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**GEHMAN DESIGN
REMODELING**

*The attention to detail that comes
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Architectural Concrete Design

Bringing unmatched expertise and a designer's
eye to decorative concrete projects *page 15*

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Dilworth's Custom Design

Making design dreams
come true

page 11



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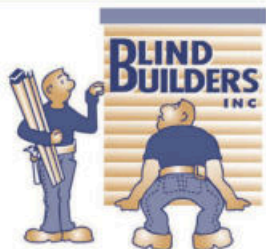
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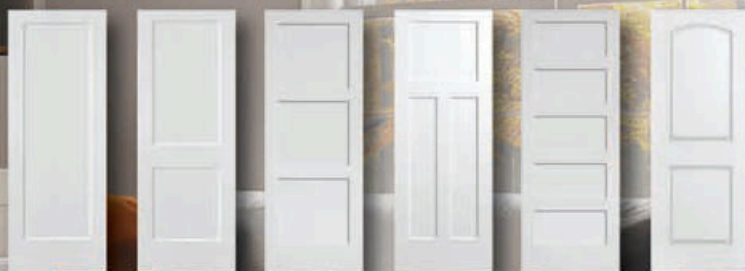
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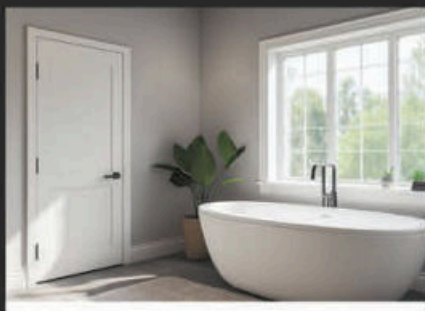
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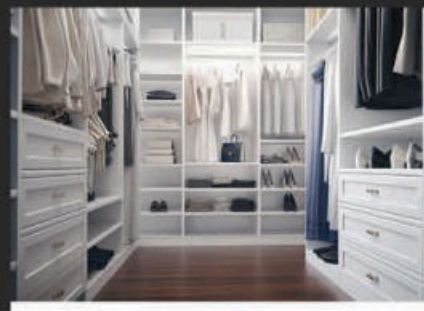
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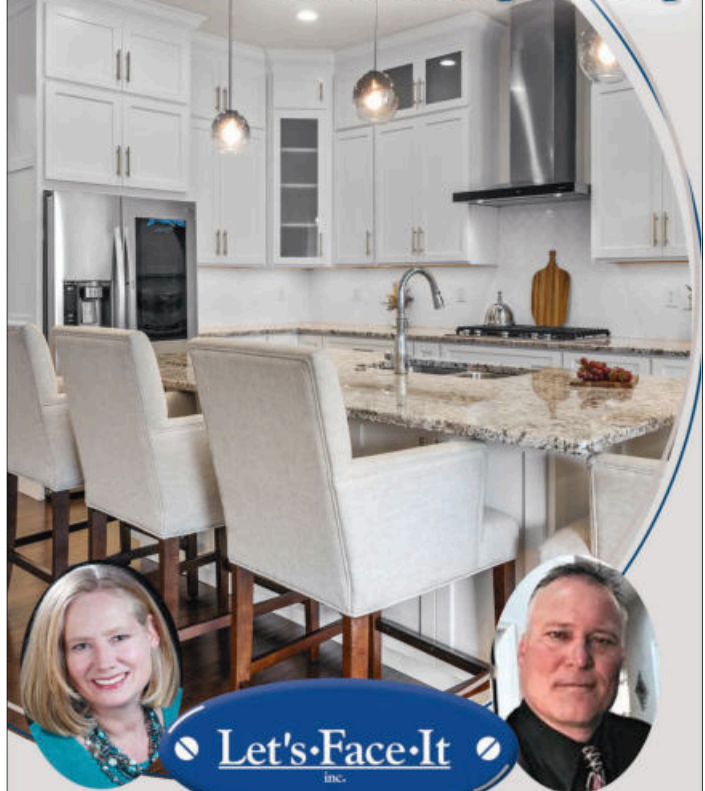
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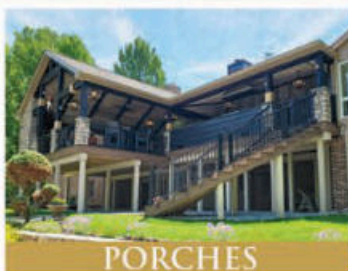


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Bespoke Beauty

The team at **Dilworth's Custom Design** always aims to be the one-stop shop delivering painstakingly personalized home renovations and constant customer care every step of the way—even well after the project is done.

by **Madeleine Maccar**

For more than 30 years, the family-owned Dilworth's Custom Design has been handcrafting impressive, thoughtfully personalized kitchens and bathrooms while consistently facilitating a smooth, highly communicative process from conception to completion.

Owner/CEO Dan Dilworth invited first-time clients Erin and Tom Schaible to discuss why they're happy to have trusted Dilworth's with a major renovation project encompassing their home's entire ground floor. That included a laundry room expanded into the garage to create a mudroom, a completely redesigned fireplace, updating the powder room, all-new flooring and the biggest project of all: removing a wall between the kitchen and dining room and then redesigning the kitchen to fill that space.

The Schaibles turned to Dilworth's based on a friend's enthusiastic recommendation. While her own kitchen remodel stood as a testament to the company's design and construction artistry, she also spoke highly of the process leading to such stunning results.

"She said that they worked with her every step of the way from design to finishing details, and we knew that was what we needed," the husband and wife affirm.

The couple kept putting off their first-floor overhaul because it was so daunting in its scope that Erin "didn't even know where to start." And after she had invested an incredible amount of time and energy into ensuring previous smaller-scale remodels yielded the results they were looking for, the Schaibles wanted to hand over the reins to a full-service provider while remaining actively involved in the project.

Dilworth's proved to be the perfect team for the job almost immediately.

"They took an overwhelming project and helped break it down into manageable parts," begins Erin. "Dave Dilworth [director of sales and design] started with a suggested layout for the kitchen that we loved and thought was the best use of the new space, and then the team worked with us to really personalize it for the way we live. We discussed every single cabinet and drawer in detail to make sure the layout was the best use of space for us. ... We worked with Natalie [Moyer, sales and design associate] during this process, and she really listened to how we wanted our kitchen to function and then suggested ways to make it happen. Her ideas and experience were invaluable."

