



# SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW

59<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL



## MAY 21 - 23 • STATE FAIR PARK

### NARI MILWAUKEE HOSTS SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW

With remodeling and home improvement booming, the NARI Milwaukee Spring Home Improvement Show is the place to find qualified professionals who can do the job right. The show is packed with experts, exhibits and activities that cover the home inside and out.

The 59th annual Spring Home Improvement Show will be held May 21-23 at State Fair Park in the Wisconsin Exposition Center, 8200 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis.

The show includes more than 200 NARI Milwaukee members who provide remodeling and home improvement services and products – from design/build firms to specialized contractors for all areas of the home, including roofing, gutters, HVAC, electrical, painting and more.

These days, homeowners are focused on updated or expanded kitchens, bathrooms that look and function better, professional home offices, convenient work out rooms, finished basements, beautiful outdoor living spaces and new siding, windows and doors.

By attending the show, those looking for a contractor can easily connect with trusted, experienced NARI professionals.

For those who aren't familiar with NARI Milwaukee, it is a member organization that represents the best remodeling and home improvement professionals in the area. Since

#### ➔ Show Highlights

**More than 200 NARI Milwaukee members** – Talk with trusted, local experts who are ready and willing to answer any and all questions, no matter how big or small they might be. These experts can also make recommendations and provide homeowners with guidance, solutions and creative suggestions.

**2021 Outdoor Living Challenge** – Stroll three different outdoor living spaces designed by students from Milwaukee Area Technical College, the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design and Mount Mary University.

**Culinary Stage** – Add new recipes to your repertoire! Tantalizing grilling and cooking demonstrations will be conducted throughout the show.

**Guess the Price Gameshow** – Each day, there's a fun gameshow! You could win a prize while learning how much local remodeling projects cost and what factors influence the cost.

**The Park** – In a relaxed, park-like setting, area experts cover a variety of topics, including “What to do Before Starting a Remodel,” “Options for Wall Treatments,” “Remodeling to Make the Most of Your Home” and many others.

1961, NARI Milwaukee has been a trusted resource for consumers. The non-profit promotes professionalism, ethical conduct and sound business practices in the remodeling industry and works to educate and inform Milwaukee-area homeowners.

Tickets to the NARI Milwaukee Spring Home

Improvement Show are \$10 in advance (online only at [NARIMilwaukeeHomeShow.com](http://NARIMilwaukeeHomeShow.com)) and \$12 at the door. Adults 60+ are \$10 at the door. Children age 17 and younger, veteran and active-duty military personnel and front-line workers and medical personnel (with I.D.) are free.

Parking at State Fair is \$6 but ample street parking is also available.

For more information on the NARI Milwaukee Spring Home Improvement Show, visit

**[NARIMilwaukeeHomeShow.com](http://NARIMilwaukeeHomeShow.com)**

or call 414-771-4071.



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**FRIDAY MAY 21 10am-8pm**



**11am, 1pm, 3pm, 5pm**  
**Mad Dog & Merrill**  
"The Grillin' Buddies" serve up tasty recipes with a helping of laughs

**12pm - Guess the Price Gameshow**

Guess the cost of local projects with AB&K and Design Tech Remodeling



**Bathroom by Design Tech Remodeling**, NARI Milwaukee Remodeler of the Year Residential Bath \$25,000 to \$50,000 Silver Award Winner

**12:45pm - What You Need to Know about Warranties and Certifications**

Panel discussion with J & B Construction Company and NARI experts

**2pm**  
**Secrets to Container Garden Success**  
Melinda Myers, "The Plant Doctor"

**3:30pm**  
**What to Do Before Starting a Remodel**  
Carmel Builders

**SATURDAY MAY 22 10am-8pm**

**11am, 1pm, 3pm, 6pm**  
**Mad Dog & Merrill**  
"The Grillin' Buddies" serve up tasty recipes with a helping of laughs

**12pm - Options for Wall Treatments**  
Bartelt. The Remodeling Resource

**12:45pm - What You Need to Know about Timelines, Supplies and More**  
Panel discussion with COR Improvements, LLC and Allrite Home & Remodeling



**Kitchen by COR Improvements, LLC**, NARI Milwaukee Remodeler of the Year Residential Kitchen \$30,000 to \$60,000 Gold Award Winner

