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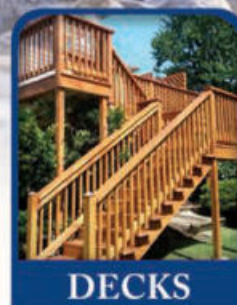
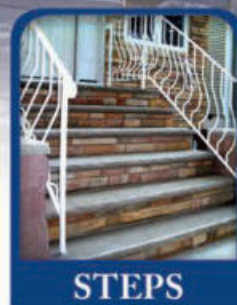
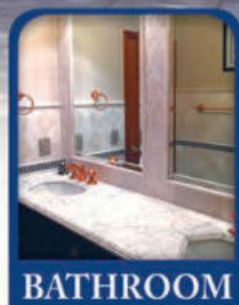
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On the cover:

When homeowners needed a bathroom remodel, they turned to the design expertise at Beco. Using their decades of experience and knowledge of trends and quality materials, Beco's team was able to transform an outdated space into a functional and beautiful bathroom. To read about how the clients' vision came to life, turn to page 22.
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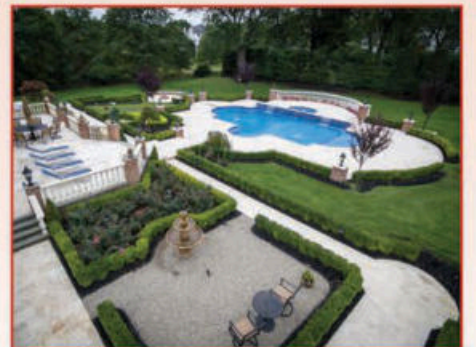
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H&H profile

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You've decided it's time to renovate your kitchen. What are the key considerations to making sure the finished product checks off all the boxes on your wish list?

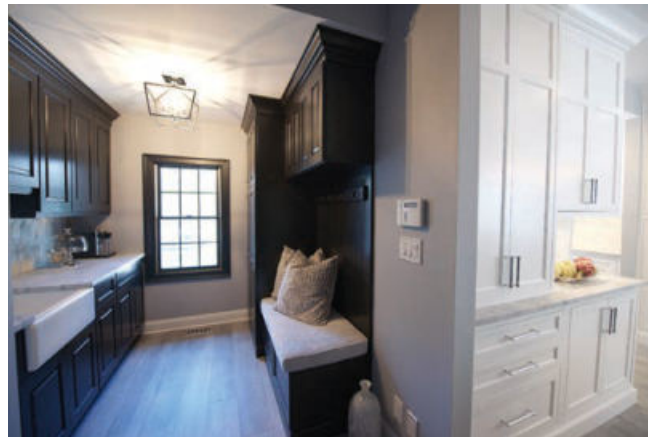
Start with selecting a few conceptual pictures to understand your style and the "look and feel" you want to achieve. Flooring is important. Are you keeping existing tile or hardwood, or using new flooring material? Appliance choices will be necessary before a conceptual design can be done. For example, the type of

hood venting you use will depend on how large and where the cooktop or stove is located.

Pick a cabinet color to complement your floors and decide if your kitchen cabinets will be one color, or a mix of two. Perhaps the island will be a dark color, or even wood, and the perimeter cabinets will be white.

Countertop colors and the type of material—quartz, granite, marble, wood or even metal tops are all popular right now—can help create a timeless design. Lighting, backsplash tile and layout, hardware and paint colors complete the list of items to consider.

Cranbury Design has the project management team to help you with all your kitchen design decisions. They can also work with you and your building contractor to design and help you make tile, plumbing fixture and color selections. They would love to work with you as you get started on your design project.



For more information about how Cranbury Design Center can help you with your kitchen or bathroom project, call (609) 448-5600 or visit CranburyDesignCenter.com. **H&H**



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IN THE WORLD OF HOME IMPROVEMENT, kitchens and baths continue to reign supreme. Survey after survey shows that these spaces can add the most value in a home. Homeowners who are ready to make the investment in upgrading their kitchen or bath can simply look on the following pages to find qualified professionals in various specialties from marble and granite and cabinetry to remodelers and designers. With the help of this *House & Home* Directory, we hope the design of your dreams can soon become a reality.