Erin adds that Moyer "could not possibly have been more patient" as the design professional pored over multiple images Erin supplied to arrive at diligently customized options, right on down to, for example, coming up with "the perfect crown molding for our space by combining three different pieces of trim—she even had the shop put together a sample so I could visualize it in our space."

A commitment to customer satisfaction through creative solutions was a constant no matter the Dilworth's representative and project phase.

"After the general layout was finished, Dilworth's walked us through all of the details we had to decide on. Many were things that we would have never even thought about on our own. They had great advice for us, patiently explaining the pros and cons of each choice," says Erin. "Redesigning the fireplace doesn't sound like a big project, but we managed to turn it into one. ... We worked with Aaron [Stallone, CAD drafter] who designed this space using [computer-aided design], and his attention to detail was absolutely amazing."

"My biggest request in the kitchen was adding windows on either side of the stove to let in more natural light," Tom adds. "There really wasn't a lot of room for windows, but the team figured out how to make it happen."

In addition to their feedback being heard at every stage, the Schaibles also appreciated the care with which Dilworth's regarded their home: "Before leaving each night, the team cleaned up everything. They vacuumed, swept, put away all of their tools, and even covered any holes in the subfloor so our cat couldn't get in them." It also helped that the team understood how the inconvenience of living around a construction site is softened with a clear timeline.

"Ryan [V., site manager] met with us every morning to discuss what they would be working on that day," explains Tom. "He also gave us longer range projections for what they hoped to accomplish each week. While they were in the house, they were very respectful of the fact that we were still living there. They gave us plenty of advance notice for days where they needed to shut off the water or power."

"Ryan and his team went out of their way to hook up our washer and dryer just about every night," adds Erin.

From the beginning, the Schaibles understood that "during a project as large as ours, you expect that a few things will not go according to plan. What matters to us is how the team responds to these things, and Dilworth's has a clear commitment to making them right!"

"Their commitment to their clients doesn't end when the job is finished," Tom confirms. "So far, Dilworth's has only completed this one large project for us but based on our experience, we would not hesitate to hire them again."

Visit DilworthsCustomDesign.com/Phoenixville-White-Kitchen-Remodel to check out more project photos. **H&H**

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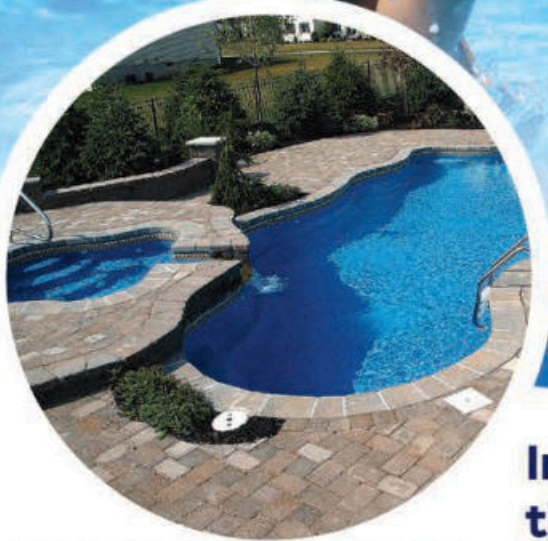


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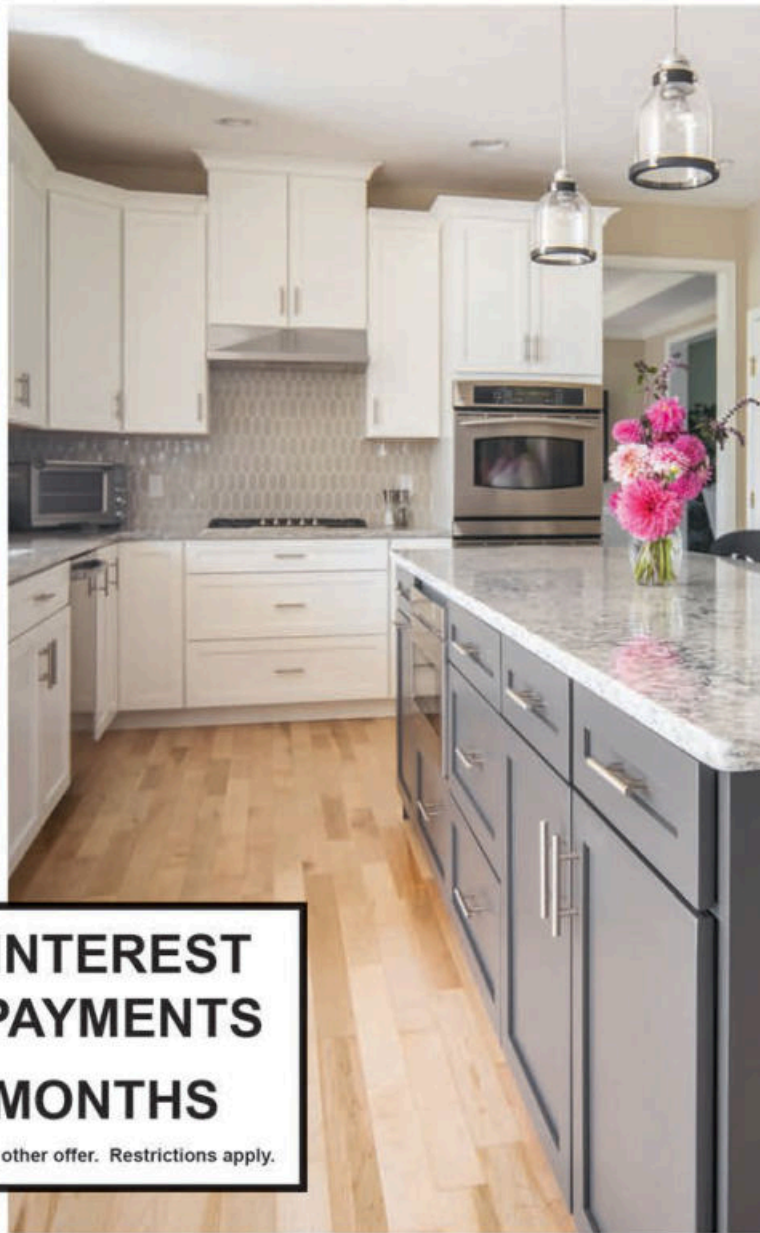
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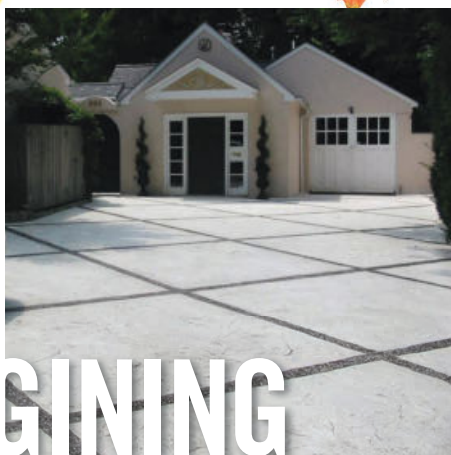
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REIMAGINING CURB APPEAL



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IN THE EARLY '90S, DECORATIVE CONCRETE WAS A LITTLE-KNOWN ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENT ON THE EAST COAST.

