



HIS, Hers and Ours

Article on page 2

Residential Design + Build

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Jewelry for the Kitchen

A ventilation hood attracts a lot of attention in the kitchen, if for no reason other than the sheer mass of the appliance. Perhaps it is an enormous, ornate wood and stucco canopy that appears to have originated in a medieval castle. Or it may be an immense commercial-style stainless steel hood with a simple, honest form derived from the restaurant industry.

Several new hoods introduced at the 2008 Kitchen and Bath Industry show were turning heads for a different reason. They were incredible examples of melding the technological and artistic sides of kitchen product design. Created

...continued on page 4



Photo: Courtesy of Elica (www.elica.com)

Elica's Wave range hood is a minimalist-style light source with a simple shape enriched by high-quality materials. It gives off a subtle radiance as light filters gently through undulating spaces cut into the stainless steel surface.

"Small" Jobs Require Planning Too

We often get asked if we do "Small" jobs—defined as handyman work by some, a bathroom or kitchen by others. The answer is a resounding, YES! While many contractors won't consider small jobs, we've found that the fit between the customer and our company—not job size—is the most important factor in job success.

Customers tell us they want us to take care of their smaller projects because they feel comfortable having our crews in their homes and confident that the work will be done correctly. And, if problems arise, they will be resolved promptly. Small jobs keep our crews busy between larger projects and when subcontractors are completing specialized tasks. A small job done well has led to many referrals for much larger jobs.

Just like a major remodel, a small job requires up-front planning. The scope of work and design must be clearly defined and all product selections made before work commences. This allows us to prepare an accurate, fixed-price quotation; order any long-lead time materials; and assign appropriate resources. Up-front planning assures that a "Small" job remains small and doesn't become an expensive, long-term headache.

The newsletter will be available in an electronic format beginning with the Spring 2009 edition. Watch for an e-mail to confirm your preference and for information on a series of seminars on topics such as "Green Building—Separating the Benefits from the Hype," "Why Design + Build Protects Homeowners," as well as "Financing Your Remodel" and "Return on Investment," both featuring local mortgage and real estate experts.

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HIS, *Hers* and Ours

Whether your busy day is spent at home or in the office, relaxing and unwinding afterwards in your own private spa-like bathroom can bring great pleasure. You will have an even greater sense of comfort and personal freedom when every aspect of that bathroom has been designed to perfectly suit your individual tastes and requirements. A woman may prefer a bath that uses soft, muted colors with a decidedly feminine appeal. A man may feel more at ease with the masculine look of strong, dark finishes. Therefore, when a couple is planning a luxurious master bathroom today, the trend is to design a combination his-and-her suite.

The master bath suite featured here offers two separate, private spaces along with a shared central bath area, allowing a couple to balance togetherness and personal space in their relationship. The design blends the entire area together through the use of classic symmetry, a basic black-and-white color palette, and wide-plank cherry flooring throughout. The centerpiece of the common area is a freestanding soaking tub resting on a floor surround of marble-like solid surfacing. A trendy black chandelier overhead adds the right amount of panache. Dual wardrobes provide each person customized space for organizing slippers, robes and towels. Built-in towel warming drawers are close by, offering the luxury of a toasty-warm bath towel in a matter of minutes. A spa bar provides storage and easy access to favorite spa oils and elixirs.

Her separate bath includes a dressing table with drawer dividers for organizing cosmetics, toiletries, hair accessories and more. Mirror panel inserts at the dressing table and a custom glass tile mural at the vanity give a modern edge to the classic furniture-style cabinets. His bath offers a revitalizing steam shower that includes a state-of-the-art shower control system, mood-enhancing chromatherapy and massaging body sprays. The classic vanity and its glass tile backdrop echo the design of her bath, but employ instead the serene colors of black, brown and dark grey.

The homeowners have the option of either sharing the space or having complete privacy when they need it. It's a very comfortable environment where no one needs to compromise.

