



# SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW

at State Fair Park



## FEBRUARY 17 - 19 • STATE FAIR PARK

### NARI MILWAUKEE HOSTS SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW

Today many homeowners are deciding to stay put and pursue remodeling and home improvement plans instead of buying a new house. For those looking to make changes to their indoor or outdoor spaces, the 61st annual NARI Milwaukee Spring Home Improvement Show is the place to be.

The NARI Milwaukee show runs Feb. 17 - 19 at State Fair Park in the Exposition Center, 8200 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis, and is packed with qualified, trusted, local professionals who can help homeowners realize their dreams of a home that looks better, functions better and fits their lifestyle needs better.

The show includes approximately 150 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, windows, doors, HVAC, electrical, painting and more.

By attending the show, homeowners can easily connect with experienced NARI contractors.

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 1961, NARI Milwaukee has been a trusted resource for consumers. The non-profit pro-

#### Show Highlights

**More than 150 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.

**The Great Garage** – A garage can be more than just a place to park cars and store tools and equipment. A full-size display will showcase elements that elevate the humble garage to a great garage, including storage fixtures, flooring, decking, a security system and more.

**2023 Art Deco Student Challenge** – Check out the highly stylized art deco spaces created by talented students from Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC) and Mount Mary University.

**“The Plant Doctor” Melinda Myers** – Each day at 12:30 p.m., Melinda Myers will share her knowledge of all things green and growing. She'll give practical tips and advice for “Helping Your Plants, Trees, Shrubs and Lawn Thrive After Winter, how to “Create a Colorful Garden Filled with Birds, Butterflies and Blossoms,” and “How to Plan a Vegetable Garden.”

**Experts & Insight** – Each day, home remodeling and improvement experts provide valuable information on garages, decking and remodeling musts.

For more information on NARI and its members, visit [NARImilwaukee.org](http://NARImilwaukee.org) or call 414-771-4071 for a free copy of “Renovate,” our 2023 consumer magazine and membership directory.

motes 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, retired and active-duty military personnel and front-line workers and medical personnel (with I.D.) are free. Parking at State Fair is \$10 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.

URBAN  
**HERRIGES**  
& SONS, INC.

*Award Winning Designs  
Residential Remodelers*  
Specializing in Kitchens  
and Bathrooms



**262.363.4200**  
**[www.herriges.com](http://www.herriges.com)**

121 Wolf Run, Suite 1,  
Mukwonago, WI 53149  
*In Mukwonago since 1972*

**Julie Herriges, CR, MCKBR**  
Wisconsin Registered  
Interior Designer







# SPRING HOME IMPROVEMENT SHOW

at State Fair Park

**FEBRUARY 17 - 19**  
**STATE FAIR PARK EXPOSITION CENTER**  
\$10 IN ADVANCE / \$12 AT THE DOOR / \$10 ADULTS 60+  
(online only at NARIMilwaukeeHomeShow.com)  
Free admission for: children age 17 and younger, veterans, active-duty military and medical personnel. Must show ID at the door with online ticket or on-site purchase.  
**Tickets & more info: [NARIMilwaukeeHomeShow.com](https://www.narimilwaukeehomedshow.com)**

This year's NARI Milwaukee Spring Home Improvement Show will feature a series of intimate conversations with area experts. Come with questions and get one-on-one time to learn more about a variety of topics that range from gardening and garages to remodeling musts.

## FRIDAY FEB. 17 10am–8pm

**Noon**  
**Revitalizing Your Backyard**  
Elias McDonald, Excel Custom Contractors

**12:30pm**  
**Helping Your Plants, Trees, Shrubs and Lawn Thrive After Winter**  
Melinda Myers, “The Plant Doctor”



**2pm**  
**Get Your Garage in Gear**  
Erica Schaad, White Rabbit, Inc.



**2:30pm**  
**6 Things You Need to Know Before You Remodel**  
Matthew Jahns, CR, Refined Renovations

## SATURDAY FEB. 18 10am–7pm

**Noon – Revitalizing Your Backyard**  
Elias McDonald, Excel Custom Contractors



**12:30pm**  
**Create a Colorful Garden Filled with Birds, Butterflies and Blossoms**  
Melinda Myers, “The Plant Doctor”