That all started to change when Architectural Concrete Design, or ACD, came onto the scene in 1993. When founder Chris McMahon started the Levittown-based business, his aim was to introduce the Greater Philadelphia area to the innovative world of decorative concrete.

"Our foundation was built on the principle of blending aesthetics with functionality in concrete designs," ACD's Managing Partner Steve Abel says. "This innovation rapidly positioned ACD as the leading decorative concrete installer on the East Coast. Our journey of innovation continued as we developed custom stamping tools, contributed to industry-standard application techniques, and consistently delivered unparalleled installation quality."

He continues, "What truly sets ACD apart is our unwavering commitment to decorative concrete. Unlike many in the field who might dabble in various construction areas, we focus solely on this specialty. Our team, led by foremen with over 25 years of

experience, understands the art and science of decorative concrete."

From its location on New Falls Road, ACD specializes in a variety of decorative concrete solutions: stamped concrete, which can replicate stones, tiles or bricks; exposed aggregate, which creates a textured surface by exposing rocks, pebbles, sand or other material mixed in with the concrete; and colored concrete, which comes in a wide selection of shades. The company also offers comprehensive maintenance services for clients' existing concrete structures.

Decorative concrete is a longer-lasting, easier-to-maintain product that is also more cost-effective than traditional materials. The design options are seemingly endless, too, with sophisticated styles and trendy finishes—or even the chance to create something completely outside the box.

ACD can install its products wherever a client is looking to improve aesthetics and functionality around their property, too. This includes pool decks, driveways, patios, walkways and more. The company strives to showcase its expertise and excellence in every project, whether it's a commercial job or residential property.

"Our approach is meticulous, ensuring the use of superior materials, adherence to optimal curing times and deployment of skilled crews," Abel says. "This dedication to quality, coupled with our 30-year legacy as both a residential and commercial contractor, has cemented our reputation among the region's top builders."

Abel says ACD's philosophy is encapsulated in its motto: "We only have one chance to be perfect, do it right, do it now, whatever it takes." This sentiment is a reflection of the company's commitment to excellence, which it achieves by ensuring top-tier talent, the finest materials and best-practice installation methods.

"Our customer-first mentality is at the heart of our operations. We understand the challenges of transforming raw materials into artistic products under time constraints, and we thrive in this demanding yet rewarding environment," Abel says.

ACD is ready to meet the needs of every client, whether it's a seasoned professional with precise requirements for the project they're envisioning or a brand-new customer who wants to find out how stamped concrete can transform their home.

"We tailor our approach to each client's needs," Abel says. "Our design team plays a pivotal role in this process, helping clients understand the product, market trends, and how these align with their personal preferences and functional needs."

Collaborating in this way ensures a customized project that is going to please the client, according to Abel.

And becoming an ACD client is as easy as giving the office a call or submitting an inquiry through the company website.

"We welcome everyone, from homeowners exploring decorative concrete options to ready-to-proceed customers," Abel says. "Our team is passionate about what we do and eager to assist clients in making informed decisions." **H&H**



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EXPERTS YOU CAN TRUST

BY STAFF

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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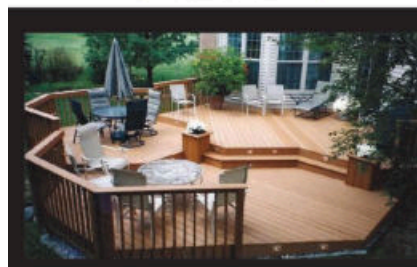
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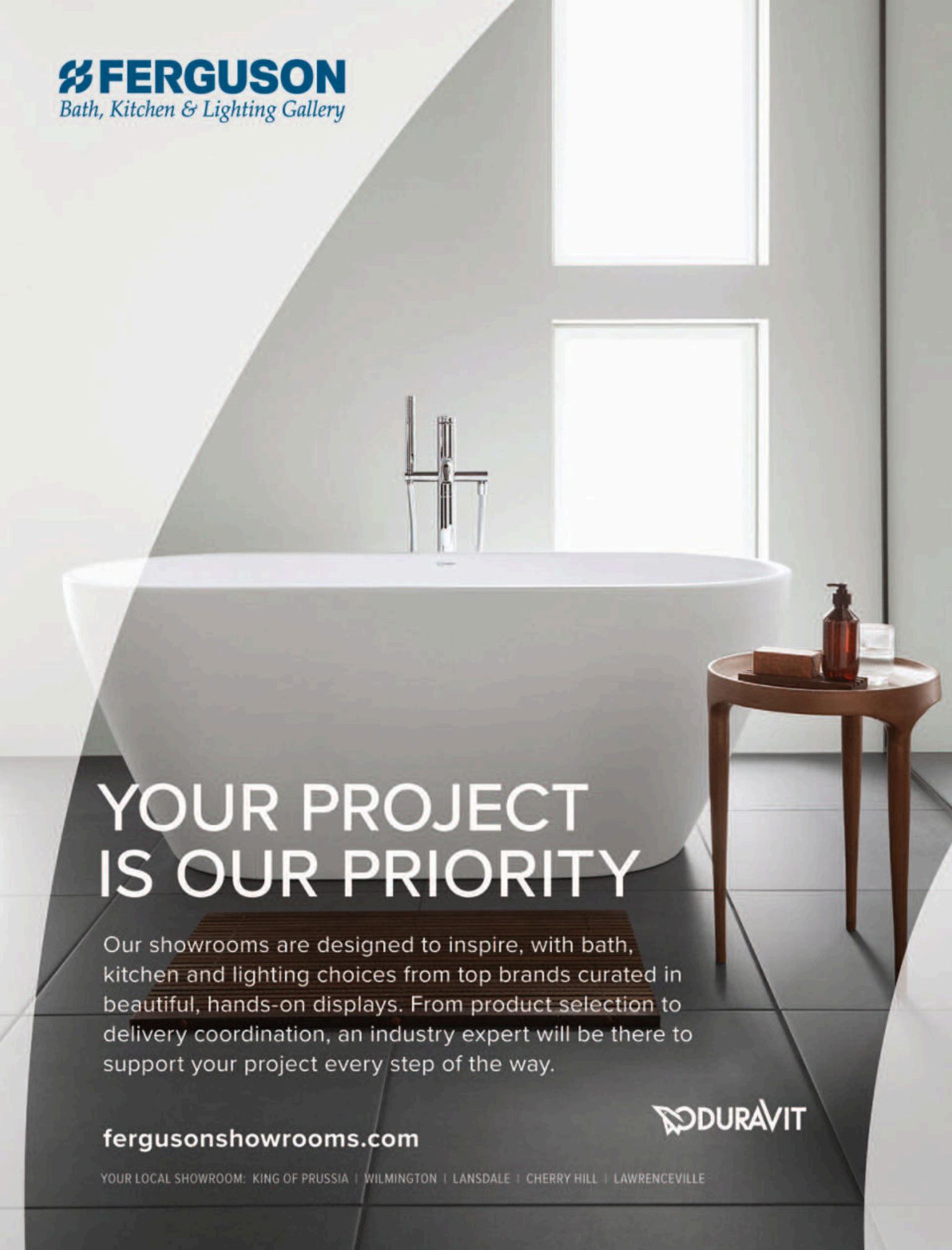
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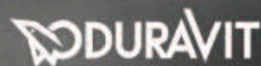