*Featured in the
NKBA Design Idea
Center 2008: The
"Savvy Young
Professional"
bathroom by
Traditional Home
magazine.*



Photos: Courtesy of Traditional Home magazine

Bring it All TOGETHER

Today's spacious homes have given rise to all kinds of specialty rooms such as wet bars, game rooms, and dedicated home theaters. However, these specialty areas haven't always functioned in reality quite as well as some homeowners expected. They have discovered that people seem to enjoy themselves most when they share their activities with the rest of the group—not isolated in a separate room. People gravitate to where the action is, even when they choose to do something within the same space that is different from the rest.



Photos: Courtesy of Timberlake Cabinetry (www.timberlake.com)

If this is true for your family, it's time to try a different tactic. It's a waste of square footage to plan separate rooms in your home if they only get used occasionally whenever you throw a party. Encourage and enable togetherness by creating a club room that consolidates the wet bar, game room and theater-quality experience into one highly functional living space.

In the club room featured here, a flat-panel TV is installed at the wet-bar for those who want to follow the big game. Across the room others can settle-in on a cushy sofa, putting their feet up in front of the large screen for a favorite movie or electronic game. If they're more "get-into-the-action" types, a pool table is nearby, as well as any number of board games stored away in the cabinetry. Food and drinks are conveniently located at the bar, which includes an undercounter refrigerator. The fireplace creates a warm, inviting ambience year 'round. In addition, this room provides access to a balcony and sun deck, extending the living space when the weather permits. This is truly a space that provides a little something for everyone!



Photos: Courtesy of American Range (www.americanrange.com)

Home on the Range

Are you tired of bending and stretching your body at odd angles while attempting to put a 20 lb. turkey in your oven—with the oven door fully extended in front of you? Most restaurant ovens are designed with French doors because commercial chefs know it's easier to get food in and out of the oven that way. Up until recently, homeowners have had little choice.

Now American Range, well-known for over 30 years in the commercial food industry, has introduced a residential line of appliances. Inspired by its commercial convection pastry/baking oven, the new 30" French-Door Wall Oven has dependent dual oven doors that open 130° with the pull of one door! The ergonomic design allows for unrestricted access to the oven cavity without placing stress on your lower back.



Patented technology uses dual convection motors and louvered side panels to enhance uniform heat distribution throughout. A large 4.7 cu. ft. oven cavity provides space for three oven racks with six rack positions. The oven is available in ten different color options.

"Small" Jobs

His, Hers and Ours

Bring It All Together

Jewelry for the Kitchen



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...continued from page 1

from classic materials, such as glass and shiny stainless steel, and featuring interior lighting in vivid colors, these glamorous hoods are like jewels on display in the kitchen. Yet do not be deceived—there's more to these ventilation hoods than eye-catching appeal.

Examples of this are the hoods Zephyr displayed from their new Arc collection by award-winning industrial designer, Robert Brunner. Brunner was lead designer for Apple for more than seven years, and now brings the same forward-looking spirit of innovation to kitchen hood design. Each of the ten Arc models feature the new Clean Air feature, a setting that automatically re-circulates the air in the kitchen several times a day to eliminate stale air and foul odors.

Other examples include models introduced by Elica utilizing its unique and super-compact "all-in-one" patented ventilation system called Evolution. This system uses cutting-edge technology to integrate all the mechanical parts, motor, filters, lighting, electronics and controls into a small stainless steel cylinder. This allows the outer casing to give each model the appearance of a modern, sophisticated wall-lamp or ceiling light, creating strong visual impact in the kitchen. Each hood includes a dishwasher-safe stainless steel mesh grease filter plus a set of hand washable Long Life air purification filters.

Brunner's Horizon is available in black, white or red glass that can be custom etched to create a unique, truly personal design. Though it is a low-profile hood, extending only 10" from the wall, its compact and powerful motor delivers up to 1,000 CFMs.



The Ola, also by Elica, features soft, undulating lines that reveal a dynamic contrast of color between the inside and outside of the hood. Ola is available in a creamy white exterior with purple or acid green interior, or a shiny stainless steel exterior with red or aquamarine interior.

Another of Brunner's creations, the Plane, forms an angular sculpture dramatically extending from the wall. Its use of hidden halogen lighting is unique in the industry.