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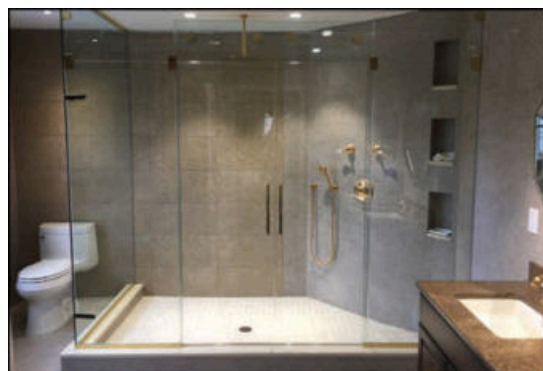
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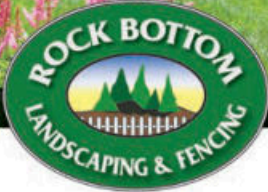
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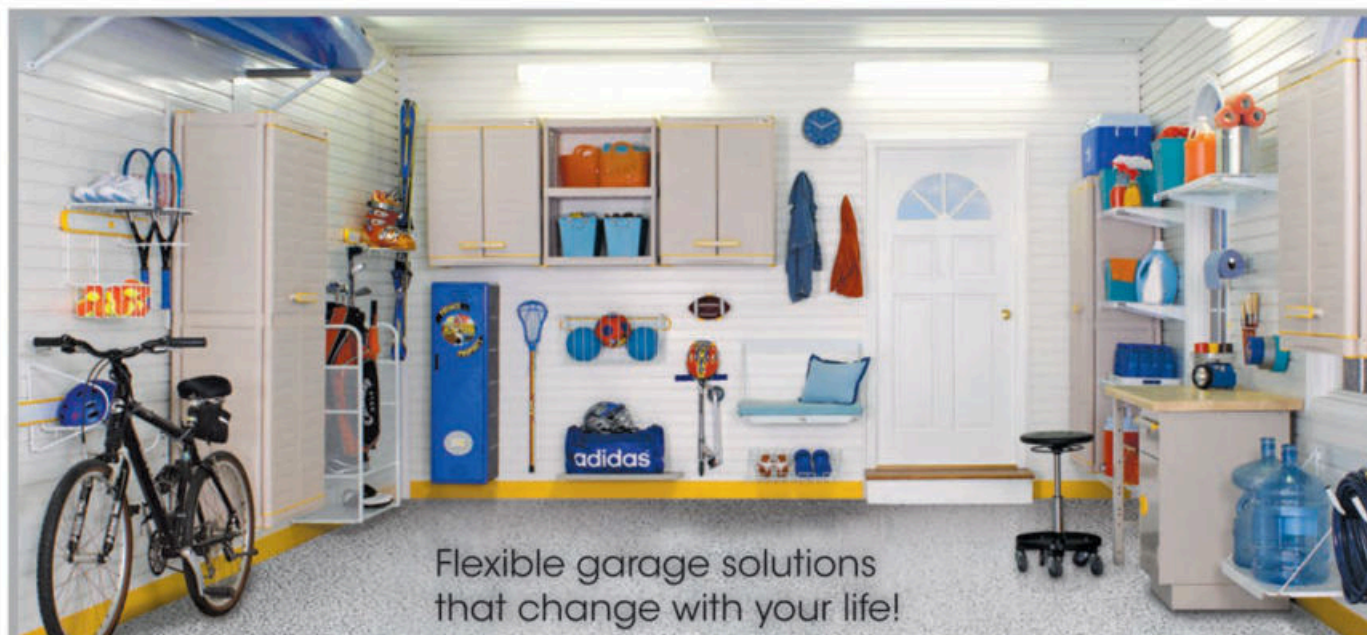
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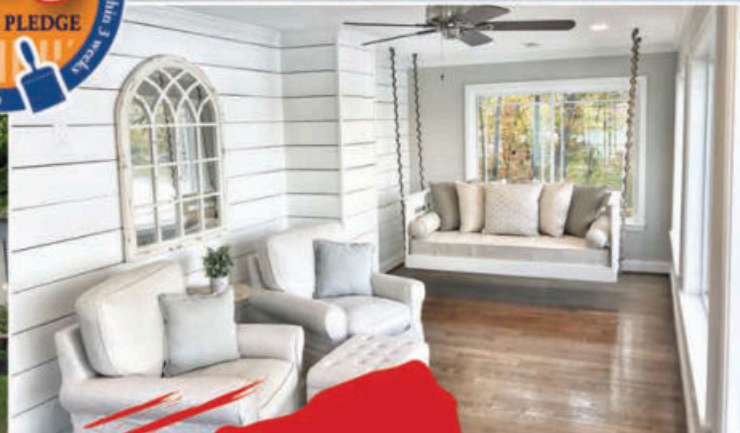


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Rock Bottom Landscaping & Fencing

by **Matt Cosentino**

As the owner of Rock Bottom Landscaping & Fencing, Chris DeMato has more than three decades of experience as a full-service landscape designer and contractor.

Yet he continues to be challenged and inspired by the profession, and with so many people focused on outdoor living, nothing gives him a better feeling than delivering a backyard oasis for his customers to enjoy with loved ones.

"We have developed relationships with all of our customers and we often hear back about how much they enjoyed their child's graduation because of the new space we gave them, or how their new pizza oven is great fun at parties," DeMato says. "That aspect of our work is very gratifying. Transforming an old, dilapidated deck into a new, updated patio is rewarding."

We spoke with DeMato about the benefits of brick paver patios and other trends in outdoor living.