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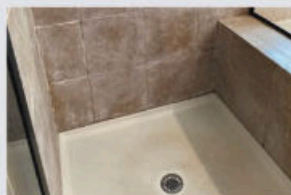
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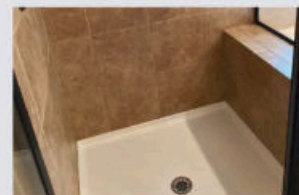
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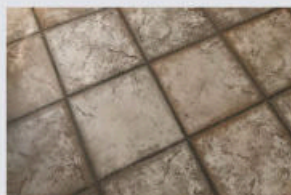
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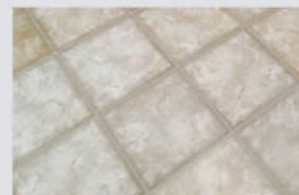
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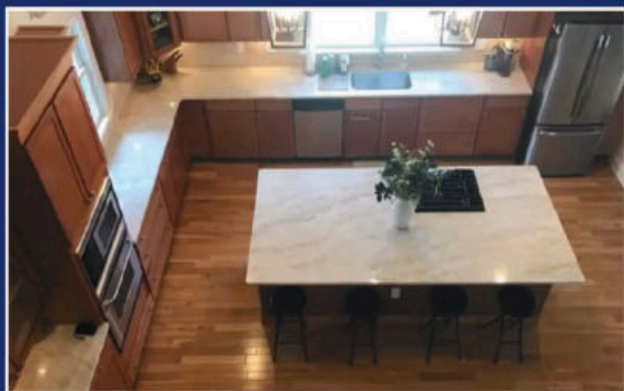


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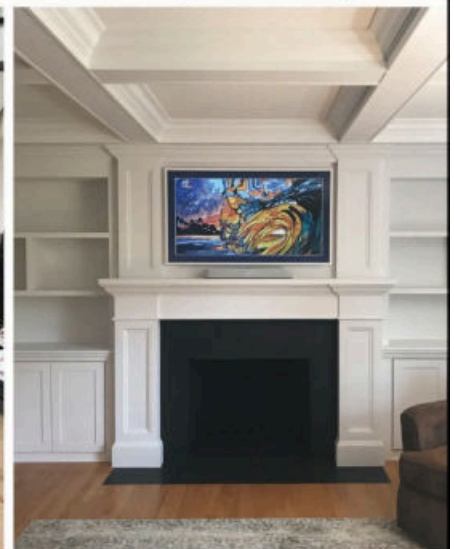
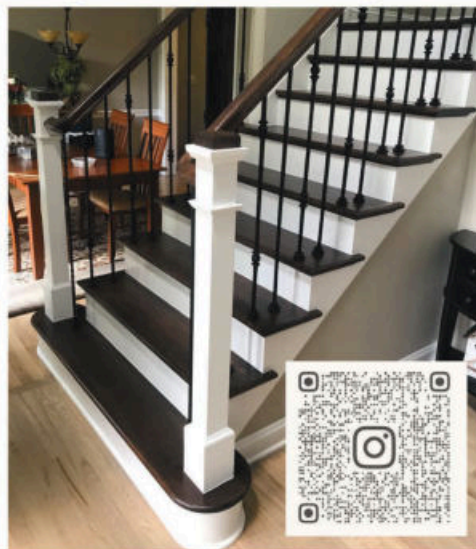
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These problems result in higher energy cost, breakdowns, loss of warranty coverage, indoor air quality situations, fires, electrical shorts and comfort issues for a system you depend on the most. None of us would

hire an unqualified, uneducated doctor to work on our bodies, so none of us should want to have unqualified people installing, maintaining or repairing today's high-tech HVAC systems.

Today, we have to be cautious about the HVAC industry. It has been infiltrated by big consolidators and giant financial institutions that are looking for immediate profits. They have purchased many small- and medium-sized HVAC companies to become the mega monopolies in this industry, utilizing techniques and marketing strategies run by salespeople and advisors only worried about the highest-closing dollar margins and not utilizing technicians who are looking out for the best interest of the homeowner, their safety or comfort.

Farrel Shuster, the owner, founder and leader of FamilyHVAC.com has a team spanning generations of experience. Shuster is one of the few heating and air conditioning owners still in the industry who understands this business the best after performing over 400,000 HVAC system installations and 1 million repairs in his lifetime. He created a company that caters to customers with the most pleasurable, old-fashioned customer service, high-tech monitoring and dispatching systems, competitive pricing and financing options, as well as employing and educating the highest-quality technicians and professionals to supply customers with an exceptional experience.

