

Remodeling Tips



www.ddscarb.com

Courtesy of D&D Scarborough Inc.
VISA, MASTERCARD, DISCOVER

Telephones:

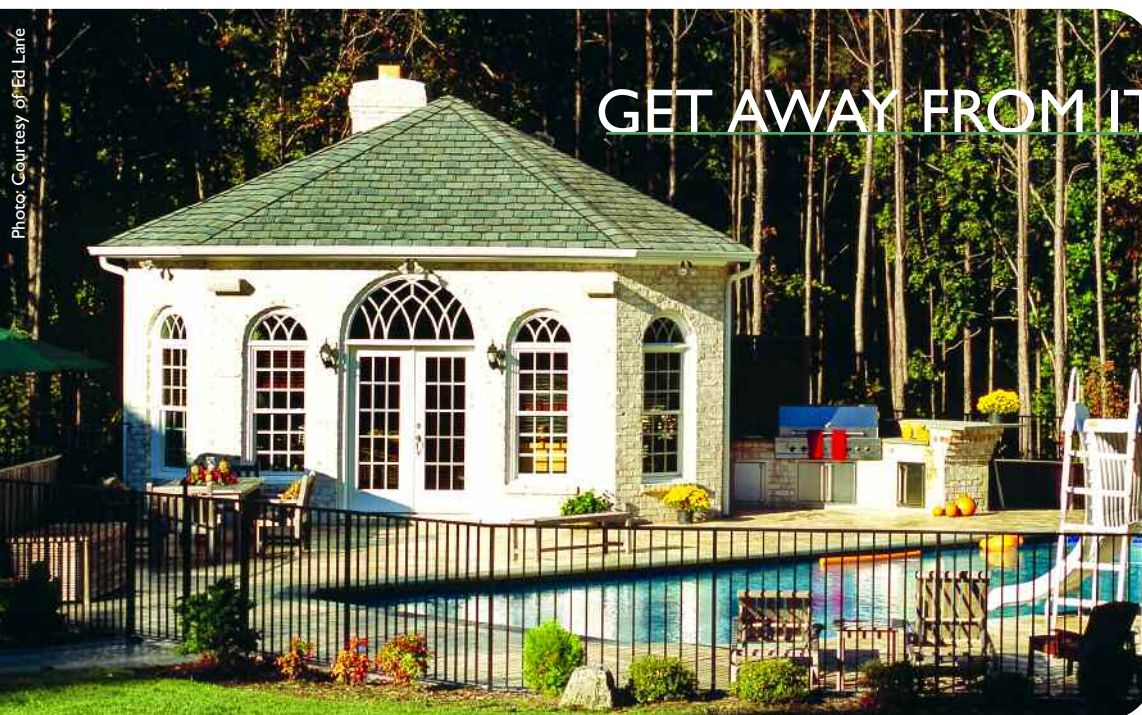
MD/PA Toll Free 1(866) 993-6846

PA (717) 993-6846

(717) 246-9534

MD (410) 692-2946

Photo: Courtesy of Ed Lane



GET AWAY FROM IT ALL

Would you like a secret get-away for your family, completely removed from the day-to-day pressures of the office and home—no phones, no computers, no unwanted visitors? A secluded place to relax totally and reconnect with your family on the weekends, surrounded by the tranquil beauty of nature.

Yes, but...

(continued on page 2)

IN THIS ISSUE

- Why Now is the Best Time to Remodel
- Get Away from It All
- Letting It Sink In
- Life in a Vacuum
- Opening Soon

Why **Now** is the Best Time to Remodel

- You probably know that **interest rates** are still very **low**.
- **Lumber** and other material **prices** are holding **steady**.
- **Excellent trade contractors** are readily **available**.
- You'll find that **remodeling** is usually **significantly less expensive** now than buying a new home.

Right now you should find out how easy it is to...

RENOVATE your kitchen; or

BEAUTIFY your bathroom; or

EXPAND a master bedroom suite; or

ADD space with a tastefully designed room addition.

