

Quality craftsmanship

Beautiful details

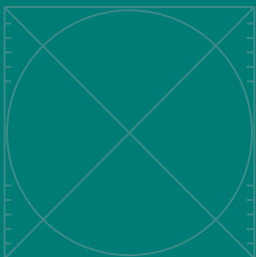
Artisans' skill



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

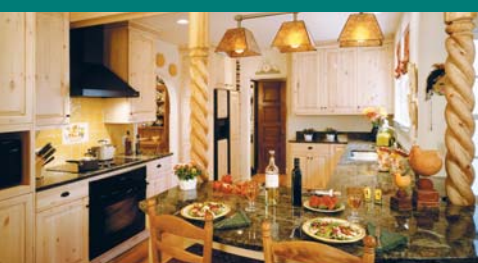
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**SPRING 2005
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Project Spotlight

This kitchen started out outdated, dark, and cramped in a early 1950's era home. To create a more spacious and light feeling, we opened the wall connecting the kitchen with the formal dining room, used light colored wood and added more windows. A food preparation island with a cherry table extension was installed so the family of three had a place eat when they didn't want to use the dining room. Having an outside door, the family uses the kitchen as their primary entrance. We solved the problem of where to put book bags, brief cases, purses and parcels by building a custom storage area (not seen in photo) for these necessities. To see a before photo visit our Web site. ■



Selecting the Perfect Paint Color

There are a lot of options between the "paint everything off-white" and "so many colors, so few walls" approaches. Color is one of the least expensive ways to revitalize and personalize your home's appearance, but you don't need to bring home every swatch from the paint store. Here are a few simple suggestions for selecting paint colors you'll love to live with.

First, consider the lighting in the room and its size. Warm colors such as yellow, orange and red can warm up a room on the shady side of the house. Cool colors – green, blue and purple – will counter the effects of a warm room with southern exposure. Small rooms can appear larger by painting the walls light colors, while large rooms with high ceilings will look smaller and cozier when painted a darker color. The trim and ceiling are often painted off-white or white tinted with the wall color, although adventurous homeowners looking for a dramatic effect may want to try a darker hue. Consider any architectural features that you might want to highlight with a contrasting color and also what colors are visible in adjacent rooms.



Next, look for inspiration from the colors of items that will stay in the room: the drapes, carpet or upholstered furniture. If you're redecorating from scratch, you can find color schemes you like in a magazine, painting, pillow or even a favorite scarf. Then take samples of whatever you can with you to pick out your paint chips.

Once you have chosen a color scheme, you want to make sure the paint you buy will match what you see in your mind's

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Member:

National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI)

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Landscaping

As you plan a remodeling project, you might want to consider integrating what you are doing to your home with a well crafted landscaping plan. Clayton Johnson of Yardscapes, Inc. explains, "A professionally designed landscape plan not only improves the curb appeal of your home, but also creates an enhanced sense of entry and drama."

Clayton continues, "The exterior space surrounding your home can be an extension of your home's interior space during all four seasons." He points out that in the spring, summer and fall the exterior of your home becomes additional living space. During all four seasons, thoughtful landscaping provides you something beautiful and enjoyable to look out at. Materials such as stone, brick, plants and lighting all interact and should be selected and arranged so that each season provides you something new. In the spring and summer, it might be the color of flowers, trees and shrubs, in the fall the colorful changing of leaves offset by evergreens, in the winter, it might be the way the snow



falls on trees, shrubs and stones. And don't forget, a properly lit landscape allows you to enjoy your home's

exterior space not only in the day but at night as well. ■

Light Bulbs Make a Difference

OK, selecting light bulbs may not sound like the most exciting topic, but bulb selection can make a big difference in the type and quality of light a fixture provides, the lifetime cost of the light and the energy it uses, maintenance costs and your safety.

First, always make sure that you use a light bulb that is appropriate for your light fixture or select a light fixture that is appropriate for the type of bulb you want to use. You must consider the bulb's type, base, wattage, size and shape. The wrong combination can cause an electrical and/or fire hazard.

Consider the type of light you want in the space: warm, cool or full spectrum. Do you want the light focused or diffused or a bit of both? Will the room have natural light as well as artificial? Do you want to use a specific type of

fixture and what types of bulb(s) can it use?