Why are brick pavers a strong option for patios nowadays?

Brick pavers have become very popular because the manufacturers have done a great job of offering new and different styles every year. Being in this business for over 30 years, I have seen the progression of products. Years ago there were only a few styles and color options—they were very basic and looked fake. Now they appear to look like real natural stone. Customers have a ton of choices, whether they're trying to complement some natural stone on their home or the



Chris DeMato, owner

color of the siding on their home. There are so many choices available today and it's easy to find something.

What is the installation process like?

The brick manufacturers have also done a great job of training their customer base to install their products. Most of the larger manufacturers will offer course certificates and teach the proper installation techniques. These guidelines are essential to the longevity of the project. The most laborious aspect of installation is the excavation and ensuring the proper depths and compaction. If this is not done correctly it can cost thousands of dollars to repair. Depending on the job size and design, drawings may be required with the township as well. This is a great protection plan for a homeowner, and eliminates the fly-by-night company doing a rushed job that will cost the homeowner thousands in repairs down the road. The contractor should be able to show a computer-generated image of the patio design before the project begins.

Does a brick paver patio require a lot of maintenance?

They are very low maintenance, which is another reason customers love them. Manufacturers generally give a lifetime warranty on the structure of the product as well. Brick and block style patios need very little attention once installed; the occasional power wash and freshening of poly sand is the

EXPERTISE: BRICK PAVER PATIOS



extent of your maintenance. Another great aspect of brick pavers is repair work on patios, walkways and pool areas is very simple—and fast—compared to solid structures like concrete or natural stone set in concrete, which can become expensive should you need any repair work.

Are outdoor kitchens often a feature of the patios you design and install?

Outdoor kitchens have become very popular due to the "staycation" mentality and people looking to create their own oasis at home. Because of busy work schedules and family activities, people are just not getting away as often, and therefore want to make the most of their outdoor space. The different stones and products that look like natural stone have made building counters, islands, fireplaces, fire pits, grill areas and pizza ovens easy and affordable.

Why should customers choose Rock Bottom Landscaping for their patio project?

Whether it's a brick paver or natural stone patio, I am the person that my customers deal with from start to finish. Larger companies may have a salesman you deal with initially, but once the project begins you don't see that person again until it's time to pay. With our process, it limits the communication problems. We also have no problem with changes out in the field. We have the ability to customize a job or make changes, and as long as the customer stays within the square footage of the project, we generally don't charge extra for these changes. **H&H**

Rock Bottom Landscaping & Fencing

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totally transformed

Beco, Inc. brings storage, style and function to a master bath project.

After seven years in their home, Soh and Tim Bridgeford were ready to update their 1970s master bathroom. Their list of annoyances with the space was adding up, and it no longer felt functional for their lifestyle.

"We had a huge Jacuzzi tub—it was almost like a mini swimming pool and my children would actually swim in it when they were younger," says Soh Bridgeford. "The shower felt like a time capsule with a plastic door that reminded me of *Star Trek*. The whole bathroom was outdated, dull and had little storage."

The Bridgefords set out to find a bathroom designer and remodeler, looking at various magazines and websites. Among the three companies they interviewed, Beco's President Tim Pesce immediately put Bridgeford at ease. "I had looked at his work online and it looked professional and I liked that he was established with a good history and ratings," she says. "When I met with him, he lis-

tened to my vision and was receptive, but also offered his own good ideas. I had an immediate sense he was someone I could work well with and trust."

Beco—which was founded in Trenton, N.J., in 1956 and is now headquartered at the foot of the Trenton Makes Bridge in Morrisville, Pa., and continues to serve homeowners on both sides of the Delaware River—is an all-inclusive design-build firm specializing in kitchens and bathrooms. Pesce is the third generation to lead the company.

He says the Bridgefords' issues with their bathroom are common. "Many homes built in a certain era included a space for a large tub. In this case it was huge—over 7-foot-by-5-foot," Pesce says. "And their shower was tiny—under 18 square feet. So it was a tiny shower and big tub—nowadays people want it the opposite way around."

The Bridgefords had a few things on their wish list, including a very large shower, free-



standing tub and enough storage for bathroom products, towels, etc., and for the colors to be white and gray marble—a much more modern space than the one they currently were living with.

Initially, the Bridgefords had some conflicting ideas for the space, but that didn't surprise Pesce. "This is where our years of experience come in handy," he says. "We listen to both husband and wife and we often give them two design options showing their individual visions and then a third that is a happy medium. By putting it on the computer, they begin to see that they can compromise on some things."

One of the biggest decisions to make was the tile. Pesce says the flooring and shower tile would amount to the most visible item in the room. "It's similar to picking out what you're going to wear for a special occasion. You don't pick out the earrings first and then match your outfit to them—you pick out the dress and then work back to the details," he says. "It's the same thing in the bathroom—in this case, the tiles were the dress."