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FamilyHVAC.com is not in any way your typical heating and air-conditioning company, proven by the experiences customers have had from its thousands of five-star Google reviews. HVAC systems are not just a bunch of metal cabinets, wires, ductwork and piping that are put together like Ikea furniture: HVAC systems today are precision-made components that need to be custom-designed to adapt and fit in your home by talented, educated and trained individuals backed by competent, financially secure management and personnel to properly protect your family and investment.

Purchasing an efficient, dependable comfort system is not as easy as purchasing any other appliance that comes in a box, setting it in place and plugging it in. Today's complex systems require experience and education in many areas—including, but not limited to: heating and air conditioning theory, heat-transfer physics, air-flow training, carpentry, ductwork design, electrical-control knowledge, plumbing skills and knowledge of air-quality issues.

Many people have their guy or rely on what their neighbor said. This sadly results in a

decision not based on quality and value for the dollar, but a price decision.

If there is no transparent conversation, there will be no way for a homeowner to make the best educated decision for their hard-earned dollars. There is a very high cost in low quality. This is a difficult decision for a homeowner to make on such an important part of your family's comfort and health, protection of you and your home as well as your wallet.

This is where FamilyHVAC.com has earned all of its five-star Google reviews and where their team can excel and help. FamilyHVAC.com has generations of technical experience as well as constant, ongoing training for all of its field repair, installation technicians and office personnel.

The company is proud to post all of its certifications, licenses, educational diplomas and awards to set it apart and show clients what they are investing in. You can always find an uncertified handyman or good old Dan and his van or Chuck in his unmarked truck, but the outcome will be a repair that will fail: a dangerous unit or a system that does not produce the effi-

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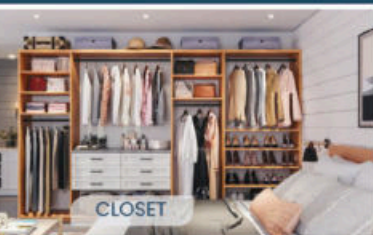
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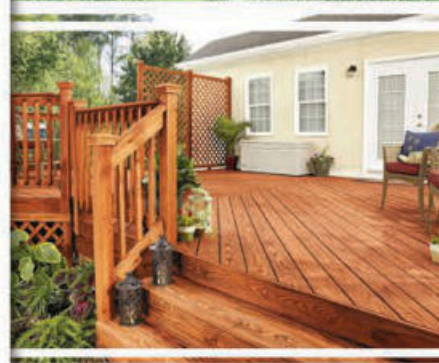
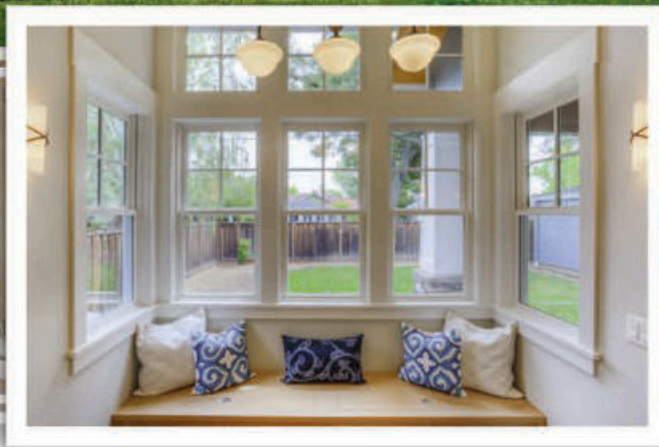
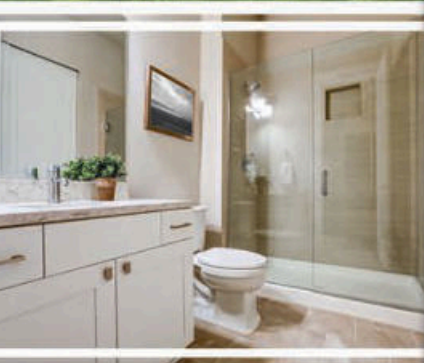
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About-Face

With modern technology and decades of experience, Let's Face It gives your kitchen a brand-new look without the hassle of a remodel.

After many years of living in the same home, it becomes easier to spot the areas where we'd like to have a fresh look. The furniture could be updated now that the kids aren't climbing all over it, the carpet could be pulled up in favor of hardwood and especially in the kitchen, where we spend so much of our time, the cabinets have seen better days.

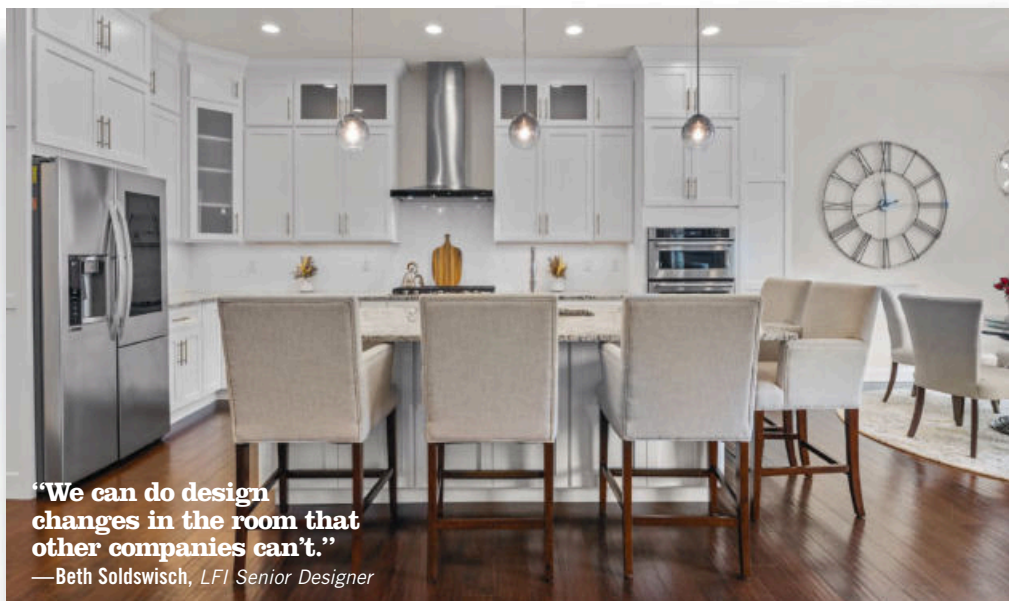
However, the prospect of a full kitchen remodel often causes people to delay that update. Between the permitting, the disruption of your family's daily life and the length of time, it's not very convenient—not to mention the cost.

