Hammer Times

WINTER 2009

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

Just for You

Article on page 2

Residential Design + Build

www.hammerschmidtinc.com

LIT from Within

Even if a home consists of wide-open spaces, some hallways or secondary rooms—such as a laundry room—may have little or no exposure to natural light from windows. Since the solid walls and doors form a barrier that light cannot permeate, the lights must be kept burning whenever the room is in use. This wastes precious energy, when there are other options.

Interior windows, glass partitions and glass doors provide a way to borrow light from other rooms, allowing it to reach deeper into the house. A strategically placed interior window or glass partition can almost double the illumination received by a master bath as it shares light with the master bedroom. Interior glass openings are rarely designed into a home when it is first built, but through remodeling this kind of enhancement may be added.

...continued on page 4

Photo: Courtesy of Simpson Door Co. (www.simpsondoor.com)

A frosted glass laundry room door obscures the piles of laundry within, while helping illuminate the room.

Big Recognition from Small Jobs

Hammerschmidt Construction recently made *Remodeling* magazine's Big 550 list of the largest U.S. full service remodeling companies and *Qualified Remodeler* magazine's Top 500 list, the longest ongoing recognition program in the remodeling industry. Companies on the lists demonstrate significant and sustained success in the areas of installed dollar volume, years in business, industry association membership and certification, industry awards, and community service. According to *Qualified Remodeler*, Top 500 firms are doing their part to drive remodeling forward by bucking any negative housing news and moving ahead, even in places where the local economy is shrinking. Their success is attributed to staying focused on their respective businesses and investing in marketing and advertising to attract more leads.

Hammerschmidt Construction is proud to be recognized on both lists and believe our ability to thrive in a challenging economy is due to a consistent business model that some of our brethren have only recently adopted: We do small jobs too! As a referral-based business, we've always believed small and "Not So Big" jobs were just as important to our success as whole house remodels. And the most important part of any job, large or small, is the relationship between our company and the homeowner.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season and New Year!

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Just for You

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

Are you planning on giving out homemade presents over the holidays this year? A growing number of Americans are trying their hand at a variety of crafts they've never attempted before, and consequently are discovering the joy of creating. Whether you sew personalized tote bags for your children, or paint a watercolor scene for a close friend, there is great satisfaction in being able to say, "I made this just for you!"

While you're anticipating all the fun, you should also ask yourself where you might find space for these activities in your home—at your kitchen counter or dining room table? The inconvenience of having to clear away your projects before each mealtime will get old very soon.

How much better to build a multi-purpose room, with space dedicated specifically to the organization, production, and storage of your various projects. If you have an under-utilized area of your home—such as a bedroom, dining room or porch—this would be a fantastic way to enhance that space.

The hobby room from The New American Home 2009 is a wonderful example of just such a room. It provides space for a wide variety of tasks, from laundry to gardening. This warm and inviting room features a generous worktable that is an extension of the countertop and is perfect for folding laundry or working on crafts. Cabinetry lines the walls, providing a well-planned combination of drawers, pull-outs and shelves to make storage convenient. The height of the countertop has been lowered for a sewing area, with an open knee space underneath. A row of spice drawers overhead helps organize sewing supplies and keeps them close at hand. Under-cabinet lighting, combined with recessed ceiling cans, offers several layers of lighting that supplies task as well as general illumination.

Once a present is finished it needs to be wrapped, and therefore a gift wrap area was created at the worktable. It includes an under-cabinet organizer and a custom designed rack to hold wrapping paper rolls. On another wall, a deep sink makes for easy clean-up after craft projects, while coming in handy for a multitude of other purposes, such as soaking hand washables or flower arranging. This would be a terrific room to have available for the holidays, and then for year 'round use as well.

The cabinetry throughout the hobby room is Yellowstone in a Cherry Chocolate finish by Timberlake.

It's just fabulous, dah-ling!

If calm, serene minimalist bathroom design no longer gives you the thrill it once did, do take heart! Even though the Zen-look continues to dominate the market, a new and different direction for today's design trends pays homage to the glitz and glamour of 1930s and 40s Hollywood. Think Ginger Rogers and Fred Astaire; Carole Lombard and William Powell. She is alluring in silk, satin, feathers and fur; while he is dashing in black tux and white tie. Their light-hearted, yet elegant films put smiles on the faces of the American public of that era—tired of hearing about the economic doldrums, gloom and doom. Perhaps that is part of the reason this look appeals to a fresh audience today.

Photo: Courtesy of Kaldewei (www.kaldewei.com)

Kaldewei offers a free-standing roll-top bathtub in gleaming black.