**2pm - Create Your Outdoor Garden-tainment Area**  
Melinda Myers, "The Plant Doctor"

**3:30pm**  
**What's Your Remodeling Question?**  
Interactive Q&A with Nehmey Construction and City of West Allis Director of Building Inspection and Neighborhood Services

**SUNDAY MAY 23 10am-5pm**

**11am, 1pm, 3pm**  
**Mad Dog & Merrill**  
"The Grillin' Buddies" serve up tasty recipes with a helping of laughs

**12pm**  
**Remodeling to Make the Most of Your Home**  
Callen Construction

**12:45pm - Guess the Price Gameshow**  
Guess the cost of local projects with Allrite Home & Remodeling and COR Improvements, LLC



**Exterior by Allrite Home & Remodeling**, NARI Milwaukee Remodeler of the Year Residential Exterior Under \$50,000 Gold Award Winner



**2pm**  
**Weekend Landscape Makeovers with Big Impact!**  
Melinda Myers, "The Plant Doctor"



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# On-Trend Kitchen Upgrades

Kitchens remain among the top picks for homeowners looking to upgrade their homes because their functional contributions to the household can't be overstated and they typically provide a good return on investment.

Tracy Grosspietsch, Director of Design and Sales with AB&K Bath & Kitchen and a member of NARI Milwaukee, weighs in on the changes that are "making the grade" these days.

## Bigger functional space

Not only do many kitchen renovations result in added square footage, they also add practical features to make living and entertaining more comfortable and enjoyable.

When it comes to physical space, a popular choice is removing or relocating walls to make the room larger.

This 'found' space can be instrumental in adding an island or peninsula for seating, which many homeowners view as a necessity when it comes to entertaining. Other features like icemakers, tall wine refrigerators and walk-in pantries are high on the wish list.

"We're also removing the old planning desk because it really was just a junk collector," says Grosspietsch. "We're using the space for interesting storage solutions or we're adding a wet bar or beverage center."

Another growing trend is a kitchen designed for two cooks. This typically entails a second food preparation area with a second full-size or auxiliary sink in an island, microwave drawers, warming ovens and double ovens.

"Dual islands are definitely popular these days," says Grosspietsch. "You have a 'hot zone' island where the cooking and food preparation is

done and then a second one for entertaining, which often includes a beverage refrigerator and a countertop overhang for seating. It's a way to have everyone in the kitchen without being on top of one another."

## Clever storage

Making the most of storage space has always been a top desire, and homeowners are getting increasingly clever about how to maximize their cabinetry.

Drawer organizers are in high demand, along with pull-out waste baskets that hide recycling bins within. Another popular approach is large base cabinets with pivoting shelving mechanisms for storing large items like mixers and other taller countertop appliances.

"We've been adding larger cabinets that sit on the countertop to provide both general and specialty storage," says Grosspietsch. "For example, the cabinet can house a baking center with all the appliances and supplies that are regularly needed. The cabinet keeps everything organized, hidden and within easy reach."

Making use of every inch of space is common. For some, even the toe-kick area for drawers are proving useful to hold smaller items or put kid-friendly essentials in easy reach.

## Feature-rich appliances

Appliance manufacturers are adding all kinds of bells and whistles, and those features are increasingly attractive to homeowners.

Upper-end appliances are becoming more mainstream as homeowners discover features the more expensive models offer for ease of use and comfort. Larger freezer and column-style

refrigerators are especially growing in popularity.

"Appliances that are blue toothed enabled and synched to the homeowners' cell phones are definitely popular," adds Grosspietsch.

## Kitchen color coming back

While an all-white kitchen is still popular, more homeowners are going their own way and choosing colors and finishes that appeal to them.

Kitchen designers say they are mixing and matching up to three different colors or finishes. For example, the base cabinets might be

painted grey, the wall cabinets could be white and a tall pantry cupboard could be a stained wood finish.

"A white kitchen is a lot of pressure to keep pristine because white shows everything," says Grosspietsch. "We're seeing fun and adventurous color combinations like navy, gold and tan. Today's homeowners are more focused on their own style and likes instead of conforming to a pre-set design aesthetic."

For more kitchen remodeling ideas and insight, visit the NARI Milwaukee Spring Home Improvement Show, May 21-23, at State Fair Park. Show information is available at [narimilwaukeehomeshow.com](http://narimilwaukeehomeshow.com) or by calling 414-771-4071.



