

Quality craftsmanship

Beautiful details

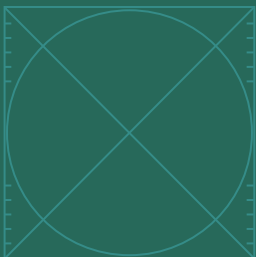
Artisans' skill



Residential Remodeling:



- Additions
- Kitchens
- Bathrooms
- Bedrooms and
Master Suites
- Attic Conversions
- Home Offices, Studies,
Studios and Libraries
- Family Rooms
- Porches
- And more...



The Silver Bulletin

Helpful and Interesting Information for Homeowners

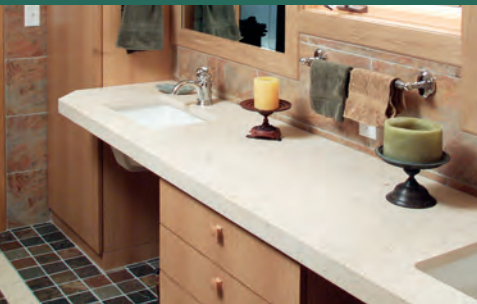
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Member:
National Association of
the Remodeling Industry (NARI)
Remodelers Advantage Roundtable
Minnesota BBB

Project Spotlight

This dramatic stairway was the third phase of the homeowners' plans to give their home the look and feel of a "lodge". It's the first thing you see through large windows as you approach the home and it makes a spectacular statement as you enter the foyer. The original stairs were completely removed, except for stringers, and the parts were replaced with hand-selected tree trunk newel posts and half-logs for stair treads. Metal railing parts were custom designed and made by a metalwork artist. The previous stages of work included adding log walls, rustic plank floors and stone. ■



New and Interesting Products

On-Demand Hot Water

Imagine having an endless supply of hot water for showers or laundry while saving money at the same time! The tankless water heater, popular for years in Europe and Japan, but relatively new here, can provide just that. Takagi-USA's T-M1 Flash Water Heater (shown) is about the size of a suitcase and can be installed in tight spaces or even outside (in warmer climates). This device never runs out of hot water because it begins heating only when the tap is turned on and then heats the water continuously as it flows through the unit. When the water is turned off, the unit shuts down automatically. There is no storage tank needed to keep the water supply hot all day and night, even when it's not being used. That saves energy and reduces your utility costs. The life expectancy of these units is 20 years or more, compared with tank water heaters that last 10 to 15 years. Tankless water heaters are available in propane (LP), natural gas and electric models, in a variety of sizes to meet your household needs. ■



Takagi Tankless Flash Water Heater
Photo courtesy of Takagi Industrial Co. USA Inc.



Your Flooring Choices Are Looking Up!

Once you've decided to use hard flooring instead of carpet for your home, you've only just begun!

First, decide whether or not you need a high degree of durability and what type of look and feel you are going for. Look at design magazines and visit flooring showrooms to get ideas of the possibilities. Also factor in what your budget can afford. (Most flooring materials are priced by the square foot, so at least the comparison part is simplified.)

Tile is available in so many sizes, colors, shapes and textures that your design possibilities are almost endless. Floor tile is easy to coordinate with tile used on walls and countertops. It is extremely durable, easy to clean and suited for high traffic areas. Glazed **Ceramic** and **Porcelain** tiles are very dense and therefore resistant to moisture. Unglazed **Quarry, Terra Cotta, Cement** and **Brick** tiles are good choices for informal settings, but are absorbent and require sealing for moisture and stain resistance.

Polished **Marble** and **Granite**, while elegant, can be slippery and are best

suited to low traffic areas. Honed marble has a dull finish which is more slip-resistant. **Slate** is available in dark, muted colors without much pattern. In a natural finish it requires extra cleaning because of the "wrinkles" in the rock where dirt can accumulate.

