

Edina's Additions

From hobby rooms to hardwood, this year's home trend is in the upgrade

BY VALERIE TUKEY AND RACHEL YUEN

Springtime has a way of infusing creativity in homeowners. The slogan of the season traditionally seems to be “out with the old and in with the new!” However, instead of purchasing new houses, homeowners are choosing to turn the space

they already have into a space they love.

“A smart trend involves designing to grow,” say the designers at Orfield Design & Construction, Inc. (952.920.6543).

Being mindful of the environment and the economy, homeowners also are becoming

more resourceful—and creative—about their remodeling endeavors. This is not the typical “let’s tear out the kitchen sink” kind of remodeling. With a modern swing on the horizon, homeowners are looking to convert old rooms into entirely new living spaces. Check out the latest Edina trends, and read along as we dive into the most popular and contemporary local room remodels.

SPA DAY

Moisture-resistant wallpaper, steam showers, heated flooring and built-in coffee bars are a few of the latest remodels that can morph your master bathroom into a spa getaway. Todd Goldwasser, co-owner of Amalia G design (952.906.1352), notes that technology has played a huge role in today’s bathroom renovations.

“The master bathroom suite is becoming a more influential area of our clients’ homes,” Goldwasser says. And while there are plenty of people who enjoy a candle-lit soak in the bathtub, Goldwasser notes that large showers are taking the place of soaking tubs.

Instead, shower-lovers are resorting to elongated shower benches, numerous body sprays and plenty of steam.



TECH SAVVY

It's true that for the past few years flat-screen TVs have been all the rave. But beyond plasma, home automation has taken over the technology world. Today, with the right installation, all you need is a panel of buttons.

"We do a lot of work with energy management," says Thomas Ondov, president of Domus Vita Group (763.503.5668). "We talk to clients about ways to effectively harvest daylight with window treatments and blinds."

Rather than running through your house and drawing blinds, with the flick of a finger you can close curtains, drop the air temperature and turn off your lights.

THE DARKER, THE BETTER

"There is a lot going on in the kitchen. It is the hub of the home," says Anne McDonald, designer at McDonald Remodeling (651.554.1234). "The biggest kitchen remodel trend that I've noticed is the contemporary push. When it comes to cabinetry and contrast, the darker, the better."

Through the 1990s, Minnesotans binged on Corian countertops. Homeowners and

Youthful Design

The days of children "seen and not heard" are over.

Families are remodeling their homes with spaces that are attractive as well as functional for kids.

"Whether or not a home has child-friendly spaces can make or break a decision to buy," according to designers at Orfield Design and Construction, Inc. The St. Louis Park-based company recently updated a split-level rambler for one family in Edina. Orfield implemented simple changes that gave the home a fresh feel for a younger generation. A few common kid-friendly trends to consider for your home are:



Safety First: Some homes feature gas fireplaces or kitchen appliances with a child lock-out switch.

Designing to Grow: A basement playroom originally built for a 5-year-old can transform into a teen entertainment area years later.

Grandparents Accommodating Grandchildren: Grandparents might consider finishing a basement with a guest bedroom or a bathroom, creating a comfortable retreat for their grandchildren.

Moving Away from TV: Parents are making efforts to enhance creative development, including sensory areas, art areas and music areas in their home. —RY