

SPRING 2022

# HOME TRENDS

DESIGN/BUILD REMODEL • CUSTOM HOMES • CUSTOM DECKS



## Remodeling? Consider Incorporating Home Security

*Feature article inside*

### PROJECT REVIEW:

## 100+ Year Old Schoolhouse Renovation

Our clients were in desperate need of more space since their family had recently grown.

Their home was actually a former one-room schoolhouse which had been transformed into a two-bedroom, one bath house. The property itself was over 100 years old, and the interior walls and ceilings were added in the 1920s.

Their master bedroom was so small that there was not



enough room for a bedside table, and there was only one closet in the entire home! Our clients wanted to add on to the house but weren't sure how to do so without having to walk through a bedroom to get to the new area.

That's where our work started.

We opened up the floor plan to improve the traffic flow. The small master bedroom became a family room, leading to the new addition.

*continued on page 4*

# Remodeling? Consider Incorporating Home Security

When you look around your home, you can probably see quite a few things you'd like to remodel. Maybe your kitchen is in need of an update. Or perhaps you'd like to combine an unused dining area with a too-small living room.

But have you ever stopped to think about how your home security can be updated?

Remodeling your home might be a good time to add an integrated home security system.

While there are plenty of off-the-shelf home security products available, an integrated system lets you monitor and control everything through a central hub. Systems like this require some extra wiring and setup, which is why it's a good idea to incorporate it into your remodeling project.

Once the system is in, it can help you protect your home in a variety of ways.

## Windows

These are often the most vulnerable to intruders. A home security system can include locks and sensors that alert you when a window is opened when it shouldn't be. These sensors can be installed on your existing windows.



## Door Locks

Door hardware has gotten a lot more high-tech in recent years. You can now integrate your locks with your home security system, which allows you to lock and unlock all the doors in your home from a central control, or even from your phone.

## Occupancy Sensors

A smart home security system "knows" when you are home and when you're away. Occupancy sensors detect when someone is in the house and sends you a notification. And don't worry if you have furry friends at home – sensors can be calibrated to account for your pets.



## Cameras

Cameras set up on the interior and exterior of your home can be set to record when they "see" movement. They allow you to monitor your cameras from anywhere, using your phone. So you know if you have an "unexpected visitor."

## Lighting

A home security system can also integrate with your outdoor lighting, illuminating the surrounding area to deter would-be thieves. Or to create a safe environment for family members who come home late.

## Other Home Systems

A central home security system is actually a home control hub that can be integrated with the rest of your home's systems.

Control the lights in every room, turning them on and off when you want and even adjusting the brightness and color.

Keep your heating and cooling set to optimal levels, so you're comfortable when you're home and saving energy when you're not.

A central control system even integrates with your home entertainment, so you can play music in every room, or select rooms, or watch movies on multiple screens.

The possibilities are endless, so if you're thinking about remodeling, it's a good time to consider a home security system. We can help, just give us a call!



# Is Your Foyer Welcoming?

The foyer is an area that doesn't get the attention it deserves. It's the first thing you see when entering your home, so it should be welcoming and clean, for you and your guests.

Here are a few areas of focus that could jazz up your foyer:

## Front door

The front door acts as the gateway to the home and is the first step in welcoming guests. It should set the tone for the rest of your home's décor style. You could have a large wrought iron door to showcase a modern style. If you have a farmhouse-style home, you could have a large wooden door to welcome your guests. The options are almost endless.

## Unloading Zone

Having a designated space for shoes, jackets, handbags, umbrellas and the like is a must-have for your foyer. If you prefer your guests take off their shoes before coming inside, it's a nice idea to have a place for them to sit and do so. This way, they aren't awkwardly hopping around trying to get their shoes off.

## Durable Flooring

Sometimes bringing mud or water into the house is inevitable. You should have



flooring that will hold up to the occasional mess and are easy to clean. Tile or slate floors are great options since they are versatile and durable. Plus, you won't have to worry about dirt and mud getting on a carpet or wood floors, which are more challenging to clean.

## Bright, Welcoming Lighting

If your foyer doesn't have a lot of natural light, you should make sure the paint color is a lighter shade to brighten up the space. You could also include a mirror to reflect the light that makes it into the area and install some canned overhead lights or a chandelier to provide light. This will make the space feel warm and inviting.

## Personal Items

Don't be afraid to add some character to your foyer. Having unique furniture, artwork, and photos that show who you are is an excellent way to welcome people into your home.

Need help creating a more welcoming foyer? We can help! Give us a call to get started.

# Home Security Tech

When it comes to your home, you can never be too safe. What's great are the many home security products available on the market today that are convenient to use and keep your home secure.

If you need help deciding which is best for your home, these are a few of our recommendations:

## Exterior Lights and Cameras

Dark spaces are a magnet for intruders. Exterior lights with cameras illuminate your home's exterior when they detect motion, and record what they see. You can even monitor the cameras in real time from your phone, so you can see what's happening no matter where you are.

## Smart Doorbells

It's incredible what a doorbell can do these days. Many have a camera and speaker so you can see and talk to whomever is at your door even if you are not home. You'll



get notifications on your phone, and the camera will always be recording. That way if someone steals a package or tries to enter your home, you'll know who it was.

## Door Locks

Smart door locks will keep your home secure while making your life easier. These door locks have keypads, and some can connect to Bluetooth, so you won't need to struggle to find your keys. And since you can operate the locks from anywhere using your phone, you'll never have to worry about whether you remembered to lock your door.

SPRING 2022  
IN THIS ISSUE

Schoolhouse Renovation

Security Through Remodeling

Is Your Foyer Welcoming?

Home Security Tech



T.W. Ellis  
2243 Rock Spring Road  
Forest Hill, MD 21050



Our Family Working Together with Yours

PRSR STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
CHARLOTTE NC  
PERMIT NO 1180



PROJECT REVIEW:

# 100+ Year Old Schoolhouse Renovation

*continued from page 1*

We also added a home office, a laundry room, a nursery for our client's sweet little baby and created a master suite. In the master bath, we created an elegant shower with a marble baroque mosaic niche to allow space for toiletries. To make the new master addition cohesive, we installed Kempas hardwood flooring throughout the space.

It was important to our clients that we maintained the character of the home. The new addition blends perfectly into the existing home so that it is impossible to tell where the old meets the new.

We added stucco to the exterior of the new addition to perfectly match the paint color and integrate it with the original stucco facade. We also made sure to keep details like the crown molding and door trim consistent throughout the new addition.



See More of Our Work ▶  
Point your phone's camera at the  
QR code for a link to our gallery