Are you concerned about energy savings? If so, you might want to consider fluorescent, compact fluorescent (generally with screw in bases) or the new LED light bulbs starting to appear on the market. These bulbs consume much less electricity than other types of lights (10%-30% typically over an incandescent bulb of the same brightness). Some, however, are more expensive to buy so the energy savings may take a while to achieve. Fluorescent bulbs generally come in warm, cool and full spectrum varieties. Full spectrum allows you to see colors similarly to the way they appear in sunlight.

Are you concerned about maintenance costs or hassles? You might want to



consider fluorescent, LED or extra long-life bulbs. These types of light bulbs can last many times the life of a standard incandescent bulb. Fluorescents generally last 10-20 times longer than incandescent bulbs and LED bulbs last even longer. ■

Planning for a New Project

A good way to start planning for a remodeling project is to think of what you want to do in the new space and not with the new space. For example, instead of thinking "I need a family room," think about what you want to do there: have large formal parties or small intimate gatherings, read or play video games. What can't you do with your home now that you want to? If you communicate these things, a good design/build firm, like Silver Bullet, can come up with a more effective solution than if you simply said you want a big family room. Perhaps the solution developed might be something you would never have thought of yourself.

Establish your priorities. Some things you NEED, others you WANT, and some things would be NICE but are not really that important to you. Some of these might relate to features of the project: "I really need an oven big enough to cook for a large group" or

"I want the addition to blend in with the architecture of the existing home". Some will be financial: "I need to stay within this budget". By preparing and sharing these priorities you will get more of what you need and want.

Start an idea file. Go through home design magazines, look on the Web, visit model and other homes and pull together ideas and photos of things you like and don't like. Share this with us so we can more effectively achieve great design for you.

Work with a remodeler you trust. Be open about your budget and ask your remodeler to be open about what they can achieve within your budget. Discuss if there are any trade-offs. Perhaps selecting a domestic tile for the bathroom instead of an imported one may be all that is standing between you and that Viking stove you love. ■

perfect paint color continued from front page

eye. Even if you're thinking "white" you can choose one that is pinkish, yellow-toned or with a hint of blue or green. The lighting in the room is an important factor and will make the color appear different on the walls than it does on the swatch in the paint store. Take the paint chips and view them at different times of day in both natural and artificial light in the room you're painting. Cover up the other colors on the same card and hold them vertically since that is how light will strike the surface of the wall. Remember that the color will appear more intense on a large wall than on the small chip in your hand.

If you're still not sure what to choose, buy a pint of the color(s) you're considering. Paint sections at least 2 feet square in different places in the room (like a dark corner and directly

opposite a window). Let the test patches dry completely, then look at them in various lighting conditions during the day and at night. This should give you a very good idea of what you can expect when the whole room is painted.

Once you've decided on the color, measure the room and count the doors and windows. This information, along with what color you're painting over, will allow your paint retailer to estimate how many coats you'll need and how much paint you should buy. Since paint batches can vary in color, having paint that is mixed all at the same time is the last step in making your room look perfect.

Now you're ready to proceed, knowing that there won't be any "surprises" in store when you're finished! ■

Thank You

We'd like to thank Scott Bodine and Kristy Egan for referring Linda and John Noble to us.

We would also like to thank Steve and Sheila Dicke for engaging Silver Bullet to design and build their new kitchen remodel and new master bathroom. ■

Seasonal Reminders

- Change your Smoke Detector batteries and check that the detectors are working correctly every month.
- It's time to think about taking down the storm windows and doors and putting up the screens.
- In late April or May you can turn on the outside faucets for the season.
- Check your roof, attic and upstairs walls and ceilings for signs of damage caused by the winter weather or ice dams.
- Change your furnace or HVAC air filters. Change air filters monthly or following the unit's instructions. ■

Have You Heard What People are Saying About Us?

"This was our 4th project (with Silver Bullet) in about 15 years. All have gone smoothly with long lasting quality results. I hear stories of problems dealing with other firms, including very prominent ones. (We have had) none with Silver Bullet. All Silver Bullet people listen and explain carefully." Elizabeth and Tom Carr ■

Referral Rewards – AmEx 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. ■