Bridgeford says the walls and tile give the space a sleek, art-deco feel. "There is a lot





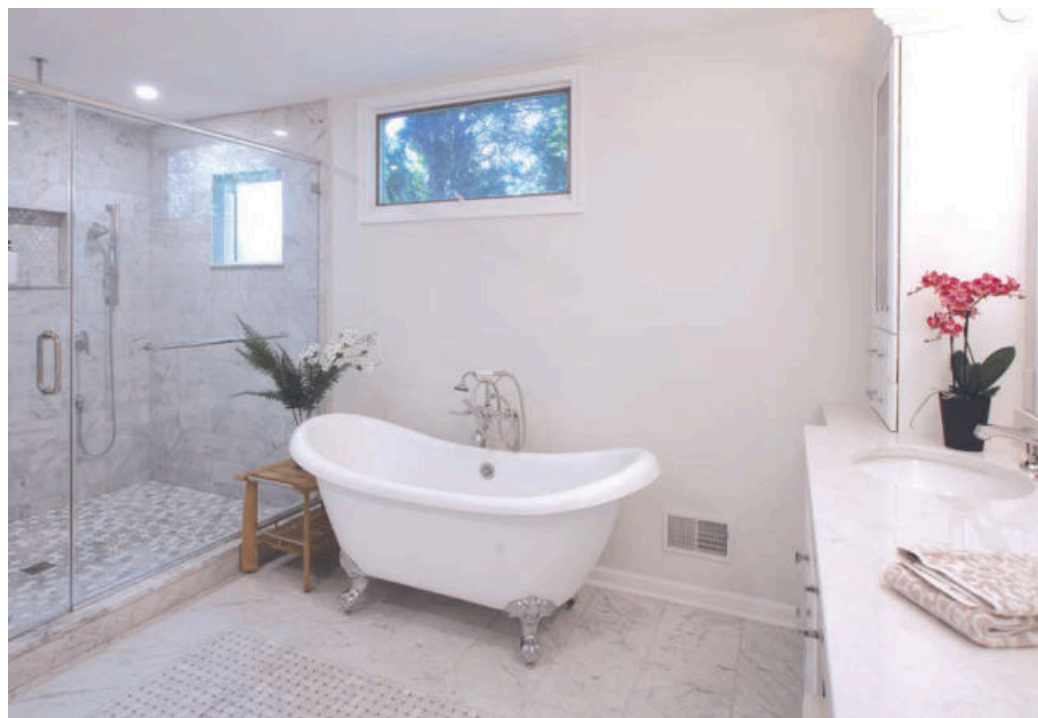
of white and gray, but it's mixed up with different types of textures and patterns. On the floor we have marble tiles but also have a basket weave design in the center, so it adds some interest," she says.

Pesce says with such a large space they were able to add a few focal points. "In Soh's case, she liked the basket weave on the floor, but in the shower you also have a couple things going on with the niche for the shampoo bottles and on the floor tile," he says. "No matter which direction you're looking, there are focal points to add interest."

The shower is among Soh's favorite features. "We love how large it is and the rain shower faucets, and there is a lot of lighting. It's very clean looking," she says.

And of course, the vanity is a marvel in itself. "Most bathrooms don't have an 11-foot vanity," says Pesce. Beco was able to install the shower where the original tub was, which opened up the wall for the vanity. "The space gives her an area to keep all of their things tucked away, but also a display area to show their personality with little trinkets or decorations. It looks pretty but it also functional."

The project has been completed for just about a year now and Bridgeford can't say enough about the positive experience. "Tim was so responsive with texts and I liked that. He was very professional and handled any



bumps in the road very well and addressed issues quickly," she says.

"We look back on this project fondly," says Pesce. "The space was transformative not only in how it looks but also in how it works with their life. It's nice to come away with that feeling." **H&H**

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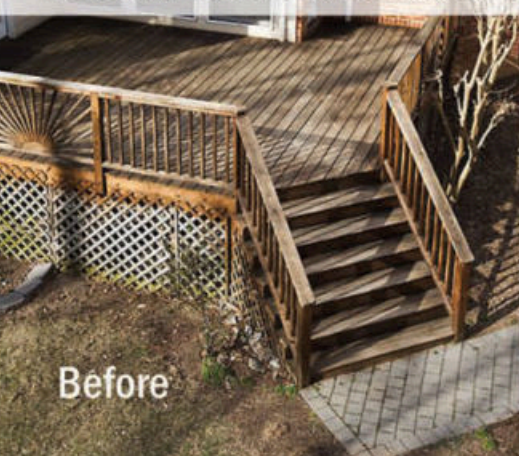
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Before



Progress



After

Binsky Home Service

by **Matt Cosentino**

For a company to not only last but also thrive for more than 80 years, a customer-centered approach is of the utmost importance.

That is why Binsky Home Service—heating, cooling and plumbing experts serving all of Central Jersey—is committed to providing homeowners with the most experienced and highly trained technicians, punctual service and honest pricing.

