HOME REMODELING TRENDS

Celebrating *with Confidence*

by Jessica Gomes, Casa Bella Design Center

Red wine in a beige carpeted dining room. Multiple crockpots in a kitchen without enough outlets. In the midst of holiday celebrations, homeowners will find that there are many more nerve racking scenarios than selecting the perfect gift. Unfortunately, many Naperville homes have outdated rooms that do not include the great conveniences now offered in the current design world. Full remodels or even simple updates to rooms can create such a difference and finally, holiday celebrations can be fully enjoyed. Hovering over guests will no longer be needed with user-friendly low maintenance materials!

Selection of materials based on functionality vs. appearance should be the number one credential. Understanding the maintenance of products is key in this category. Quartz surfacing for countertops is an amazing product because it has the look and feel of granite or marble without the sealing. Wood flooring and tile are great flooring surfaces over carpet with less grime collection off of visitor's shoes. Porcelain tile for a kitchen backsplash is a great selection over natural stone because it has less potential for staining. Larger tile designs vs. mosaic tile designs install with less grout, which means less grout cleaning. And, eggshell paint is a better finish selection over flat for holding up to smudges over time.

Selection of products based on convenience need not be overlooked. Understanding how one uses a space is key in this category. Warming drawers will help cooks keep things warm for guests. Under-cabinet outlet strips not only get ugly outlets out of sight, but also can house multiple outlets in high use. Single control bathroom faucets provide a simple approach to hot and cold water. Beverage and/or wine fridges are the perfect storage center for these entertaining staples. Built in cabinets and shelving around televisions are perfect for hiding unsightly cords and equipment. Lever door handles vs. standard door knobs are easier for children and the elderly to open. And, low-flow toilets that actually flush now provide no embarrassments for house guests.

After such careful selections of materials are made in a home, proper maintenance of all products will ensure that the remodeled space will look great not only this holiday season but also in many years to follow. Grout lines on flooring and backsplashes should be sealed. Granite and marble tops should be sealed at least once a year. Soapstone and wood countertops should be oiled. Interiors of cabinets should be periodically wiped out and should have shelf and drawer liners. Stainless steel appliances should be cleaned with stainless cleaner to keep the surface looking new. And, cleaning your wood flooring with the proper and recommended product based on your wood selection will ensure that the floors will look great for guests for years! Happy holidays Naperville....

Casa Bella Kitchen and Bath Remodelers is located at 15 W Jefferson Avenue, downtown Naperville. This full-service, one- stop-shop for all of your remodeling needs, offers everything from developing a layout for your space, to product selection and managing the installation. Jessica A. Gomes (pictured) a graduate of the Interior Design program at Illinois State University, has been working at Casa Bella for four years and oversees the company's project design and sales. Jessica works directly with clients to design creative solutions that satisfy their needs. Call (630) 718-1440 for more details or visit the showroom today.

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