**2pm – Get Your Garage in Gear**  
Erica Schaad, White Rabbit, Inc.



**2:30pm – 6 Things You Need to Know Before You Remodel**  
Matthew Jahns, CR, Refined Renovations

## SUNDAY FEB. 19 10am–5pm

**Noon**  
**Revitalizing Your Backyard**  
Elias McDonald, Excel Custom Contractors



**12:30pm**  
**How to Plan a Vegetable Garden**  
Melinda Myers, “The Plant Doctor”

**2pm – Get Your Garage in Gear**  
Erica Schaad, White Rabbit, Inc.

**2:30pm**  
**6 Things You Need to Know Before You Remodel**  
Matthew Jahns, CR, Refined Renovations







*Serving your community since 1948*



## FULL SERVICE REMODELING

KITCHENS. BATHS. LAUNDRY. BASEMENTS

20880 W. Enterprise Ave

Brookfield, WI 53045

262-782-7185

snkremodeling.com

Check us out on facebook!

**STARMARK**  
CABINETS

HOLIDAY **HK** KITCHENS

**NARI**  
Remodeling Done Right.  
MILWAUKEE

**NKBA**  
NATIONAL  
KITCHEN+BATH  
ASSOCIATION



# Exciting Entryways

In many neighborhoods, there's typically one home that stands out from the rest. It could be big or small but, regardless of its size, it makes a dazzling first impression with its manicured lawn, striking landscaping and eye-catching front entrance.

Four local design and remodeling experts, who are all members of NARI Milwaukee, share their ideas and advice for creating a home with an entry that's sure to impress.

"I like to start with the function of an entryway. It should be easy for guests to know where to go," says Louis Weiher, CR, CCP, president of Carmel Builders, Inc. "Having a clearly defined path to guide friends and family is key."

To direct guests to the front door, consider landscape lighting. It provides a soft nighttime glow and illuminates a walkway.

In addition, flower beds that flank a sidewalk provide a clear path, and a covered porch signals "this is the place to enter."

## Front Porch Pluses

There are a number of elements homeowners can add or update to enhance their front porch.

Once again, lighting is paramount.

"Lighting really does wonders," says Mary Sweet, a project manager and interior designer with Bartelt. The Remodeling Resource. "Beautiful coach lights or gas lanterns that flank the door draw people in and give a warm, inviting feeling to the entry."

Another consideration is the front door. Since it's a focal point, think about a strong color that stands out from the trim and delivers impact.

And, since the front door is used many times a day, day after day, quality and durability should be top considerations.

"The good news is that today's doors combine beauty, energy efficiency and security and come in a variety of colors, materials and styles," says Tod Colbert from Weather Tight Corporation. "If a homeowner really likes wood but is worried about the upkeep, there are fiberglass options that look like the real thing, complete with woodgrain detail. Another advantage with fiberglass doors is the fact they're fully insulated and have special jambs that deter moisture, rot and warping."

On the style side, glass is rising in popularity. Homeowners are frequently choosing doors that are full glass, partial glass or have glass accents. On the exterior, glass stands out. On the interior, it floods the entryway and home with warm, natural light.

"Sidelights and transoms are decorative ele-



Home Path Remodeling created a grand new entrance for a Brookfield ranch. One of the design updates was to replace the entry door with a wider, full glass door to flood the foyer with light.

ments that can be added alongside and above the door to give it a taller and wider presence," says Heather Dries, division president of Home Path Remodeling. "They're a nice way to add style and distinction to the front door."

For homeowners who'd like to give their home a significant facelift, the sky is the limit.

"Creating a grand exterior entrance is possible with any type of home," says Dries. "We recently worked with a homeowner who was looking for an updated, covered entry and wanted it to be more inviting, provide more natural light and make an architectural statement."