“Binsky has been around a long time and the brand has always been about quality and service,” says Nicholas Van Horn, master technician. “Our mission is to make sure customers are happy and comfortable in their homes.”

House & Home spoke to Van Horn to learn more about that level of service, including Binsky’s focus on incorporating technology into home comfort.

Technology has obviously led to many advancements in our homes. Has it had a major impact on heating and cooling, particularly in regard to smart thermostats?

Yes. I would say almost 60 percent of the homes that we go into nowadays have smart thermostats. With any type of thermostat where you can schedule the temperature to go down when you’re not home and to go back up when you return home, you’re going to save a significant amount of money on your energy bill. In most cases, the thermostat is connected to your phone, so it will report that you’re home and will automatically change the thermostat to your comfort level. Some thermostats, such as the Lennox S30, even have learning capability and will program themselves.

Will your system also benefit from having a smart thermostat?

Yes. Without a smart thermostat, your sys-



Nicholas Van Horn, master technician

tem’s motors will fail prematurely when running harder than designed. With a smart thermostat, you’re going to extend the life of your equipment. Any time you decrease your cycle rate or how often your heating and air conditioning turn on, you’re obviously going to have less wear and tear on the system overall. A dirty filter can easily raise the electrical expenditure by 30 percent. A cool feature of the smart thermostat is that you can preset reminders for filter changes or request that alerts be emailed on system performance.

Is there a wide range in price points for smart thermostats?

The prices start around \$200 and go up to around \$600. Any thermostats that are less than \$250 are usually going to require additional wiring. Certain thermostats are compatible with other smart devices in the home (such as Alexa) and allow for voice commands.

How do you help a homeowner decide which is the best smart thermostat to install?

Before we offer any products, we assess the customer’s home and discuss what capabilities the customer will require. For example, if they have concerns about indoor air quality, we may recommend a thermostat to monitor the outdoor pollen count. On days with high particles, the smart thermostat will cycle your equipment to remove those allergens from the air automatically.

Are there any other technological advancements you can tell us about?

Recently, there has been a big emphasis on

indoor air quality: putting in ultraviolet lights, advanced air filters and anything that will collect pollutants from inside the home. With ultraviolet lights you need to replace the lights regularly. The thermostats can be programmed to time those light changes for each specific type of light. Then you have air filters. With a good quality 4-inch-thick air filter you can reduce your filter changes (saving more money). Some filters can last an entire year, and the thermostat will help you remember to change it. The best unnoticed feature is the smart thermostat’s ability to monitor your indoor humidity. Keeping the humidity higher in the winter will help prevent any colds or flu from passing between people within the house. With the onset of climate change, people are finding they are more concerned about reducing their carbon footprint and increasing the quality of air in their homes. I personally feel these products will address those concerns.

Binsky has been around for more than 80 years. Does hiring a company like yours make a big difference for these projects?

We always have the homeowners’ happiness in the forefront of anything we do. Generally, we sit down and have a conversation with the client to figure out exactly what products are going to benefit their home and the comfort level they’re looking for in their house. Then we find a solution that fits their budget. We can offer you cost-conscious solutions for systems that will give you the effects of the higher-end systems without having to break the bank. **H&H**

Binsky Home Service

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The More you Know

Planning a kitchen and bath remodel

BY DANIEL SEAN KAYE

There's a lot to keep straight when you're beginning a renovation. From budget to preferences to where to begin, this is a whole new world for many homeowners. That's why asking some questions of professionals is such a help. Their knowledge and experience can save you countless hours and tons of money. Here are some of our experts responding to questions about these major projects.

Q: *I want to hire a professional for my renovation but don't know where to begin. What are important things to be aware of when looking to hire someone?*

"When you're looking to hire a professional to redo the space, I suggest people focus on what I call 'the Five Ps:'

- **People:** Make sure you like them, that you feel they listen to you and that you can work with them.
- **Process:** Ask them, 'What's your start to finish plan? Who'll be the contact? Who'll get permits?'
- **Portfolio:** See if they've done projects like yours. Not just that they've done many kitchens but what sort of quality is the work?
- **Past clients:** You should be able to talk to those people to get their feedback and insight. And to see the projects the professional did for them.
- **Price:** Make sure they fit your budget. Free estimates can dupe you, and you'll find yourself saying, 'That wasn't included!' Approach it as if it's you, the customer, working WITH the firm versus a budget. Look for the firm that can do the most with your budget. Tell them your budget and ask, 'What can you do for us?'

