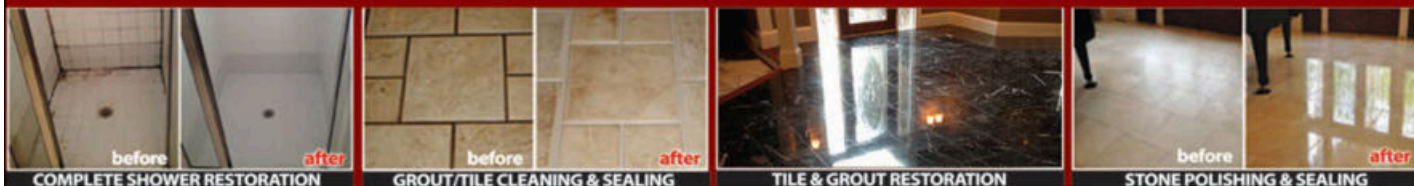


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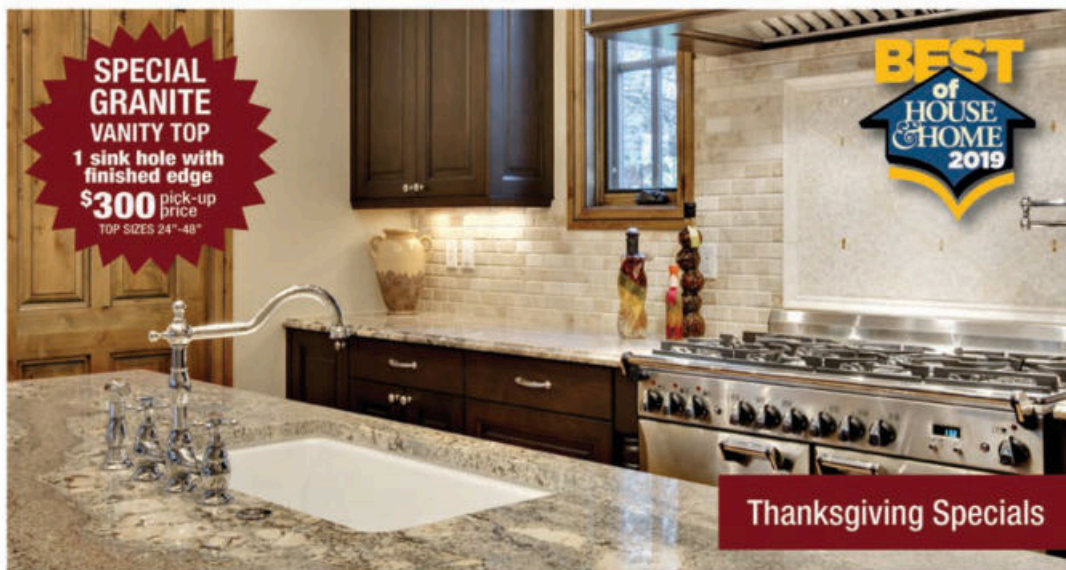
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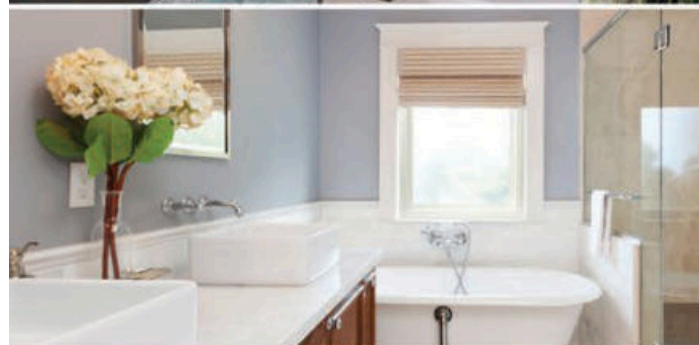
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