The design the Home Path Remodeling team created replaces the low ranch roof with a one-and-a-half story, open gable and specifies large scale natural cedar and stone columns to define the entry.

"Before, the entrance almost seemed like an afterthought and now it's an entrance with

stature," says Dries.

For a finishing touch, purchase two planters and change them seasonally. The important thing to remember is scale - homeowners should be careful not to go too small or too big for the space.

## Interior Excitement

Once curb appeal has been established, it's time to head inside.

The foyer or entry way does dual duty. It welcomes guests and accommodates their coats, purses, shoes and other belongings.

"We're seeing more boot benches and coat racks instead of the traditional front hall closet," says Dries. "In fact, sometimes we can take out the closet to enlarge the space and eliminate crowding when family and friends first enter the home."

The checklist of items for the front entry once again includes lighting and elements of intrigue.

"A spectacular pendant light can be a centerpiece of the space," says Sweet. "After that, you can layer on texture with a herring bone or chevron floor tile and a stunning decorative rug."

Wallpaper is also making a comeback in small spaces. Bold patterns and prints that mix dark saturated colors are appearing in entryways.

"There's really a world of possibilities we can explore to create a beautiful and memorable entrance to a home," says Sweet.

For more ideas on how to create an exciting entryway, visit the NARI Milwaukee Spring Home Improvement Show Feb. 17-19 at State Fair Park to talk with remodeling and landscape and design companies, including Carmel Builders, Weather Tight Corp., Bartelt. The Remodeling Resource and Home Path Remodeling.



# Water, Water Everywhere

Water is known for its relaxing and calming qualities.

Sitting in the backyard and watching a fountain splash or listening to a babbling stream can help relieve stress and anxiety in both children and adults. It's no wonder so many homeowners are looking to add water ambiance to their landscape.

Today, there are a variety of options to incorporate water in big or small ways.

"If you'd like to have the sound of water near your patio, consider a bubbling rock or pot. Those type of 'contained' water features are easy to install and require very little care," says Eric K. Weishaar, president of Breckenridge Landscape and a member of NARI Milwaukee.

Water curtains, which are a modern take on a traditional waterfall, can be built into walls or set into a frame with either a pond or pondless installation.

Just like the name implies, pondless water features don't require a pond. They're self-contained systems with an inground reservoir that pumps and recirculates water through the feature.

"Pondless features are great because they provide sound and movement but don't require much maintenance at all," adds Weishaar.

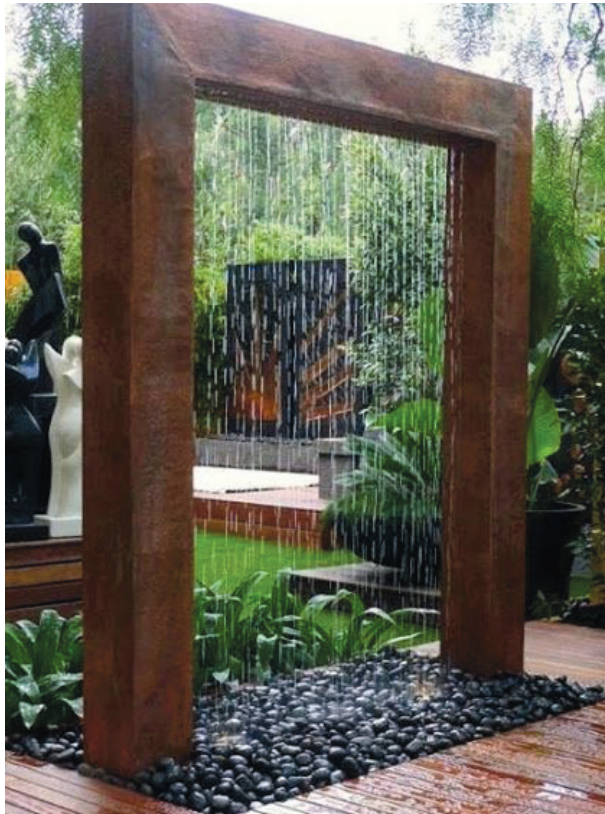
For those who'd like to go big, ponds are the next step. In fact, the past few years they've been growing in popularity as people refocus on their home and look to create a sanctuary in their yard.