NICK KORNEA, *Owner*
LUXURY BATH & KITCHENS
 Horsham, Pa. | (215) 675-5000
LuxuryBathAndKitchens.com



Image courtesy of Amiano and Son Design-Build

Q: *My kitchen renovation hasn't gotten beyond the wishes phase but I know budget is really important. How do I know if I have the right budget for what I want?*

"For any renovation, what a client should consider first and be comfortable with is their budget. Cabinetry is really affected by budget—you can go with stock, semi-custom or custom lines and all have different ranges of costs. Stock might limit you on things like door styles. Choosing a unique door style or finish—or maybe adding special storage for things like cutlery—might be upgrades, but upgrading can be good. The best thing to do is to do your research. Look at what's out there in the market. Look into styles, colors, components. If you show your professional a backsplash or aspects of another job you like, it will help them better understand. They can work off your inspiration."

JOSEPH CLYMER, *Design-Build Specialist*
AMIANO & SON DESIGN-BUILD, LLC
 Southampton, N.J. | (609) 268-5923
AmianoAndSon.com

Q: *I am beginning a renovation and am not sure I am thinking right about where to begin. If I don't know what I want, how can the contractor?*

"When you work directly with customers, you need to find out what they want in their renovation. That's the main object. If clients seem vague, it's important to have some measurements, some idea of the budget and to know the things they might want, such as appliances. I suggest putting together a wish list, but to also tell the client that there are always trade-offs. If you want a 48-inch Wolf range, you might need to give up counter space in order to stay within budget. What's the most important thing to them? Is this their forever home? Have them look at magazines, Pinterest and online. They should ask themselves: Why do I like this? What do I not want? What draws my attention?"

MEREDITH SCOTT, *Lead Designer and Showroom Manager*
EAST COAST KITCHEN & BATH
 Maple Shade, N.J. | (856) 330-4397
ECKitchenAndBath.com



Image courtesy of East Coast Kitchen & Bath



Image courtesy of Kohler

Q: *What are some cool, new tech ideas I should know when it comes to my renovations?*

“The kitchen and bath industry has put a real emphasis on developing technology-forward products in the past couple of years to appeal to a new generation of home buyers and renters. New ways to interact with your kitchen faucet include touch activation, hands-free activation and even voice control. You can also activate shower presets by voice, or an app, or even ask your Alexa-enabled mirror what the weather forecast is while you’re getting ready. This trend ensures our kitchens and bathrooms won’t be left behind as our homes get smarter and smarter.”

JACK MONAHAN, *Manager*
WEINSTEIN’S BATH AND KITCHEN
 Collingswood, N.J. | (856) 833-1576
WeinsteinLuxury.com

Q: *What are some sensible questions to ask myself when it comes to a kitchen renovation?*

“When taking on a major home renovation project like a kitchen or bathroom, there are a seemingly infinite number of factors that can go into the decisions. One area that doesn’t get talked about enough is the functionality of the kitchen. Unless you are immediately selling your home, this should be your main focus. Any designer worth their salt can design something that looks good.

“Most people aren’t just looking for a pretty kitchen. They want one that works in an efficient way given their situation and/or lifestyle. Beyond just the aesthetic look of the kitchen, does it give you that extra storage you wanted to avoid the clutter? Have we been able to increase your countertop space so that it makes cooking, and especially prepping to cook, easier and more efficient? Are the new doorways/openings in the best places to maximize the flow and movement in the kitchen? The questions only get more specific from there.

“The point is—make sure you go into this process with specific goals and identified areas you want to see improve. This is where the designer should be the most help. It is our job to think of the things you haven’t thought of and help implement the ones you find useful to you and your family.”

DARYL HOLCOMB, *General Manager*
HOLCOMB CABINETRY
 Claymont, Del. | (302) 478-5000
HolcombCabinetry.com



Image courtesy of Holcomb Cabinetry

Q: *I am excited by the potential of my kitchen renovation. Can you suggest one area to really think about, maybe one that most people don’t consider?*

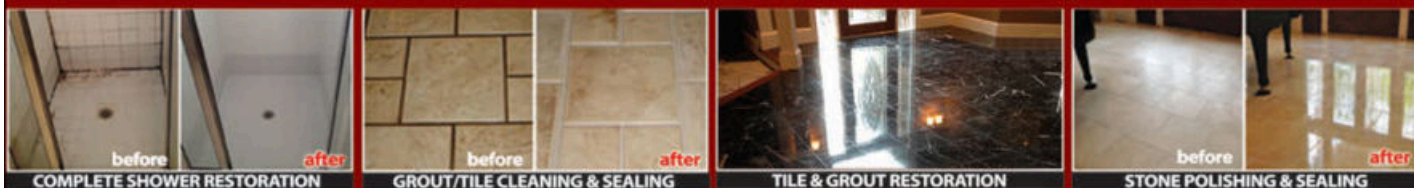
“You can’t build a good kitchen without a good floor. You need a strong and attractive base to remodel on. It can be a good inspiration. A fifth wall, so to speak. Throughout the first floor, if you have all the same type of flooring (generally hardwood) it opens up the space. You can ease through the area. Having different floors in rooms really makes the spaces feel cut off from each other. Hardwood adds warmth. In kitchens it plays off wood cabinetry, as well as stone for countertops and backsplashes. And with the same flooring, you can change colors, furniture, etc., and still keep it all connected.”