Look at your present home as one of your best investments, and attain a better quality of living by remodeling **NOW**.

...given the hectic lives we often lead, what about those times when we just can't get to the beach or the mountains?

One busy, young-professional family has found their answer to this dilemma. They decided to build a vacation spot in their own backyard. Now when they can't leave town, they can pack up clothes, books, toys and groceries and move into their pool house—locking the door of their home and leaving their phones and the hustle and bustle behind. It may be for only one day or it may be for an entire weekend or longer, but they spend the night there! They live in the pool house just as if it were a cottage at the beach. Piney woods surround the entire backyard, so there is plenty of privacy. Their home is at the end of a long cul-de-sac, so there is no noise from traffic or neighbors.

The backyard vacation spot includes an elaborate brick pool house with an attached outdoor-kitchen, and a generous pool and patio area. The brick was carefully selected to ensure an exact match with the main house. To keep the kids well entertained while on vacation, there is also a large wooden jungle gym and an 8' x 10' playhouse. Three sizeable terraces—one featuring a hot tub—grace the stamped-concrete pathway meandering from the main house to the pool house.

The pool house great room has all the amenities a family could wish for—a big screen TV, stone fireplace, and practical furnishings designed for comfort and easy-care. There is plenty of space to curl up and take a nap or snooze away the night. Little children's feet on the sofa are not a problem here. There is also an ample kitchen, complete with every modern convenience, and a full bath. An outdoor shower is available in the pool area.

Photo: Courtesy of Ed Lane



Just smell the tantalizing aromas coming from this outdoor grill! When the kids come running, they can clean up first in the outdoor shower directly behind.

The outdoor kitchen includes a 53" Viking stainless steel gas grill with several stainless steel access doors for storage. The stainless steel bar sink and faucet were designed to withstand outdoor conditions. Bluestone was used for the countertop because of its good looks, ease of maintenance, and outdoor durability.

So, if you are missing out on vacation fun with the family because your schedule won't always allow it, consider some alternatives for those extra busy times. For at least one family, there's no place like home. □

Letting it Sink in

Solid surface integral sink



In years gone by, choosing a kitchen sink was not a difficult proposition. You basically had two options: cast iron or stainless steel. Today there are a myriad of choices, which can make planning your new kitchen very exciting and quite overwhelming all at the same time.

Sinks made from composite materials are some of the newest possibilities out there. There are several types of composites, including solid surface, quartz composite, and granite composite.

SOLID SURFACE sinks are made from a combination of acrylic resin and natural minerals. The same pattern runs throughout the thickness, so that if you scratch the surface all you need to do is sand it down. Solid surface is non-porous, so it will not support the growth of bacteria. One of the unique advantages of a solid surface sink is that it can be fused with a solid surface countertop to form one seamless piece, called an integral sink. With this arrangement there are no crevices to trap dirt and moisture.

Photo: Courtesy of XXL Innovations Inc. (www.mixa.de)



LIFE IN A VACUUM

Homeowners today are increasingly opting for central vacuum systems. Up until recently, this type of system has been viewed primarily as a wonderful luxury convenience. New studies have shown, however, that it offers numerous other benefits as well.

Basically, a central vacuum system removes all contacted dirt, debris and dust particles from your home and sends it through a network of tubing located in the walls to a receptacle located outside the living area.

The in-wall tubing is easily installed during construction or added to an existing home with no structural modifications needed. You only need to carry around a lightweight hose with a power brush unit and plug it into wall inlet valves placed in strategic locations. You can also include a built-in automatic dustpan that lets you sweep debris into a convenient wall vent.

There are two main types of central vacuum systems.

A filtered system cleans the air taken in by the vacuum with a variety of filters, whether cloth, foam or paper.

A cyclonic system uses centrifugal force and gravity to separate the dirt from the air being taken in by the vacuum. Both types need to have their filters cleaned periodically to maintain the effectiveness of the systems.