For planning purposes, it's generally best to locate a water feature close to a patio, deck or garden where homeowners spend a significant amount of time. However, they can also be placed in areas that are otherwise unusable.

"It doesn't matter if your landscape is flat or sloped. We can work almost anywhere," says Dean Pipito, owner of Aquatica. "In fact, one of our clients had a steep hillside that was the 'problem area' of their yard. We installed a waterfall, and that space was instantly transformed into a jewel on their property."

Something many homeowners may not know is that pond technology has advanced over the past decade and maintenance has gotten significantly easier. In fact, Pipito notes that most ponds require just 10 minutes, or less, of care a week.

"Nowadays ponds work with mother nature to stay balanced and clean so that means the possibilities are almost endless," says Pipito. "From Japanese-inspired koi pools to large water gardens, in general, if you can dream it, we can create it."



And, while ponds are beautiful, they can also serve a practical purpose - an opportunity to get close to nature.

Water gardens attract songbirds, dragon flies and other wildlife. In fact, backyard ponds can be their own living ecosystem, which is something parents appreciate.

"We've worked with parents who specifically wanted a pond to teach their children about the environment, nature and all the insects and animals that use and enjoy it," says Pipito. "It really can be an outdoor classroom right in their own backyard."

For avid gardeners, a pond introduces a whole new array of plants that don't grow in a typical "dirt" landscape. Lotus, canna, water iris, rushes and grasses are just a few of the options. There are also "floaters" like water lily, mosaic plant and water lettuce.

Fish are another element that add interest. Stocking a pond with koi is something many backyard pond enthusiasts absolutely love and it can turn into a fun family hobby that involves both young and old.

"There's nothing better than coming home from a long day of work, sitting outside on the patio, taking in the picturesque night lighting of your pond and watching beautiful, colorful fish glide through the water," says Pipito.

For more ideas on how to add water to a landscape, visit the NARI Milwaukee Spring Home Improvement Show at State Fair Park Feb. 17-19.



## BGS GLASS SERVICE

*For All Your Glass Needs*

Quality Service since 1970 [www.bsgsglass.com](http://www.bsgsglass.com)

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL • New, Remodel, Repair

1620 Arcadian Ave.  
Waukesha, WI 53186  
**(262) 513-2806**



Replacement Windows/Doors • Insulated Units • Patio Doors • Screens Window/Patio • Mirrors • Shower Doors  
Glass Shelving • Tabletops • Storm Windows/Doors • Commercial Store Fronts





# Get Your Garage in Gear

Thanks to creative storage systems and attractive cabinetry, garages can be so much more than just a place to park the car and store the lawn mower.

Erica Schaad with White Rabbit and Brian Hering with Tailored Living, two local companies that are members of NARI Milwaukee, share their insights and advice on how to give a garage a makeover.

## Organize and Toss

The garage can be a gold mine of extra space but not if it's overloaded with junk. That means the first step is to sort.

"Spending a couple of hours going through your garage is the best way to begin," says Schaad. "I suggest having three separate bins to save, donate or discard items. Oftentimes, people don't realize how much extra stuff they're holding on to until they take a closer look."

Some companies even provide a trailer for homeowners to store their items during the process.

## Identify Needs

Once the garage has been given a good once



over, it's time to think about how the space can be used.

Talking with a garage consultant can help identify ways to maximize this "extra room."

"If homeowners list some of their specific needs, an updated garage can help fill those," says Schaad. "For example, do you need storage for sports equipment? Do you like to garden or work on your car or do you need extra 'overflow' space when you entertain? A garage can actually help with all of those things."

## Mudrooms and Small Spaces

For families living in an older home, there's often not a dedicated mudroom. However, a garage can fit that purpose perfectly.