CHRISSY SABOL, *Co-owner*
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AND MUCH MORE!

Q: *I expect my bathroom renovation to give me everything I want. What is one thing that is outdated, that I know I do not want for the space?*



Image courtesy of HomeTech Renovations

“For bathrooms, you want to be sure not to over or under design. This can start with your wish list and a professional can offer ideas on the perceived value of the items. For example, for a while master baths had large builder-grade tubs. But in all my years in the business I have put in maybe one or two of these as a new installation. People never use them. They take forever to fill. The water gets cold

quickly and there’s no easy way to clean them. So we look for real value of items and see that people want larger showers—a human car wash—with hand-held body sprays and digital controls that are like programming a water feature. You can add worthwhile amenities—storage seating, radiant heating, whatever truly adds to their enjoyment of the space.”

DAVE CERAMI, *Owner* | **HOMETECH RENOVATIONS**
Lower Gwynedd, Pa. | (215) 646-7477 | **HTRenovations.com**

Q: *I don’t really have a vision for my kitchen renovation. I want to be open-minded to design ideas but still want the area to represent me and be functional. How do I know I’ll have the room for everything I want?*

“Space is a luxury in most kitchen designs, and convincing clients that they’ll have enough room for everything can be a challenge. Most clients are used to doing things a certain way and believe it’s the only way to get things done. By trusting a design professional and not dictating every detail of the kitchen, the creative process remains open and creative solu-

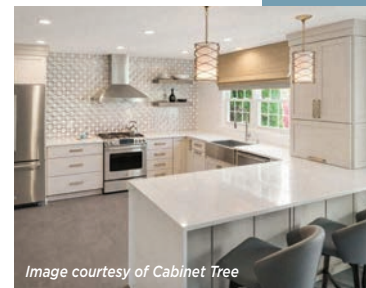


Image courtesy of Cabinet Tree

tions that take into consideration a higher style tend to emerge (and not particularly at a higher budget). Our Sewell, N.J., client took a leap of faith by not surrounding her cooking area with upper cabinets. We were able to show her through measurements that she would gain storage with the design. She opted for an impressive tile focal point, putting the bulk of her storage into three pantry closets. Everyday plates and glasses sit right next to the sink, along with a garage area for the coffee maker and toaster. The result is a wide-open kitchen with high design, plenty of storage and exactly in the budget dictated.”

BRIDGET MCMULLIN, *ASID, CID, CAPS* | **CABINET TREE**
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RECENT RESEARCH HAS SHOWN THAT “SMART HOME” TECHNOLOGY IS TAKING OVER—and it’s really no surprise. Technology makes our lives easier in so many areas—from banking and billing, to making purchases and even everyday driving—there’s no reason why we wouldn’t want to incorporate more technology into our homes for the same reasons. With smart home technology, homeowners are finding that life at home is more convenient and more comfortable. Today’s connected homes have everything from automated lighting to automated thermostat controls and more. ➤



“

I feel the benefit of installing a smart thermostat is that you are able to monitor your HVAC system via WiFi connection.

— George Watts,
C&C Heating & Air Conditioning

”



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Potential Uses

“This past year we have installed a lot of multi-room music systems, lighting automation and whole-house WiFi systems,” says Scott Leonard, owner of Valley Automation, which specializes in system integration for smart home technology. “There are a lot of frustrated homeowners who can’t use their phone or iPad in certain areas of their home. So, making sure there is good coverage throughout the house is an important aspect of home technology.”

Leonard says that some other home technology items they’ve been installing for homeowners are smart TVs and surround sound systems, handheld remotes, automated window shades, smart thermostats and door locks. Homeowners are looking for ease-of-use when it comes to these types of products.

“Home automation can make life easier—from keeping an eye on your home when you are not there to playing your favorite music when you walk in the door,” says Leonard. “Home automation can do things for you that you won’t have to think about anymore. For example, setting the lighting levels for entertaining, instead of adjusting each dimmer to the

right setting each time, can be programmed and recalled anytime with just one touch of a button.”

While everyone can benefit from these types of technologies, those who are looking to “age in place” and stay in their homes as they get older are also finding great benefit from what smart homes have to offer.

“Home automation, especially voice control, can be really helpful for homeowners who have challenges moving around the home, unlocking the door, adjusting the lighting or connecting with loved ones,” adds Leonard. “Voice control probably has the greatest potential for homeowners going forward.”

Smart Thermostats

Homeowners are also loving the smart thermostat options that are out there. Nick Van Horn of Binsky Home Service says that there is a rising tier of options, some more complex and more capable than others. While there’s the ecobee, which is a more affordable option, there are other options, such as Nest, which are capable of doing more.

“One of the top-tier options is the Lennox thermostat,” explains Van Horn. “While Nest will notice that something is wrong and alert you there’s a problem, it won’t diagnose. But Lennox will note that something is wrong, email us and alert

you where the failure is.”