Cabinet refacing is a cleaner and more organized approach to remodeling—an alternative that more homeowners are embracing. Let's Face It, established in 1984, is the oldest cabinet refacing company in Southeastern Pennsylvania and has continually developed modern, state-of-the-art technology and design to reface and enhance an outdated kitchen for 60 percent less than a full remodel, and often in as little as five days. Locally owned and operated by David Cerami, CKBR, Let's Face It (LFI) has worked with thousands of homeowners and is nationally recognized as a pioneer in the cabinet refacing industry.

"Our projects are professionally designed, engineered and installed by our own highly skilled employees," says LFI Senior Designer Beth Soldswisch.

A consultation with homeowners will include the clients' ideas being heard, as well as the designer presenting options that will bring those ideas to life. "We want to look at the rooms that are adjacent to the kitchen, especially if it's an open concept floor plan, and suggest something complementary so the space will flow," Soldswisch says.

Using your existing cabinet framework (if structurally sound,) LFI replaces the doors and drawer fronts with designer-quality products. LFI covers the cabinet boxes with



matching veneers and panels and the company's environmentally friendly process uses low-odor, non-toxic, EPA-regulated water-based adhesives.

Clients can choose any style door in an almost unlimited range of materials. Shaker, modern and minimalist or traditional are all options. Stained genuine woods like walnut are gaining in popularity. LFI also offers durable painted products in a wide range of colors with custom colors also being available.

"The industry is heading toward products that are more durable, longer-lasting and easy to clean, especially for homes with children," Soldswisch continues. For this look, LFI offers the highly popular 3DL finish, which is chip resistant and cleans with soap and water. "3DL finish is considered identical to a painted design and is also offered in a contemporary or primitive wood grain, available in classic Shaker, raised panel traditional and the European modern total-flat panel," she says.

LFI can take the cabinets a step further than others in this industry thanks to its full-service local wood shop. Homeowners can add custom cabinets, unique islands and tall pantries to their kitchen at a reasonable price.

"We can do design changes in the room that other companies can't. LFI frequently removes outdated built-in desks and replaces them with base cabinets for additional storage and counter space. Another great option is using that area for a beverage station with a built-in wine fridge. We can create a built-in frame around the refrigerator for a custom look. Other modifications include changing base cabinets with doors to sturdy pot drawers, putting microwaves in islands and installing matching floating shelves," Soldswisch says.

dswisch says.

LFI is not limited to cabinets and many homeowners prefer the simplicity of its one-stop shop offerings. Clients may choose to add a new countertop as well, such as quartz or granite, and both products are now offered with lifetime sealers, in addition to tile and glass backsplashes with high-performance, factory-sealed grouts.

LFI also has licensed mechanical contractors, electricians and plumbers on staff. "Nearly everyone gets our LED under-wall cabinet strip lighting which is longer-lasting and 80 percent less costly to use than incandescent lighting," notes Soldswisch.

On completion, projects are certified with a lifetime cabinet refacing warranty. "Imagine, today, being able to hire a remodeling professional and at the end of the project you are given a lifetime warranty on both the labor and materials. This is not offered by any other company," Soldswisch says.

LFI maintains a stellar reputation in the industry, with a 97.8 percent Guild Quality performance rating—one of the highest grades in the industry—and has been recognized with several Best of House & Home awards. **H&H**



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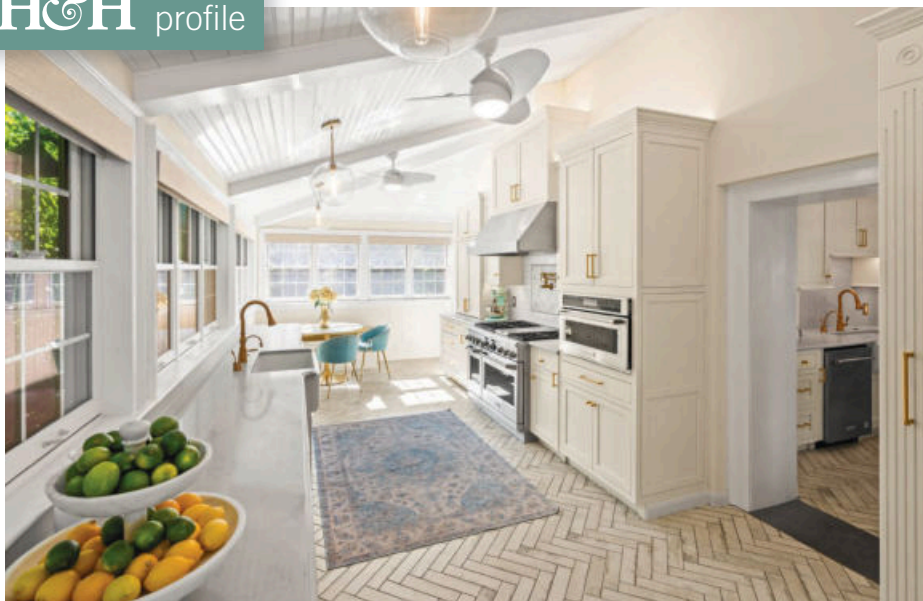
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“Should I hire a design-build firm for my next remodeling project?” Dennis Gehman of Gehman Design Remodeling weighs in.

by Bill Donahue

Undertaking any home-remodeling project requires a certain leap of faith. For those looking to remove some of the uncertainty, Dennis Gehman suggests one way to complete the project in a seamless, economical, and less stressful manner: Hire a design-build firm.

“Basically, it’s one-stop shopping,” says Gehman, president and co-founder of Gehman Design Remodeling in Harleysville. “Maybe people know they want a new kitchen, a room addition, or a finished basement, but they’re not sure who to call first, an architect or contractor. A design-build firm is able to help them with everything from start to finish.”

Gehman says many people don’t understand the value a design-build firm brings to the table. Simply put, a design-build firm has a team of designers, architects, and tradesmen all working hand in hand. In addition, Gehman says most design-build firms take care of all the necessary permits and engineering work needed to complete the project.

“In our firm, the people who are doing the design upfront are in conversation with our production department and tradesmen,”

he adds. “If they arrive at something out of the ordinary, the designer can say, ‘This is what we want to achieve and here’s what we were thinking to make it happen; you have the tools, so what do you think?’ It’s a more collaborative way of doing things.”