A well-organized garage with wall systems and overhead racks can keep kids' sports equipment nearby the car for easy loading and unloading. Plus, it's a great way to have a 'drop zone' when there's not room for one inside.

"We can group the sports equipment all in a designated area and keep it reachable for younger ones by mounting low-level hooks, baskets and shelves so they can grab what they need as they leave and put it back when they return," says Hering. "For larger things, we can install specialty hooks to hold golf bags, skis, skateboards and bikes."

The garage is also a convenient place to store bulky, heavy or seasonal items - like outdoor power equipment, tools and holiday decorations.

"The number one question we get from homeowners is how to get things up and off the floor," explains Schaad. "Utilizing cabinetry, a workbench and overhead racks can bring much-needed compartmentalization to the garage."

Overhead racks are a terrific space saving option, especially for smaller garages. And, for

those who don't like ladders or can't lift heavy items, the racks can come motorized so they can be raised or lowered with the push of a button.

"We can get quite creative with storage options. In tight spaces, we can mount cabinets higher up to ensure the homeowner can still open their car door. We can also place cabinetry along the back wall or a rack above the hood of a car or even above the garage door, if the ceiling is high enough," says Hering. "There are lots of ingenious ways to find storage space."

## Party Places

Sometimes homeowners are looking for a little overflow space when they entertain. In that case, cabinetry is the way to go.

Durable and attractive cabinetry gives the garage a finished look that changes it from a storage place to something more.

"To make the space great for entertaining, we can install base cabinets and top them with butcher block so we're giving the homeowner a great serving buffet," says Hering. "If they want a fridge in the garage, we can give it a finished look by flanking it with cabinetry. The options are almost endless."

## Don't Forget the Floor

Both Schaad and Hering say finishing the floor is a must for functional and aesthetic reasons.

"Wisconsin winters are tough on concrete because road salt can cause pitting and cracking," says Schaad. "A special coating not only looks good but it protects the concrete from salt, oil, gas and other harsh chemicals. Plus, having a decorative, textured floor elevates the entire space."

## One More Reason

Many people use their garage entry every day as they come and go so the positives of an attractive, organized space shouldn't be overlooked.

"Instead of passing through a cluttered dumping ground, it's nice to get out of your car and walk through a space that's clean, organized and attractive. Your garage really can be something you're proud of," adds Hering.

To get a garage transformation in gear, visit the NARI Milwaukee Spring Home Improvement show Feb. 17-19 at State Fair Park.



THE BOLD LOOK  
OF **KOHLER**®

**Make a  
Lasting  
Expression**

**We Offer Free Estimates on:**

- **Bathroom Design**
- **Complete Bathroom Remodeling**

*With just one call to our  
In-House Designers, you can be  
assured that from start to finish,  
our highly qualified staff will  
transform your dream bathroom  
into a reality!*

**65+ Years**  
**IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD**

Call Today  
for an Appointment



**martens**  
PLUMBING & HEATING INC.

117 MacArthur Drive  
Mukwonago, WI 53149  
Telephone: 262-363-7146  
[www.martensplumbing.com](http://www.martensplumbing.com)





# Remodel or Move?

Improve your current home or move to a new one?

It's an age-old question many homeowners have wrestled with. In fact, there's even a popular TV program called "Love It or List It" that follows a family as they work through this significant decision.

## Start the Discussion

Fortunately, there are a few ways to begin evaluating the situation.

Experts recommend developing a pros and cons list to weigh out each side of the equation.

"In real estate, it usually comes down to 'location, location, location,'" says Louis Weiher, CR, CCP, president of Carmel Builders and past president of the NARI Milwaukee board of directors. "If you love your location because you're in a great neighborhood with quality schools and a walkable community, it's usually quite hard to replicate those 'outside' elements when you make a move."

Next, ask a few questions. Is there any existing space in the home that could be reallocated? Is there a more efficient layout that could make things function better?

"When I initially meet with a client, I like to take a step back and explore what they truly want their home to be and then we start exploring what their options are," says Weiher.