Van Horn also likes the allergy setting on the Lennox.

“If there is someone in the house who suffers from allergies, this is a great feature,” he says.

According to Lennox’s website, its “Allergen Defender feature” monitors your home’s air quality automatically. When it detects poor air quality caused by high levels of allergens, the system will increase fan speed to create more filtration, so you get cleaner and healthier indoor air.

Automatic controls are also a welcomed feature. Van Horn says that most people assume these are set only by time, but they can also be set by location.

“You can set up an area—perhaps five miles from home—where when you cross that range, your AC or heating will automatically start up,” Van Horn explains. “By the time you get home, it’s right where you want it. Most people think you can only set a time but since people come home at different times, this isn’t as useful. Setting it up based on location makes sure the timing is just right.”

Remote monitoring of the temperature of your home is beneficial for so many reasons. George Watts, service manager for C&C Heating & Air Conditioning, says that his clients love the ability to “check in” on their home, even when they’re not there.

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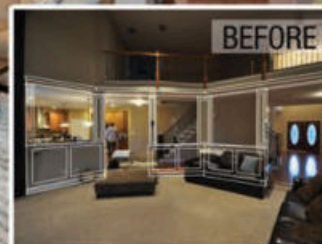
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“I feel the benefit of installing a smart thermostat is that you are able to monitor your HVAC system via WiFi connection,” he says. “You can adjust temperature settings remotely and even verify if your heat and/or air conditioning system is working while you are at work or on vacation. This capability is especially important to the ‘snowbirds’ that fly south to enjoy warmer weather during the winter months.”

Watts adds that most smart thermostats offer seven-day programming with four options per day. And some even come with a remote sensor to help balance out areas of the home that may be too cold or too warm. Homeowners who decide to go this route may be pleasantly surprised by the savings—not just long-term, but some instantaneous.

“You may be eligible for a rebate from your utility company for installing an energy saver thermostat,” advises Watts. “Check with your electrical supplier for details.”

Return on Investment vs. Return on Enjoyment

At the end of the day, incorporating smart home technology into your house is not just about saving money, it’s about making life easier. That

may make the “return on enjoyment”—that is, how much you enjoy your home—even better than the literal return on investment.

“Home automation’s return on investment is not something you can really calculate,” says Valley Automation’s Leonard. “Sure, you will save energy by dimming lights or adjusting the thermostat. But you can’t really put a price tag on comfort, convenience and ambiance—and on the way that smart home technology improves your overall quality of life.”

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RESOURCES

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Get an Early Start on Fall Organization

When it comes to cleaning, most people focus on kitchens, bathrooms, closets and basements, overlooking a key component of their home: the garage. It's the primary entry for the majority of homeowners, family and friends. Yet, it's often a catch-all for bikes, sports gear, tools and more. With so much foot traffic, clutter looks unsightly, and creates safety concerns and stress as well. A well-organized garage improves access to your home, and you wind up with more efficient storage space than you realized you had while making this year's cleaning easier than ever.

Les Hutton of GarageTek of North and Central New Jersey says a garage makeover can make a big difference. "Removing clutter is at the top of everyone's list, and the garage is a great place to start," he says. "Homeowners need to easily locate their seasonal items during this transi-

tional time, when summer items are still being used, but also to get fall gear ready—rakes, leaf blowers, etc., as well as golf and fishing gear. Kids will also need to be able to reach their toys and easily put them away after using them."

GarageTek can help you take a fresh look at your garage and make it truly functional. "As part of our garage makeover services, we will help customers assess their space, figure out what should be kept and what they should get rid of," says Hutton. "Once we know what items are staying, we present and deliver cost-effective organization and storage solutions."



GarageTek offers flexible systems of hooks, shelving, cabinets and fixtures to get used items—like bikes, beach equipment and tools—up and out of the way. Special hooks, racks and baskets are available for everything from surf boards to scooters to golf clubs. Hutton says, "Imagine getting ready for practice and going to a dedicated spot in the garage where all of

the gear is safely stowed. It removes stress and gets you out the door in a better mood and on time."

He adds that an organized garage is much safer for kids, who are often injured when they trip over something left on the floor. "We help make the garage a safer place for the entire family to use."

And homeowners don't have to do the whole garage at once. You can set small goals, like organizing one wall at a time, or getting the car(s) to fit in. "We have an endless choice of designs and solutions that can address your needs and fulfill your goals throughout the year," Hutton says.

Homes with a clean, organized garage create a real wow factor for visitors—and potential buyers—who see this unexpectedly finished, clutter-free space as a positive reflection on the entire property. GarageTek of N&C NJ recently earned the coveted Angie's List Super Service Award, reflecting exemplary service to members. "We are extremely grateful to our thousands of satisfied customers, including many Angie's List members, for their continued support over the past 13 years," says Hutton. **H&H**

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