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Remodeling Tips



www.ddscarb.com

Courtesy of D&D Scarborough Inc.
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Photos: By James F. Wilson/The New American Home 2005

Suite Serenity

After their last child moves out and is finally on his own, many homeowners these days are seizing the opportunity to expand their master bedroom into the adjacent empty bedroom space, creating a grand master suite. Then there are

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From all of us at D & D Scarborough, Inc.



Have a Wonderful Holiday Season!

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those parents who simply want a quiet respite from the pre-teens who seem to have taken over their house. An addition to their home provides a tranquil spot for a master suite retreat. Or perhaps it is simply that the homeowner spent some wonderful days in a five star hotel suite with all the creature comforts, and now wants to recreate that luxurious atmosphere with his own "house candy." Whatever the reason for the decision,



Stylish lighted closet rods add sparkle to this walk-in closet.



The folding glass wall expands the sitting room to the outside, bringing in light and fresh air.



When activated, the mirrors on both ends of the tub become TV screens.

master suites are the third most popular remodeling project today, right after kitchens and baths. With continuous remodeling shows on television as inspiration, people are ripping out, reconfiguring and adding on to their master bedrooms as never before.

The master bedroom suite of the 2005 New American Home is a perfect example of the kinds of amenities people are asking for in their new master suites. The bedroom itself is ample, with plenty of space for a mini-kitchen tucked into an alcove for late-night snacks. On the wall opposite the four-poster bed is the latest in electronic living—a home entertainment center with a 42-inch plasma screen. Through the door one gets a sneak peek at the bathroom and its sumptuous two-person walk-in shower with multiple body sprays, a rainshower head, and a comfortable bench. In addition, a Kohler Sok overflowing tub, as well as his-and-her vanities, a separate closet for the toilet and bidet, and a private outdoor garden with a hot tub complete the spa feeling. Just around the corner is a spacious walk-in closet providing drawers, cabinets and generous hanging capacity, along with the convenience of a full-size laundry room. The suite's flexible sitting room can serve as a library or an office, an exercise room, a game room, or a comfortable TV space, depending on the desire of the homeowner. But, most importantly, the entire master suite serves as a refuge from the hectic pace of life outside those serene walls. □

Using state-of-the-art laser-etching equipment, PictureThisOnGranite transfers pieces of art in minute detail onto black granite. The etching is then hand-painted, creating depth and definition. In an already glamorous kitchen, this granite sunflower mural is a real eye-catcher! The etching has been treated with a protective sealant that should be re-applied twice a year for continued protection.





The World's First

The world's first stand-alone built-in microwave drawer, the Sharp Insight Pro, can be placed at the most convenient height for frequent use. The drawer opens at the touch of a button. There is no need to remove the dish from the oven to check or stir the food. Attendees at the 2005 Kitchen and Bath Industry Show voted the Insight Pro the Best New Kitchen Product of the show.

Every year amazing new kitchen appliances are introduced to the market, each one promising to make our daily life more comfortable and efficient. Here are a couple of recent award-winners.

The world's first built-in capsule coffee system, the Miele CVA 2000 series, uses sealed Nespresso capsules, each containing just enough ground coffee for one cup. The appliance produces coffee, espresso, cappuccino, milk froth or simply hot water. The system can be set up underneath or integrated with the cabinetry, and it does not require a fixed water supply connection. The CVA 2000 series won Miele the prestigious international Red Dot award for product design.

■ Kitchens have become so much more than functional spaces in which to prepare meals. Homeowners are making very personal design statements with their kitchens. From elegant countertops to stylish wood cabinets, today's kitchens provide a virtual feast for the eyes. The most impressive feature of many kitchens is the stainless steel professional range or cooktop with the mighty hood overhead. And don't forget the grand finale—the decorative backsplash—strategically located between the two.

Make a Splash

It is when designing this important focal point in the kitchen that some of the most creative juices get flowing. Trendy backsplash treatments in contemporary-style kitchens range from copper or stainless steel tiles, to small glass mosaics. In more traditional-style kitchens, murals are popular using hand-painted ceramic or porcelain tiles, ink-impregnated tumbled marble, or laser-etched granite. Each of these products allows homeowners the chance to individualize their kitchen spaces in imaginative ways. □



Select your favorite photograph and StoneImpressions will turn the image into a unique stone mural for your backsplash. The inks used to create this fruit basket mural on tumbled travertine have penetrated permanently into the stone and are guaranteed for 75 years. The image is protected by two different sealants. Always use mild, non-abrasive cleaners for maintenance.

HOT AND STEAMY

Steam baths are one of the oldest methods of healing in the world. Public steam rooms in ancient Rome and China were used to cleanse the body, cure illness, and rejuvenate the mind.

Today the benefits of steam continue to be recognized by health professionals. The inhalation of steam is an effective respiratory therapy, used in the treatment of asthma, sinusitis and bronchitis. Also, scientists believe the higher body temperature reached when one spends time in a steam room stimulates the immune system. What's more, it also helps the cardiovascular system by increasing blood flow and circulation. Steam deep cleanses and moisturizes the skin, a boon for those with dermatological conditions. Perhaps most appreciated, however, is the fact that steam soothes and relaxes minds and bodies after a stressful day.

Steam showers are no longer restricted to public baths or private clubs. Over the past 10 years, new products and technology have made it affordable to install a steam shower in new home construction as well as in home renovation. Steam showers come pre-packaged from a factory or can be custom designed for a particular bathroom. Homeowners who are considering adding a steam shower should research products carefully and hire experts to do the installation.

The basics of a steam shower typically include a fully enclosed shower stall with a sealed door, a compact steam generator with controls, a steam outlet and a showerhead. The stall should extend to the top of the ceiling, with a seven-foot-high ceiling optimum. The generator is an electro-

These various MrSteam components work together to create a custom steam shower:



Photo: Courtesy MAAAX (www.maax.com)

The Rainforest pre-plumbed shower includes the Rainmaax system in which water falls in delicate raindrops from tiny openings dotting the entire ceiling. Also included are multiple body jets, a hand shower, a steam bath and soft music. This shower won the Adex Gold Award in 2005 for design excellence in the bath category.

TEMPO wireless remote control

TEMPO low-voltage control, programmable with keypad

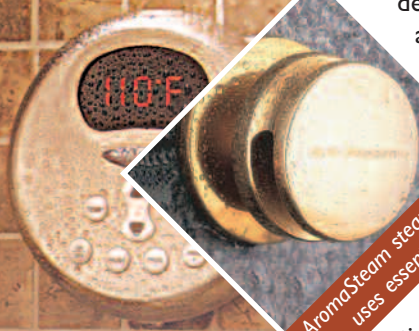


mechanical unit that can be concealed in a nearby cabinet or closet, and usually requires a dedicated 220-volt electrical line. Many units are supplied with electronic controls that let you set the desired temperature and the duration of the steam. Additional plumbing is suggested to allow for automatic back flush and drainage of the steam generator to prevent chemical or lime build-up.

Aromatic steam outlets are available for adding essential oils, respiratory medications, or aromatherapy scents that vaporize with the steam to provide an even more calming environment. A shower seat is optional, but highly recommended for comfort during extended time in the steam shower.

Installing waterproof speakers that are connected to a sound system lets one settle back and unwind with the music.

The experience of taking a steam shower is truly refreshing and revitalizing. A steam shower would be a wonderful addition to an exercise room, entertainment room or master suite. □



AromaSteam steam outlet, uses essential oils

MrSteam steam generator, with exclusive AutoFlush

