

Remodeling Tips



ARCHITECTS
& BUILDERS

TheDoingsHinsdale
#1 Pick "Readers' Choice Award"

Professional Remodeler
"Remodeler of the Year Award"



Lovable and Livable

Photo: Courtesy of Eskaton (www.eskaton.org)



You love your neighborhood and hope to stay in your home as long as possible. Your friends live nearby, your favorite restaurant is around the corner, and your family doctor is just down the street. You do not want to move away from this welcoming, comfortable environment. Is it possible to transform your home into the gorgeous home of your dreams, while making it functional for all your future needs?

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Normandy Showroom Accepting Homegrown Garden Donations

For a gardening enthusiast, it is not uncommon to find yourself at one time or another with a few too many tomatoes, an extra cucumber or two, or even a bounty that you can't possibly consume. This summer, **Normandy** is pairing up with the Westmont Food Pantry to help our neighbors in need. To all our gardening friends: if you find yourself with a surplus of fresh

produce from your garden, drop it off at the Normandy Showroom at 440 E Ogden in Hinsdale and we'll be sure it gets to a family in need. The showroom is located just west of 294 on the south side of Ogden Ave next to Whole Foods. We are open Monday through Friday from 9-5 and Saturday 9-4.



*"Best of the Best" award-winning project!
See page 4.*

Where the Living is Easy

Many people believe the most tantalizing aroma ever to come wafting through the air has got to be the smell of juicy steaks on the grill. Just to get a whiff starts the mouth salivating and the mind filling with visions of fun family meals outside.

If this describes you, then it is definitely time for you to have an outdoor kitchen installed at your house. Think about all the wonderful side items you could easily prepare—grilled vegetables like corn, zucchini, onions and green pepper—if you had a refrigerator and sink, in addition to your grill. If you had a side burner, you could cook up some killer sauces. An icemaker would be nice for beverages. And, of course, the sink would make it simple to clean up afterwards. With an outdoor kitchen you can spend more time socializing with family and friends while preparing the meal, instead of working inside and carrying items back and forth.

One of the first questions to consider is the location of your outdoor kitchen. There are many advantages to attaching it to your home: the walls of your home furnish some shelter from wind and rain; it simplifies utility hook-ups; and it provides easy access to your main kitchen. Be sure you can ventilate the smoke and heat away from your home by installing an exhaust hood.

If you prefer your outdoor kitchen built in a more remote location to take advantage of a lovely view—perhaps poolside or in your garden—you may want to build a shelter over it so you can continue to grill comfortably during inclement weather.

An outdoor kitchen needs to be able to withstand the elements, so it is important that your appliances are manufactured for outdoor use. Stone, brick, concrete or stainless steel make excellent cabinet materials. An attractive option is Atlantis Cabinetry's weatherproof solid polymer cabinetry with moisture-resistant wood doors in bamboo, teak or cypress.

Another consideration is the size of your kitchen, and whether or not you plan to make it an integral part of a larger outdoor living space. You might want to include a raised bar and stools for dining at your kitchen countertop. Add some lounge furniture with appropriate lighting and your outdoor living room becomes a relaxing place to spend the evening as well. Portable heaters or a fireplace can make the space comfortable for year-round use.