Many homeowners these days are deciding that a central vacuum system significantly improves their quality of life and is definitely worth the extra cost. □



Advantages of central versus portable vacuums

Cleaner air Portable vacuums exhaust dirt back into the room. Central vacuum systems move the dirt to a receptacle in a remote location, such as a garage. In a study conducted at the University of California at Davis School of Medicine, it was determined that the air quality and allergy relief was improved by over 50% with the use of a central vacuum system.

Alleviation of back strain Central vacuum systems eliminate the need to carry or pull heavy portable vacuums up and down stairs, and around the house.

More power Central vacuums have 3-5 times more power than portable vacuums. Because the power unit of a central vacuum system is stationary, it can house a more powerful motor.

Reduced noise Central vacuum systems operate more quietly, partly because the power unit is in a remote location, and is therefore insulated from the rest of the house.



Quartz composite sink



Photo: Courtesy of Moen (www.moen.com)

The **MIXA** sink is a solid surface sink that has a precision cut stainless steel bottom. With this combination, you have the beautiful color selections and easy-care of a solid surface integral sink, along with the durability of a stainless steel base—the best of both worlds.

QUARTZ COMPOSITE sinks are typically made from 70% quartz and 30% resin. These sinks are lustrous in appearance, resembling porcelain, and are resistant to scratching,

denting, and staining. They have a heat tolerance of up to 446°F. The color goes all the way through the material, which is also non-porous and very hard wearing.

GRANITE COMPOSITE sinks are formed from the most durable sink material on the market today, which is 80% granite, 20% acrylic resin. This material offers extreme stain, chip and scratch resistance and is non-porous. It has a heat rating of up to 535°F, so that a pan can go from stove to sink without marring the surface. These sinks will hinder thermal conductivity to keep dishwater warm longer. The color runs throughout the material, which is available in matte finishes only. □

Granite composite sink



Photo: Courtesy of Moen (www.moen.com)

Opening Soon

There is something very soothing about green growing plants and colorful flowers, the sound of gentle breezes moving through the trees, and birds greeting the new day. People have always had the desire to live among natural surroundings; and today's homes, more than ever, are blurring the distinction between indoors and outdoors.



*Voila!
The separation between kitchen and patio vanishes.*



Photos: Courtesy of NanaWall (www.nanawall.com)

Glass walls like these may appear delicate and airy, but looks can be deceiving. The rugged construction of the NanaWall SL72 glass wall system, for example, has been rated to withstand hurricane-force wind, rain, and flying debris. It easily passed the Miami/Dade County, Florida, hurricane test.

Perhaps you are now convinced, and you are considering opening your kitchen, great room or master bedroom suite to the outside environment. During certain times of the day, however, you would like a screen. A retractable motorized screen is a wonderful solution. These screens can be custom fitted to almost any oversized opening, including a glass wall application. Controlled by a remote, the screens retract completely out of sight, offer partial shading from the sun, or close entirely for privacy and protection from pests. A variety of screening materials are offered, with different shading, ventilation and color attributes to suit your individual needs. □

In the kitchen featured here, one entire wall is constructed of what appears to be a row of floor-to-ceiling windows. In actuality, the wall is formed from moveable glass panels that are hinged together and supported by a hidden overhead track and a single floor track. This entire glass wall—or any portion of it—can be folded away to either side, creating a seamless transition between the kitchen and the outside patio. The glass wall virtually disappears, expanding the room to include the stunning outdoor surroundings.

During inclement weather, the panels easily slide back into place, forming a secure, weather-tight, energy efficient barrier. When the glass wall is closed, end panels in the glass wall may be operated separately like French doors, opening inward or outward to allow access to the outside.

In order to enhance any décor, glass wall frames are available in a variety of colors and finishes, such as wood and durable aluminum cladding.

Photo: Courtesy of Phantom Screens (www.phantomcreens.com)



When halfway closed the screen provides shade from the sun.