Wood, always a classic, is long lasting, easy to clean, warm and coordinates with any décor. It is available in a variety of shades and grains, as well as in planks, strips or parquet squares. Urethane finishes protect against fading and wear, but wood is susceptible to dents and scratches and is not recommended in areas where moisture could be a problem, such as basements and bathrooms.

Laminate is an engineered product made of permanently fused layers and can resemble wood, tile or stone but at a lower cost. It is durable, resists wear, fading and stains and is easy to maintain. Laminate floors can be installed in high traffic areas and below-grade basement locations where natural hardwood is not recommended. ■

Have You Heard What People Are Saying About Us?

"Terry and Gary,

Six months later — here we are. In our beautiful "new" old home — and we couldn't be more pleased.

Your vision for the possibilities lead the entire process and your management of every detail of the project was impressive. There are challenges with a house as old as ours, issues that could be of concern if not handled by seasoned professionals. We were confident that structural issues were being addressed as needed as the work progressed...

...Your team's carpentry is beautiful — and the attention to detail is apparent. Our sense was always that "acceptable" simply wasn't good enough. Many times, we saw extra time being spent to make sure that a certain element of the process was right before you moved on. It felt as though Mark and the team were taking the care they would on their own homes...

...You were on schedule — yet another unheard of experience in the world of construction as we had understood it. And the job site was always clean and

picked up, which made it easier for us to be able to stop by and watch the process.

As we said to Mark, we will think of you all for years to come as we enjoy our home."

Sue and Dave Lee

Trends in Home Remodeling

Remodeling is about personal choices that will make your home truly comfortable and fully functional for you and your family. But when making changes to your home, also keep an eye on what the return on your investment will be when you sell it. Knowing current trends can help assure that next year your newly remodeled home won't look as passé as an avocado green refrigerator.

The kitchens in demand are more open, with an island and cabinets fitted with rollout shelves, recycling centers, appliance garages, cooktop stoves and wall ovens. Granite and quartz are popular for countertops. Recessed lighting is being replaced by rows of low hanging lights in interesting shapes and sizes.

The Great Room, providing a flexible living space replacing the living and family rooms is desired for more casual, family-oriented lifestyles. Media rooms and home offices are also in demand, outfitted with "smart home" technology.

Master suites are the norm, with spa-like bathrooms that provide an oasis with soaking tubs or steam showers with multiple showerheads. Vessel sinks that are raised above the counter with elegant fixtures add to the feeling of a sanctuary from the world outside.

As Baby Boomers age, the concept of "universal design" is becoming more attractive. Incorporating wider halls and doorways, lever-type handles on door and faucets, storage cabinets with



pullout shelves, hand-held shower heads and countertops of varying heights can be done easily to accommodate people of all ages and abilities without making your home look clinical. ■

Thank You

We'd like to thank Peter Krembs and Rob Jeddelloh for hiring us to build their guest bath and bedroom remodel for their home. ■

Seasonal Reminders

- Change your Smoke Detector batteries and check that the detectors are working correctly every month.
- It's time to start taking down the screens and putting up the storm windows and doors.
- In late October or November you should turn off the outside faucets for the season.
- Clean your gutters and downspouts of dead leaves and debris.
- Have your chimney cleaned before you use your fireplace for the first time this season to prevent chimney fires.
- Change your furnace or HVAC air filters. Change air filters monthly or following the unit's instructions.
- Instead of using salt and chemical ice melting products, which can damage concrete, consider using play sand, kitty litter or poultry grit. While these do not melt ice and snow they help make the ice less slippery and provide some traction without harming the concrete. They are also environmentally friendlier than chemical deicers. ■

Referral Rewards – American Express Gift Cards

The majority of projects for new clients that Silver Bullet does every year come from past clients and company friends referring new homeowners to us. We are very grateful for your referrals. To show our appreciation, we are starting a formal referral recognition and rewards program. Beginning in 2005, when you refer someone to Silver Bullet who becomes a client of ours, we will show you our appreciation with an American Express Gift card worth \$250. ■