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# THE Westside Times

Fine Home Building & Remodeling

Courtesy of Westside Remodeling, Inc.  
www.westsideremodeling.com



Photo by James F. Wilson / The New American Home 2008



## Things Are Looking UP!

As you are gathering ideas for your next remodeling project, you may be eagerly thinking about your walls and floors, windows and lighting, cabinets and countertops. But have you remembered to look up? Even though ceilings typically comprise one-sixth of all interior space, they are an oft-forgotten landscape in the home when it comes time to renovate.

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## You've Got Something to Celebrate—So It's Time to Party!

You contacted **Westside Remodeling**; you worked closely with your kitchen designer; you went through the turmoil of remodeling and now your kitchen is what you have always dreamed of. So, now what??

You throw a party!! Effective this year, Westside Remodeling is happy to cater a party (at our expense!) for any of our kitchen remodeling clients. You select the invitees and we'll pick up the bill. It's that simple. Each client will be provided a catered "get together" in their new kitchen. You supply the people, we supply the fun. The party is a great way to show off your new kitchen to all your friends and neighbors.



# Things Are Looking UP!

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Your ceilings offer a tremendous opportunity to add drama and excitement to each room. Other functions of a well-planned ceiling can be to delineate specialized areas in an open floor plan, to help optimize room acoustics, and to provide consistency between the exterior and interior architecture.

**Painted treatments:** If you desire to lower the perceived height of a ceiling, try painting it a darker shade than the walls. Metallic paints are the rage and applying several layers of color with various brush techniques will make any ceiling come alive. If you wish to expand the height of the ceiling, paint it the same color as the walls. This creates the visual sensation that the walls extend farther up than they do. Hand painted Trump l'oeil ceiling murals use perspective techniques that fool the eye into thinking the ceiling is a great deal higher than it actually is.

**Tin ceiling:** Embossed tin-plated steel ceilings, just like those installed in turn-of-the-century general stores, are available in metallic finishes that range from bright copper to antique pewter and can be powder painted any color. Tin-look embossed plastic or wallpaper are other options that achieve a similar feel.

**Fancy molding:** Combine several different widths and profiles of molding together in a stack to create the effect of a single piece of crown molding several inches wider than usual. A less expensive way to achieve this effect is to install a strip of molding several inches below your existing crown molding and then paint both moldings and the wall in between the same color.

**Tray ceiling:** Tray ceilings resemble an inverted tray. A tray ceiling has a vertical or angled soffit around the perimeter. It follows the roofline at the wall intersection, then extends from the wall in one to several steps. Tray ceilings often hide recessed lighting.

**Beams:** Exposing the structural beams or ceiling trusses in certain areas of your home highlights the architecture. For a purely aesthetic application, lightweight box beams or polyurethane beams can be installed over drywall.

**Coffered ceiling:** Create an elegant grid of boxes by installing several beams perpendicular to one or more other ceiling beams. Each box may be trimmed with an appropriate size crown molding and is usually paneled with wood as well.



The 9 ft. ceilings throughout *The New American Home 2008* are decorated with beams, panels, coffers, and trays—including an unusual weave of beams in the dining room.

Photos by James E. Wilson/The New American Home 2008

# GO with the FLOW

The serene sound of gently flowing water has a unique ability to soothe the mind and rejuvenate the soul. When this sound is brought indoors, such as at a spa, it has the additional benefit of helping us make a connection with nature—even from within the four walls of a room. As you close your eyes, you can let your imagination whisk you away to a peaceful garden next to a bubbling stream.

Now imagine returning home from a stressful day and being greeted by the tranquil sounds of a water feature installed in your own kitchen or master bath! Experience the pressures beginning to dissolve.

As you are planning for your water feature, keep in mind that the style you choose should blend with the interior design of the rest of your home, whether it has a more rustic and natural feel or a very sleek, contemporary look. The water feature's size and shape can vary greatly, and it may be a freestanding unit or hung on the wall like a painting. Built-in lighting that captures the glimmers of the moving water as it flows over the surface adds drama.