Some people believe they might be able to save money by hiring disparate professionals who work independently—having one party draw up the plans and then putting the construction project out to bid. Although this approach might work to the homeowner’s advantage from time to time, Gehman has seen such arrangements result in certain details “falling through the cracks” in the construction phase.

“When we take on a project, everything about the project is on our minds,” he says. “The whole point of working with a design-build firm is that it should be less effort and less stress for the consumer. Another big value comes from the fact that there’s no blaming or finger-pointing if any problems arise, because the buck stops here.”

There’s also the issue of budgeting. Gehman says it’s important to work with someone who can help the homeowner plan for the unexpected.

“Maybe a homeowner has a budget of \$60,000 for a kitchen remodel,” he poses. “Does that figure include contingencies? If it does not, is going over that amount going to hurt your lifestyle? In that situation, we might recommend ways to do the job for a budget of \$50,000 as a way to plan for some of those contingencies, but without compromising the integrity of the work. Things come up, so we suggest leaving some wiggle room.”

Every new project begins with an in-depth conversation with the homeowner—about desires, budget and options going forward. From there, Gehman Design Remodeling uses sophisticated CAD software to create a 3D design of the proposed design to help each homeowner envision how the finished project will look. Some of the options discussed may help to prevent situations that can cost the homeowner significant sums in the future.

“Maybe what spurred you to want a new kitchen is that you’ve noticed the floor beneath the sink has gotten wet too many times, and now the cabinet floor is starting to sag,” he suggests. “One option would be to add a vinyl liner beneath the sink. It holds up to six quarts of water, so for a drip you don’t see until it’s been happening for a long time, the water will stand rather than absorb into the wood. It’s an inexpensive add-on, but it could save you hundreds or even thousands of dollars down the road.”

As a homeowner begins the process of identifying the “right” design-build firm for a job, Gehman offers the following advice: Interview several firms; meet them more than once, if possible; and check references. He also suggests learning about the team’s collective experience, including whether team members have gotten certified through NARI, also known as the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. Of the 19 people employed by Gehman Design Remodeling, four are Certified Kitchen and Bathroom Remodelers, three are Universal Design Certified Professionals, and Gehman himself is a Master Certified Remodeler.

“My best advice is to find someone you feel comfortable with, and someone you feel is going to be honest with you,” he adds. “If you have any hesitation up front, it’s not going to get any easier to work with someone once the dust starts flying.” **H&H**

➔ **FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT**
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The objective of this luxury kitchen renovation was to transform a 30-year-old, closed-off kitchen into a brighter, more contemporary space with ample storage and an updated work triangle. We worked closely with our clients to create a plan with a better flow for cooking along with a more sophisticated ambiance for entertaining. But the true jewel in this kitchen is the Tiffany Blue gas range with matching bell hood from Officine Gullo.

Lancaster, Pa.

(717) 295-0324

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Stonebridge Renovations

This master bathroom renovation included removing a wall and the complete demolition of walls and flooring, as well as opening up the shower. We used Nabi Harlequin glass tiles on the upper wall and Granada wallpaper to add further design elements. The custom wainscoting was another way to make a great statement with the space.

Malvern, Pa.
(484) 459-4920
Sb-Renovations.com



Master Design Cabinetry

This project transformed a neglected kitchen into a welcoming space for family gatherings. With Master Design Cabinetry and designer J.R. Glick, the homeowners revamped the kitchen with full custom cabinetry, adding a new nook and built-in elements throughout, creating a space beyond their expectations.

East Earl, Pa.
(610) 273-2212
MasterDesignCabinetry.com

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Kitchen Tune-Up

Upgrade your kitchen without the hassle of a full remodel! These homeowners upgraded their kitchen with cabinet refacing. We install new doors and drawer fronts, then cover the existing cabinet boxes with a veneer to match. You'll have a brand-new kitchen in no time.

Exton, Pa. | (484) 435-7430 | KitchenTuneUpMainLine.com



By Design Kitchen & Bath

At By Design Kitchen & Bath, our focus is on creating exquisite designs and always exceeding our clients' expectations. In this project the client wanted a hearth-style hood. We built that along with the cabinetry, which has slim shaker style doors and drawers in a color matched to a F&B color with custom panels on the dishwasher and refrigerator. The island, shelves and hood accent are in rift cut white oak. The 2" mitered countertop and the backsplash are a beautiful quartzite.

Short Hills and Milburn, N.J. | (201) 892-7649 | ByDesignKitchenAndBath.com



Let's Face It

This contemporary kitchen refacing project included white glossy cabinetry with white quartz countertops. What's more, a new wood island was fabricated in our shop with a black granite countertop and extra storage space underneath.

Lower Gwynedd, Pa. | (215) 343-2600 | LFIKitchens.com



HomeTech Renovations

This kitchen remodel of a home in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania has lots of unique features. The White Icing modified shaker cabinetry by Medallion has become quite popular in the industry and with homeowners. Meanwhile, the earl grey island is highlighted with wainscot paneling and a PentalQuartz countertop with Borghini finish.

Lower Gwynedd, Pa. | (215) 646-7477 | HTRenovations.com

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As a family-owned business, Exquisite Designs specializes in supplying beautiful and high-quality bathroom and kitchen products. In this bathroom renovation, the customer selected Luxe Gold Brizo fixtures and a custom Furniture Guild wall mount vanity. The addition of the coordinating Amba towel warmers completes this luxurious space.

Wayne, Pa. | (484) 584-4120 | ExquisiteDesignsPhilly.com



Main Line Kitchen Design

This Center City Brighton custom kitchen designed by Chris Rossetti features professional appliances and a light-up quartzite island countertop. Double-arched mullion glass doors with interior cabinet lighting frame the imported La Cornue range with convenient lift-up appliance garages at the ends of the countertop.

