HOME REMODELING TRENDS

The Family Studio: A Modern-Day Must-Have

Doing laundry while paying bills or sewing on a button while checking homework...these are very common combinations in many Naperville homes. Multi-tasking is a part of everyday life and numerous homeowners are finding that these tasks could be easily accomplished if there was a multi-purpose room in the home. Enter the theme of a home design concept referred to as the "family studio." Typically located right off of the kitchen or in a finished basement, these catch all rooms are becoming a family hub where things can be completed in an organized and clutter free space. A family studio is custom designed to suite an individual family's needs, but common areas to find in these rooms are:

1) Computer stations
2) Laundry stations
3) Sewing stations
4) Wrapping stations
5) Dog grooming stations
6) Bill paying stations
7) Craft stations
8) Scrapbooking stations
9) Homework stations

While any of the above stations can be paired together in these family friendly rooms, there are a couple of definite things to keep in mind when designing a family studio. The room needs to be large enough to house numerous people. There should be ample cabinet storage, as well as countertop space and task associated lighting will help all activities. Surfaces should be durable, easy to clean, and not something that will cause a homeowner to hover over their child as they use the space. A large sink and faucet will help clean up any mess that may occur, and multiple electrical outlets should be installed throughout the room for convenience and functionality.

There are many great products and design ideas available for these multi-tasking rooms. Whether stealing space from an existing floor plan or pre-planning when building a new house, homeowners should consult a designer that will custom tailor a design to their exact need. Washing a muddy dog while supervising a finger painting expedition can be much more enjoyable with a functional family studio!

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 three 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.

LEARNING TO FLY

Glancer Flies the Friendly Skies

It was a slightly overcast Saturday when we arrived at Lumanair Aviation Services in nearby Sugar Grove for an introductory flight organized by ProjectPilot.org. They are an organization dedicated to the common person getting their pilots license. Since I had always had an interest in flying, we took them up on their invitation for us to come out and give it a try!

When Bob Eckhoff, chief flight instructor for Lumanair greeted us, I knew we were in good hands. He started off by giving us a quick history as to how Lumanair came to be and his credentials as an instructor and a pilot.

It was quite exciting as he went over preflight with me including fuel sample tests, oil level check, and control surface connections. I had shared with him that I had one previous intro flight in the past and that I was an avid RC airplane modeler. He expressed enthusiasm in knowing that I had knowledge of angle of attack, sink rate, and other various aircraft related aspects of flying. But he also expressed that anyone with a love for flight can get their pilots license, all they have to do is be ready to learn...and ready to fly!

He got clearance from the tower for our departure and set me up at the runway. Our photographers were on hand- both on the ground, and in flight. Then I was in charge. And as Steve Vukasovic, one of the photographers, and his son Willie, a 15 year old Naperville North sophomore, sat quietly in the back, I controlled the aircraft from the point of take-off to setting up for the landing. It was great!

The instructor was very clear and concise about what he wanted me to do with the control of the aircraft and for the next 15 minutes I was having the time of my life. On landing, he took control again and brought us down for a nice safe touchdown. I had as much fun doing this as I did the first time I tried skydiving. Who would have thought you could have such an experience for around $70?

Would I do it again? Yes. I also highly recommend Lumanair Services for your first time up. They are located at Aurora Municipal Airport in Sugar Grove on Rte. 30 just 15 minutes west of Naperville. If you would like more information, check out www.lumanair.com or www.project pilot.org to setup your first air-time adventure. Have fun!

-Story by John Kleivo (pictured), Photos by Steve Vukasovic and Lindy Kleivo