Kitchen by GMH Construction, NARI Milwaukee Remodeler of the Year Residential Kitchen over \$150,000 Silver Award Winner



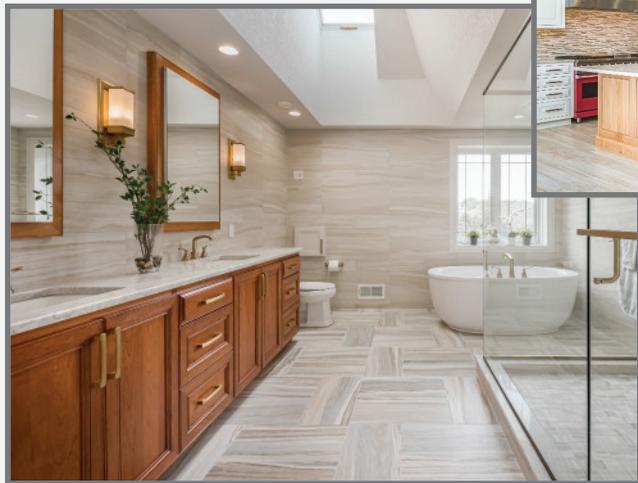
Kitchen by AB&K Bath & Kitchen, NARI Milwaukee Remodeler of the Year Residential Kitchen \$60,001 to \$100,000 Gold Award Winner



Kitchen by Gabor Design Build, LLC, NARI Milwaukee Remodeler of the Year Residential Kitchen \$60,001 to \$100,000 Gold Award Winner

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# Spotlight on the Home Office

Due to the pandemic, the lines between home and work have never been more blurred. And, thanks to modern technology, the office can be anywhere.

Looking beyond the pandemic, telework is being more universally recognized as a productive and practical benefit for employees. That means working from home will likely be happening well into the future.

Two members of NARI Milwaukee, Matthew Retzak, project designer with Bartelt. The Remodeling Resource, and Meghan McCabe, marketing manager from Gabor Design Build, provide their expert insight on where and how to create a functional and appropriate work-from-home environment.

“These days clients are looking to ditch the hodge-podge kitchen island set up and create dedicated office space,” says McCabe. “Since working from home is now the new normal, clients are not only looking for the ideal place for a home office, but a space that fosters inspiration, motivation, and functionality for the long-term.”

## Location

With more open concept design in kitchens and living areas, a functional workspace right in the center of it all can work well for some. Others, however, need a quiet escape from the action and prefer to create a more private, closed door room.

“The formal dining room is typically underutilized and is an easy space to convert into a fully functioning home office,” says Retzak. “We can wall it off from the kitchen or add doors to separate it from the foyer so there’s privacy and quiet.”

While some office projects have the goal of tapping into previously unused space, many others are about repurposing a room or portion of a room to maximize its practicality. For example, a basement recreation room might turn into a homeschooling area with a space for mom or dad to sit nearby and work, too. Both require plenty of well-planned storage, organization, and lighting.

“A guest bedroom that’s sitting empty for much of the time can be repurposed as a home

office,” adds Retzak. “We can install a Murphy bed that flips down when guests visit but is stored the rest of the time so there’s plenty of space for the home office.”

## Design

Most homeowners are opting for a more comfortable, yet modern design for their home offices.

Personalizing the office space and matching it to the overall design of the home is an important element. Workers want to feel inspired, relaxed and motivated in the room, not stuck. From the artwork, to the plants, to the paint color, it’s important to set the right tone.

“We listen closely to how our clients describe their work and responsibilities so we can create a customized space that meets their functional and lifestyle needs,” says McCabe. “Homeowners should also maintain the design integrity of their home. A home office should still have a residential feel and complement the rest of the home’s décor.”

Organization is also a key part of the overall design and worker productivity.

“We take into consideration video conferencing and what background you’re projecting,” says Retzak. “Having a nice built in provides a professional look while also delivering much-needed storage.”

## Lighting

Lighting is an important component in a space that’s being used eight or more hours a day.

A well-lit space with natural and overhead lighting is best. It brightens the space and helps protect eyes from screen strain and headaches.

“Having appropriate lighting is one of the biggest challenges with a basement office,” says Retzak. “In a basement, we recommend installing egress windows to bring in natural light and/or adding a good amount of supplemental light sources to create a comfortable environment.”