A wide variety of materials can be used to create your water feature: slate, marble, copper, steel, pebbles, river rock, glass and acrylic, to name a few. You may want to have it custom-designed to fit into a specific area of your home—such as an alcove at the front entrance, or in your bathroom. In this case, some of the same stone or tile used on your floor and/or wall surfaces can be incorporated into the design so that the water feature is beautifully integrated with the rest of the room. The result is something totally unique and personal. A less expensive option is to purchase one of the many handmade pre-designed units available. Either way, a water feature can complement your décor as an unusual piece of “water art” that also adds the enjoyment of relaxing sounds.



Photo: By James F.W. Wilson/The New American Home 2008

Glass panel and pebble waterfall.



Photo: Courtesy of A. Dagi Collection (www.adagiocollection.com)

Hand-chiseled multi-color slate in a copper frame.

# OPEN SESAME

You gather the orange rinds to toss in the composter under your kitchen counter. With both hands full, you simply touch the cabinet with your knee, and the drawer holding the composter slides open automatically. After you deposit the rinds and peels, you gently push the drawer with your knee and it closes quietly and effortlessly. No need to worry about sticky hands touching the drawer handle. Everything stays neat and clean!

These impressive technological marvels are brought to you by Blum, Inc., a manufacturer of functional hardware for kitchen cabinets. The Blumotion closing mechanism has been offered by Blum for several years and has received a lot of attention from cabinet manufacturers who have been installing it into their kitchen drawers.

The new Servo-Drive automatic drawer-opening feature was introduced at the 2008 Kitchen and Bath Industry Show. This new development is based on an electrical drive that, once triggered, opens the drawer for you. The drawer has no fixed connection to the drive unit, which enables it to stop in any desired position. Servo-Drive is also a welcome device for persons who have arthritis or any other condition that makes it difficult to open standard drawers.



Photo: Courtesy of Blum (www.blum.com)



# CUT the Clutter

For many families, the kitchen is their favorite area of the home—promising a wide variety of delights, not the least of which is delicious food. But if your kitchen merely frustrates you because it is awkward to work in and totally disorganized (i.e. you spend as much time locating the evasive saucepan as it takes to make the sauce) it's time to plan a kitchen makeover.

Start by making an inventory of the items in your kitchen and then consider what works best for you. Will you ever use that automatic yogurt maker, or are you always on the go and prefer the ease of purchasing yogurt from the store? Place your kitchen items into three categories: keep, donate, and discard. Have the courage to be ruthless. Simply getting rid of gadgets you never use goes a long way towards ridding the kitchen of clutter.

You will also feel dissatisfied with your kitchen if you must cover a lot of territory back and forth across the floor whenever you prepare a meal. Perhaps your spices and seasonings are located on the opposite end of the kitchen from your range or cooktop, for example. Organize your kitchen into multiple zones, such as prep, cooking, baking, storage, entertaining and cleanup. Then place the essential tools necessary for each task in the proper zone. Secondary sinks, along with appliances such as refrigerator and dishwasher drawers, help make it possible for each zone to be used independently. Several friends or members of your family will be able to use your kitchen at the same time without getting in each other's way.

Another aspect of effective organization involves optimizing the space inside your cabinets. A wide range of interior cabinetry storage solutions are designed for keeping everything easily accessible. As you think about purchasing new cabinets, analyze your lifestyle. If you enjoy whipping up culinary creations on a regular basis, a storage unit that maximizes utensil space is essential. If entertaining is your specialty, a built-in wine holder and a hanging wineglass rack might be the perfect thing. The photos on this page give you some ideas to get you started.



Photo: Courtesy of Merillat (www.merillat.com)

Photo: Courtesy of Kraftmaid (www.kraftmaid.com)

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(www.artistokraft.com)

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