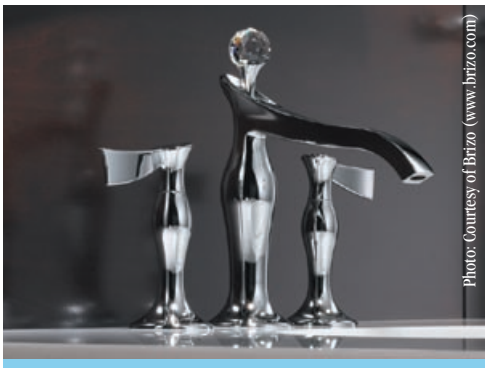
Photo: Courtesy of Brizo (www.brizo.com)

A curvaceous faucet from Brizo is topped by a dazzling STRASS Swarovski crystal.

Photo: Courtesy of JSG Oceana (www.jsgoceana.com)

The solid cast aluminum pedestal by JSG Oceana forms a classy backdrop for a shimmering glass vessel sink.

This trend is all about drama, with the emphasis on voluptuous, gleaming, big-screen-diva style that at the same time is infused with timeless beauty and grace. Colors are rich: gold and silver, black, white, and cream, and jewel tones like red and green. The focus is away from earth tones, and toward natural gems like ruby, emerald, amethyst and diamond. Metallics—especially gold and silver—are everywhere: in glittering accessories, picture frames, and iridescent glass wall tiles. Mother-of-pearl also makes an elegant backdrop. A rich gold finish has been introduced for faucets, yet shiny chrome faucets in sensuous shapes are also very on-theme. Furniture finishes include lacquer and gold leaf. Black or richly colored stone vanity tops offer a dramatic flair. Crystal chandeliers and crystal finials on faucets and cabinet hardware add sparkle. And to really put star quality in your bathroom—don't forget the mirrors!

It's the ONE!

It's often a toss up between keeping your bathroom looking stylish and having a TV mounted on the wall so you can watch the news, weather and sports channels while you shave or put on makeup.

The ONE from Séura offers the best of both: an elegantly framed mirror with an integrated 19" LCD television display that vanishes when powered off. In addition, the television mirror features a slim profile of only 1" depth. Custom options include the choice of mirror shape, size, bevel options, LCD size and location. More than 60 framing selections, from traditional to contemporary, ensure the final product complements your décor. The ONE received the Best of KBIS award in 2009.

Photo: Courtesy of Séura (www.seura.com)

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LIT from Within

Interior windows and a glass walkway are used to bring natural light into the inner spaces of this home.

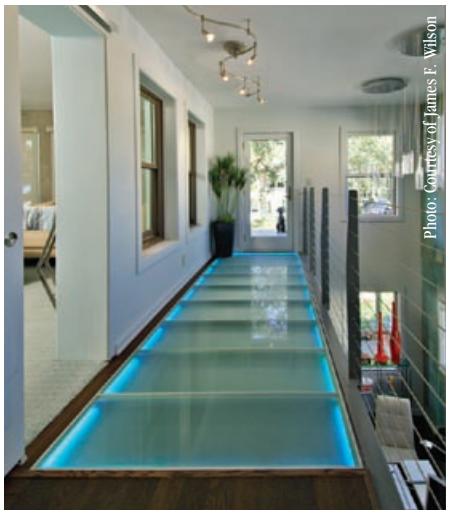

Photo: Courtesy of James F. Wilson

Photo: Courtesy of Simpson Door Co. (www.simpsondoor.com)

These glass doors maintain privacy yet allow a visual connection between the hall and the home office.

...continued from page 1

If privacy is an issue, interior glass can be frosted, etched or obscured with texture—providing an additional opportunity for artistic expression that enhances the décor. Transom windows are another option. These are windows placed high on a wall or over a door, so that light transfers from one space to another, but privacy is maintained. Multiple transom windows are often grouped together, which can serve as a unique architectural detail.

Besides dispersing more light into an otherwise dim room, glass interior openings can also establish a visual connection between separate rooms. For example, such an opening can allow a homeowner to work in a home office while keeping an eye on children playing in the adjacent family room. The glass opening can also be designed to capture a pretty view of the next room within its frame, while making both spaces feel larger.

Interior windows are usually fixed-glass, but if desired, operable interior glass windows may be installed. The location should be planned carefully, so that easy access to the window is provided. It is best to avoid casement windows, since an open window may disrupt the traffic flow in a room.

Photo: Courtesy of Andersen Windows (www.andersenwindows.com)

Interior windows flood a second story room with borrowed light.