Remodeling experts say improving "inside" components is much easier to accomplish than replacing "outside" or intangible elements that make the area special.

## Identify Friction Points

"Frustration with a current home oftentimes drives the discussion about moving," says NARI Milwaukee member Nicole Raffensperger, CKBR, owner and lead designer with Design Tech Remodeling. "When you're talking about remodeling or moving, it's important to identify the pain points in your current home and then talk to a remodeling professional to see what can be done to address them."

Too small, poor functionality, old-and-worn or out-of-style are all issues that can be remedied as part of a remodel.

"You might have an older home that's broken into small rooms," says Raffensperger. "Redesigning the space into an open concept can alleviate the feeling that your home is cramped and outdated."

## Inventory the Space

Taking into consideration all available space,



Since the kitchen is the heart of the home, Carmel Builders reconfigured and redesigned this space to meet the homeowner's needs.



Thanks to Design Tech Remodeling, an updated bathroom with luxurious finishes was exactly what the homeowners envisioned.

including the basement and attic, is a potential answer for those who love their location but feel like they've outgrown their home.

"If you're looking for a somewhat 'immediate' fix, remodeling your basement is typically much easier and faster than an addition since foundation work usually isn't required," says Jason Cyborowski, president of J&J Contractors I and a member of NARI Milwaukee. "Over the course of several months, the lower level can typically be converted to have a bedroom, full bathroom, home office, workout space or TV

and rec room."

Once additional living space has been created in the basement, the first and second floors can be reconfigured to further meet the homeowner's needs.

"Adding a basement bedroom can free up an upstairs bedroom that can then be converted into a home office or tapped for a large master bedroom suite," adds Raffensperger. "Really, once you start opening your mind to new configurations within your existing home, the possi-

bilities are almost endless."

Sometimes, instead of looking to the lower level, the attic is the answer. A dormer utilizes existing attic or crawl space and is an addition that comes through the roof. Typically, it can be added to the second floor of a two-story home and can be placed on the front, side or back.

For those who are thinking about the price tag of remodeling or moving, there are obviously costs associated with each.

"There are really two things to think about when talking about remodeling costs," says Weiher. "First, remodeling is really an investment in your quality of life. Second, remodeling is similar to regular maintenance on your home. You expect to replace your furnace or roof at some point and it's the same thing with remodeling. As some point, you should expect to spend some money to update your kitchen or another room of your house."

To get a better handle on how to address some of the "problem areas" of your home and how much a remodel might cost, have a conversation with one or two NARI Milwaukee remodeling companies.

The NARI Milwaukee Spring Home Improvement Show that runs Feb. 17-19 at State Fair Park is an easy way to initiate a conversation with local remodeling experts, including Carmel Builders, Design Tech Remodeling and J&J Contractors I.



# FIND TRUSTED, PROVEN PROFESSIONALS WITH NARI

Looking for a home improvement contractor to help with your next project? Start with NARI. All our members are experienced, proven and qualified.

Call (414) 771-4071 or visit our searchable directory at [NARImilwaukee.org](http://NARImilwaukee.org).



## Are you frustrated with the current housing market?



If your family needs more space, consider an addition to your existing home rather than searching for a larger home. For many homeowners, it is a smart investment that increases livable square footage while boosting a home's value.

**Give us a call  
to talk about  
maximizing your  
home's potential!**



**262-853-8180** [victoryrenovationsllc.com](http://victoryrenovationsllc.com)



***When it comes to WATER...  
One call does it ALL!***

**S&K** PUMP & PLUMBING, INC.



**24 Hour Emergency Service 262-782-7190**

**All Plumbing Repairs & Installation  
Water Heaters (Standard & Tankless Style)  
Well & Sump Pumps, Pressure Tanks  
Drain Cleaning & Emergency Service**

***Your Complete Well, Pump &  
Plumbing Service***

**RESIDENTIAL – COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL**



**20880 W. Enterprise Ave.,  
Brookfield  
[www.snkpump.com](http://www.snkpump.com)**