For home offices that are located in a converted dining room or guest bedroom, lighting is also a concern. Designers recommend a combination of overhead and task lighting and advise against relying solely on ambient light.

Need help crafting the right office solution? Start brainstorming with a NARI Milwaukee member today and relax knowing they can make a home office work for many years to come. For more ideas on home office locations and renovations, visit the NARI Milwaukee Spring Home Improvement Show, May 21-23, at State Fair Park. Show information is available at [narimilwaukeehomeshow.com](http://narimilwaukeehomeshow.com) or by calling 414-771-4071.



Basement home office by Gabor Design Build, NARI Milwaukee Remodeler of the Year Entire House \$250,000 to \$500,000 Gold Award Winner



Home office by Bartelt. The Remodeling Resource, NARI Milwaukee Remodeler of the Year Entire House \$500,000 to \$750,000 Gold Award Winner



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# What to Do BEFORE Remodeling Begins

Careful planning and preparation are the keys to any home remodeling project. As the area's leading home improvement and remodeling resource, NARI Milwaukee recommends doing the following before your remodel begins.

"Doing your research, outlining your goals and knowing what questions to ask is a critical part of the remodeling process," says Louis Weiher, CR, CCP, of Carmel Builders, Inc., and president of NARI Milwaukee. "These steps will help you plan and get prepared for your next home improvement project."

## Conduct Research

Research projects online for design ideas and inspiration. Make note of products or materials you like. Create a physical or online picture book of likes and dislikes.

"Homeowners should research both form and function," says NARI Milwaukee member Julie Herriges, CR, CKBR, WRID, of Urban Herriges & Sons. "Form addresses the design and decor elements and function is the way the space works. I encourage clients to create a list of things they like and don't like about their space and what does and doesn't work for them. Based on that, I can make recommendations of how to address the functionality of the room."

## Determine Your Budget

A realistic budget needs to include everything - the design, remodel, products, contingencies, etc. It's important to discuss a budget with your remodeler who can guide you on project costs and possible financing options if necessary.

"If the renovation is to improve your life, I encourage clients to allocate a portion of their budget for their own enjoyment," says Herriges. "There are things you may want because of how you live and what you enjoy doing. Go ahead and invest in those personal or custom elements because you'll get enjoyment from them on a regular basis."

## Find Professionals

Before you sign anything, research the contractor with credible organizations.

"Make sure the contractor is a NARI member since the organization vets all its members and can save you from fly-by-night contractors. Don't be afraid to ask if your contractor is fully licensed and insured either," says Jason Cyborowski, a long-standing NARI member and owner of J&J Contractors I.

All NARI members are local, trusted and proven professionals with proper licensing and insurance. If you have any referrals from friends or family, be sure to look up the companies to ensure they are NARI members.

It's also a good idea to talk with more than one

remodeler. You'll be entrusting them with your home - so getting a good feel for their process, style and approach is crucial.

## Ask the Right Questions

Ask the remodeler for references, review their website or brochure and confirm basic elements.

- Does the remodeler have all required licenses?
- Do they have general liability insurance in case of an accident on the job? Ask to see a copy to verify coverage.
- Do they warranty their work?
- How do they handle any challenges that may arise?

## Consider More Than Price

Be skeptical of unusually low prices. These bids may cost more in the end - especially if the contractor is cutting corners, not pulling permits, not calculating certain costs or is inexperienced.

Often, NARI professional remodelers end up fixing remodels from unscrupulous contractors who did shoddy and unsafe work or failed to complete the job.

Ask clarifying questions about each bid. Sometimes the higher price might be worth the cost of better quality materials and professional service.

## Review the Contract

Review the contract carefully and ask questions. Pay attention to details about change orders, payment, additional fees, timeline and responsibilities. Make sure the contract includes product selections so there are no miscommunications about what you want.

## Know the Communication Plan

A common downfall in remodeling is lack of communication between the homeowner and remodeler.

"Having a written document in advance helps everyone stay on track and makes the entire remodel go so much smoother," says Herriges. "We provide an extremely detailed, day-by-day plan so the homeowner knows exactly how many days demo, plumbing, electrical, etc. are going to take."

To connect with home improvement and remodeling experts, NARI Milwaukee is hosting its Spring Home Improvement Show May 21-23 at State Fair Park. For more information, visit [narimilwaukeehomeshow.com](http://narimilwaukeehomeshow.com) or call 414-771-4071.



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