Philadelphia | (610) 500-4071 | MainLineKitchenDesign.com H&H

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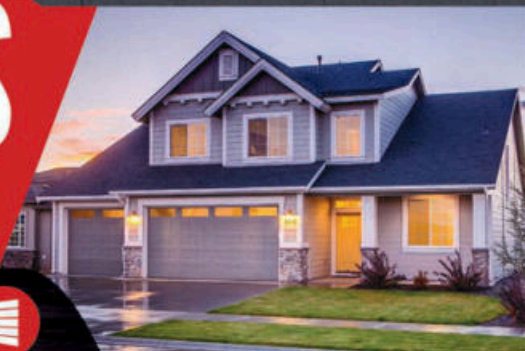
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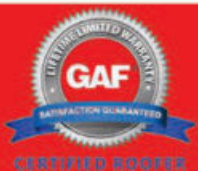

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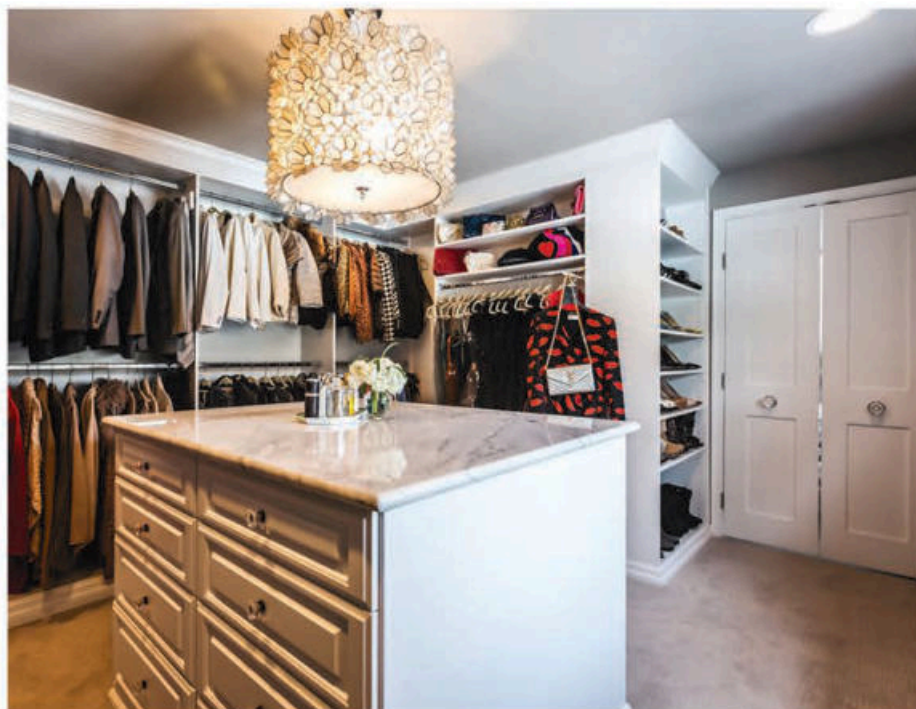


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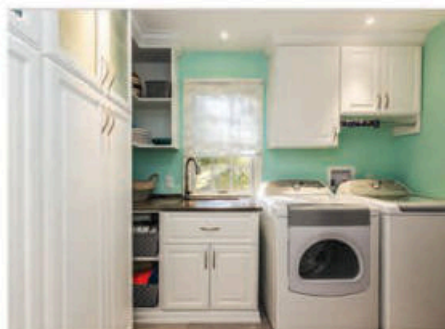
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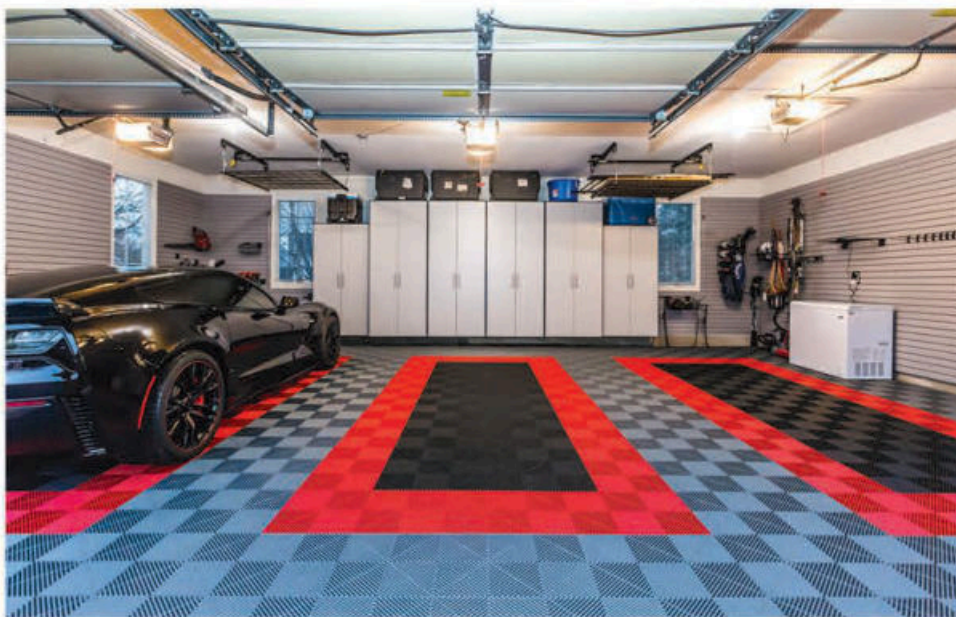
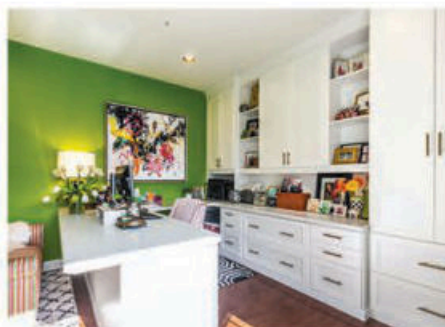
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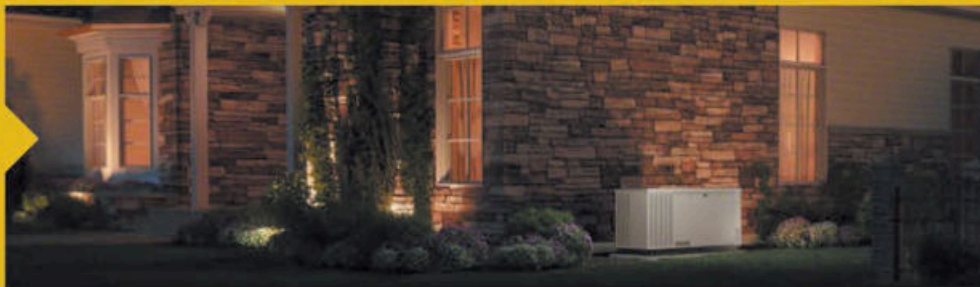
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