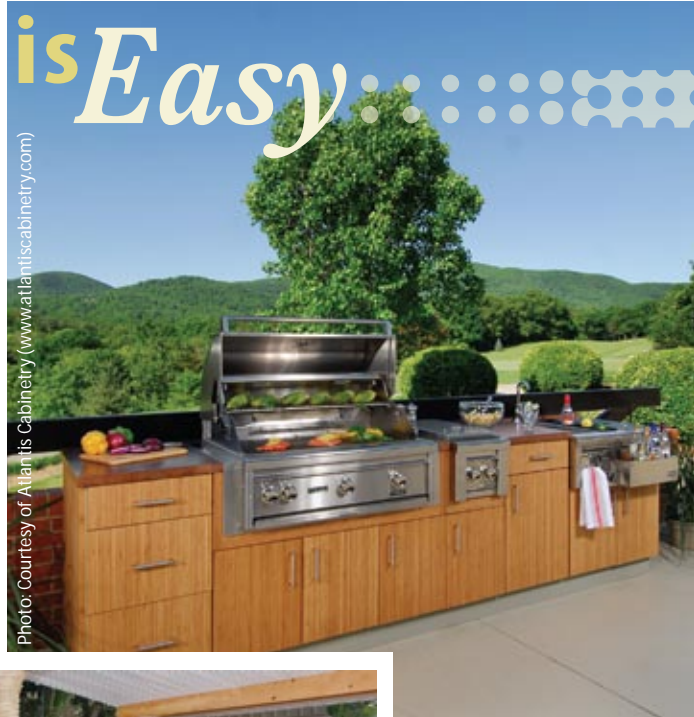


Photo: Courtesy of Atlantis Cabinetry (www.atlanticcabinetry.com)



Photo: Courtesy of DANVER (www.danver.com)

New Product Introductions

TANKS Fight Back!

For several years, tankless water heaters have been the primary focus of residential green building. Now the tanks have returned—this time in the form of hybrid heat pump water heaters—and they're grabbing some attention of their own.

A hybrid heat pump water heater utilizes a heat pump to extract heat from the surrounding air and transfer it to the tank. Once the water reaches the temperature of the ambient air, an electric water heater takes over, bringing the water up to 140 degrees F. This process makes your furnace

work harder in cooler months, but in warmer months it will actually help cool your house.

These heat pump water heaters are ENERGY STAR® qualified and, compared to a standard electric water heater, can save an average household around \$300 yearly. (http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=water_heat.pr_water_heaters)

Not only that—consumers may also qualify for a federal tax credit of 30% on the purchase and installation price of an ENERGY STAR® qualified heat pump water heater.



Rheem 50-gallon and new 40-gallon Hybrids



Photo: Courtesy of GE (www.ge.com)

This new GE Hybrid can save \$320 per year

The New *Vintage*

The appeal of a vintage home is undeniable. The charm, the craftsmanship, and the unique style can draw you in and make you love your home unconditionally, even if there are parts of it that aren't quite what you imagined for your dream home.

When the time comes to make an update to your vintage home, concerns about making changes that are compatible with the architectural style of the existing house need to be met head on. Normandy's designers and architects have designed hundreds of renovations in vintage homes that are consistent with the architecture and are truly a compliment to the surrounding spaces.

The Chicago area has so many neighborhoods and communities with amazing history, it would be a shame to destroy any of the charm in these homes in the name of progress, and yet modern needs still exist. "When we make updates to these historic homes, we are careful to incorporate all the modern conveniences while keeping with the style of the surrounding home," says designer Eileen Thurnauer. "If you don't work within the context of the house, you create a room that is out of sync with the rest of the home." The goal is to create a seamless update to the house that appears to be original, while updating it to modern levels and enhancing the functionality of the home. Bathrooms like this one are a great example of how you can use modern textures and amenities, but find ways to make them fit with the home.



"Best of the Best" award winner



After



Before

Split Level Transformation

Split level homes such as this one can be found all throughout the Chicago area. While they are common in many neighborhoods, the style of this home did not particularly fit the personality of its current owners. After completing some minor renovations in 2002, they decided that it was time to transform their current home into a statement piece that reflected their sense of style.

As fans of architecture with modern and contemporary flair, they enlisted the help of **Normandy Builders'** Chris Ebert and Troy Pavelka to create functional spaces that were also visually compelling.

The extensive renovations nearly doubled the size of the home and gave it a presence in the neighborhood. The primary artistic feature—a wall of Mondrian style windows on both the front and rear of the home—brought in natural light, along with the visual interest.

Normandy is proud to have this project receive the "Best of the Best" award, as well as being featured in Chicago Home & Garden Magazine. Nothing compares, however, to knowing our clients love their home more each day. They were looking for a bold and modern statement and now have found the home they've always wanted to own.