

WINTER 2021

# HOME TRENDS

DESIGN/BUILD REMODEL • CUSTOM HOMES • CUSTOM DECKS



Take Your Home  
from **Builder-Grade**  
to **Beautiful**

Feature article inside

## PROJECT REVIEW: Kitchen & Sunroom Renovation

We recently completed a kitchen renovation and sunroom addition for some clients. The end result turned out great and added a nice update to their home.

Let's take a look at the project:

### Kitchen Renovation

The kitchen has a modern, abstract vibe which features a sleek chimney-style wall hood and a fun multi-colored tile backsplash.

For flooring, we installed rectangular ceramic tile in Liguria Pearl Porcelain in matte, which nicely complements the MSI Silver Cloud Granite countertops as well as the backsplash and cabinet color.

The backsplash has patterned tiles using Imperial Ivory Matte with Ivory High Pencil Liner edging. We also included a backsplash accent in Imperial Gris Gloss and Imperial Pewter. Keeping the gray color scheme going, we painted the Jim Bishop Cabinets in North Andover in Antique Paint and Driftwood.

The kitchen also features an Allora large single bowl under-mount Sink, a Kitchen Aid 24" dishwasher, a Zephyr Anzio

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# Take Your Home from Builder-Grade to Beautiful

If you've bought a home built in the last 30 years, chances are you know about builder-grade finishes. These are fixtures, products and details that, while they do the job, lack character and style. They were chosen primarily for price, to keep the cost of the house down.

Unfortunately, these standard options are cheap, wear out fast, and look dated. If you have a home full of builder-grade products, here are some ideas for replacing them:

## Lighting

Possibly the worst offenders when it comes to outdated, builder-grade products are light fixtures. Everything from the dining room chandelier to track lighting and ceiling fixtures look dull and horribly out of style. Upgrading these fixtures with higher quality and more modern choices will bring a new life into your living space.

Replacing builder-grade lights with new pendant lights over your island or a chandelier in your entryway makes a statement. You can also consider upgrading with recessed lights, accent lights, and lamps, all controlled through a smart lighting system that lets you set different scenes.

## Fixtures

Plain white fixtures and cheap chrome faucets usually come standard in new homes. Unfortunately, they stick out like a sore thumb and ruins any design attempts you make.

To make your bathroom look sleek and modern, upgrade to more contemporary or traditional fixtures that reflect your style and provide performance and longevity.

In your kitchen, consider a smart faucet. They're touchless to reduce the spread of germs and can be voice-activated. The voice-activated options turns on and off and even pour your desired amount of water with just a voice command.



Photo courtesy of Rev-A-Shelf



## Flooring

Cheap, laminated floors which look fine at first but wear out fast is another area for improvement. To enhance the appearance of your home, consider new options like real hardwood, bamboo, or tile.

There are so many flooring options available in a multitude of styles and at all different price ranges. If you have pets and kids who are hard on floors, you could consider a more durable, waterproof option like luxury vinyl or cork.

## Windows

Builder-grade windows lose their efficiency and luster over time. Consider upgrading to high-efficiency windows that beautify your home, inside and out.

You'll be amazed at how much brighter and cleaner your home will look after installing new windows. You should also notice a decrease in your energy bills since high-efficiency windows will do a much better job of keeping outside air from getting in.



## Kitchen Cabinets

Builder-grade cabinets are not designed for how you live. They get dirty and worn out very quickly and are not built to last. Plus, they usually are not the best-looking.

Remodel your kitchen to include new cabinets that have great design, finish, and function. Invest in cabinets made of higher quality materials. While you're at it, choose cabinets with pull-out features for optimizing your storage space.

These are just a few ideas you can do on your own or discuss with us when remodeling your home. With the right improvements, your home can feel new and exciting all over.

# Don't Overlook The Breakfast Nook

The breakfast nook might be the most under-appreciated space in a kitchen. Whether you currently have one or plan to add one, we have some ideas to take it to the next level.

## Plenty of Light

Nobody wants to eat breakfast in the dark. You need this space to be bright and cheerful to help you get your day off to a good start. If possible, build your breakfast nook next to a large window or patio doors to let natural light in.

You might also consider a chandelier. The right choice will add a ton of personality to the space.

## Cozy Seating

One of the biggest draws to a breakfast nook is having a cozy, comfortable place to sit. You can install a cushioned bench, similar to something you'd see in a restaurant. This can add a fun style element to the area, plus it's great for kids!



## Outdoor Access

Building your breakfast nook next to a patio door will make it easier to move your breakfast to the patio when the weather is nice. Or you can just open the door and let the fresh air in. The crisp air and morning sunshine will give your family more energy and may even be the highlight of your day.



## Shelving

Open shelving is very trendy right now, so why not include it in your breakfast nook design? You can store and display serving platters and dishes in a way that adds an interesting design element to your breakfast nook.

## Multi-Functional

Don't let the term "breakfast" fool you. This space can be used for plenty of other activities. The table and comfortable seating make it a good spot for homework, game night, or even a work-from-home space if you need it.

If you plan to set up a place to work for the day, you will want to make sure the space has access to power to plug in your computer or phone. You may also want some built-in drawers or cabinets to easily hide away your work necessities.

# Let Your Fireplace Set The Style

There is something so calming and soothing about sitting near the fireplace on a cool evening. Even when the fireplace is not in use, it is usually the focal point of a room. If yours needs a facelift, consider some of these ideas.

## Brick/Stone

Exposed brick, stacked stone, or even river rock will give your living room a traditional look.

## All or Mostly Black

A black fireplace will make your living room look modern and dramatic. Including different shades and textures of black will make your fireplace even more interesting.

## Tile Surrounds

Abstract tile around your fireplace is a great way to add character and a unique design element. Glass mosaics,

arabesque, or even subway tiles are also good options depending on the style and mood you want to create.

## Don't Underestimate the Mantel

There are so many options when it comes to mantels. Include molding for a traditional look, live edge wood for a rustic look, or even concrete to create a modern look.



Photo courtesy of Eldorado Stone

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PROJECT REVIEW:

# Kitchen & Sunroom Renovation

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wall mount chimney hood, low profile pyramid canopy, and a Kohler Sous Pro-Style Single-Handle Pull-Down Sprayer Kitchen Faucet in Vibrant Stainless.

## Sunroom

Our clients also wanted an open and airy room where they could relax on a quiet afternoon. One of the most important aspects of any sunroom is having tons of natural light. This is why we made sure to pay extra close attention to the windows and doors so this space would be bright and airy.

We used Andersen 200 Series Tilt-Wash double-hung windows along the walls and Andersen 200 Series PS Patio Doors, 2 Panel that open up to the deck.

The floors we decided on are a beautiful laminate/engineered wood in Guadalupe Peak. These floors give the space a lovely, traditional feel. This room came together quite nicely and will be an excellent spot to read, work, or unwind.



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