



HOME & REMODELING SHOW



OCTOBER 18-20 • STATE FAIR PARK

NARI Milwaukee Hosts 34th Annual Home & Remodeling Show

It's that time of year again. Fall is here and when Milwaukeeans head indoors they realize their home needs some work. For example, the kitchen might be outdated and cramped, the home might feel drafty and cold or the family might want more usable outdoor space.

Whatever the need, the NARI Milwaukee fall Home & Remodeling Show is the way to connect with qualified resources who can provide insight and advice and get the job done right. NARI's annual show runs Oct. 18-20 at the Exposition Center at Wisconsin State Fair Park, 8200 W. Greenfield Ave., West Allis.

"There's a continued focus on making your home 'your castle' and many homeowners are looking to customize their space to match their lifestyle and family situation," says Michelle Brown, executive director of NARI Milwaukee. "The fall show has the experts who can help make dreams a reality."

Approximately 100 NARI Milwaukee members will be exhibiting and on hand to answer questions, make recommendations and provide guidance, solutions and creative suggestions. In fact, for 2025 indoor and outdoor projects, now is the time for homeowners to line up trusted, local professionals.

Participating exhibitors at the NARI Milwaukee Home & Remodeling Show run the gamut of 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 and more.

Show Details

Tickets for the 2024 NARI Milwaukee Home & Remodeling Show are \$10 online and at the door. Tickets are \$8 for those age 60 and older with an I.D. Children age 17 and younger and active military, retired military, veterans, first responders and medical personnel (with I.D. at the door) are free. For more information, visit NARIMilwaukee.org.

Parking at State Fair is \$10 and ample street parking is available.

The NARI Milwaukee Home & Remodeling Show runs:

- Friday, Oct. 18, Noon - 8 p.m.
- Saturday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

In addition, the fall show will feature two new elements - Spooky Spaces and a sneak peek of the Greenhouse Grove.

Spooky Spaces

Just in time for Halloween, showgoers can check out two ghoulish living rooms and a haunted bar. NARI members have created three different looks that tie into the season of frights and scary sights.

Diane Nelson Interiors and Picky Painters are teaming up to create an upscale, gothic living room with a black, red and gold color palette. The room will feature a red velvet sofa with a gold and red armchair, black wallpaper flecked with gold, full-length gold curtains and spooky accessories that tie everything together.

Nehmey Construction is taking things to the basement with a spooky bar complete with a coffin and skeletons. Midwest Heating & Cooling, another NARI member, has their own Halloween living room that they're keeping as a surprise scare and will unveil on the opening day of the show.

Greenhouse Grove

The NARI Milwaukee Foundation is also debuting its first-ever Greenhouse Grove student challenge.

The challenge is an opportunity for high schoolers to practice their trade skills by constructing a 6x8 greenhouse. Eight area high schools are participating, and each has been assigned a NARI Foundation mentor who, along with their high school instructor, will help guide them through the process. The

activity is part of NextGen Trades, which works to introduce students to careers in the trades.

Students received the general design plan in August and have creative control to add elements, such as plumbing, electrical, solar, rain barrels and anything else that might be part of a fully functioning greenhouse. At the fall show, a blueprint of the basic greenhouse kit will be on display, along with a rendering of the 2025 Greenhouse Grove.

The completed greenhouses will be showcased at NARI's Spring Home Improvement Show, February 14-16, 2025, in the Greenhouse Grove area and students will be on hand to explain their creations.



KITCHENS • BATHROOMS • ADDITIONS

262.363.4200 • www.herriges.com

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

Julie Herriges, CR, MCKBR
Wisconsin Registered Interior Designer

LOWER LEVELS • WHOLE HOUSE



What's Trending

Homeowners are often interested in knowing what's trending in home décor and remodeling and what's staying the same.

Three members of NARI Milwaukee provide insight on what's hot and what's not.

Wallpaper is Back

The wallpaper industry has reinvented itself and these days well-known suppliers like Sherwin-Williams and JC Licht are introducing new looks and designs on a regular basis. In addition to the familiar names, there are other players like ThiBaut, Tempaper & Co., Serena & Lily and Hovia.

"Almost all of the manufacturers are working to 'out design' each other and they're producing beautiful and striking papers that are in tune with today's aesthetic," says Michael Madson, owner of Colorwheel Painting in Brookfield, a NARI member company. "They're offering everything from geometric patterns that have a Mid Century Modern feel to stripes, florals and landscapes. We're even seeing mural walls that feature an outdoor scene as a large-scale piece of art."



Colorwheel Painting installed a floral wallpaper that's paired with dark walls to create a dramatic look.

And, while peel-and-stick papers may be appealing due to their low cost and DIY application, buyers should beware.

"We routinely get calls from homeowners who went with an adhesive product that's now falling off the wall months or even days after they put it up," says Madson. "These papers often come from overseas and they may have sat in a shipping container for months experiencing extreme heat or cold and the glue on the back is basically shot."

Color and pattern consistency can also be an issue when buying from online retailers who mix and match dye lots and print runs. Be wary if there's a price that seems too good to be true. The paper might arrive with deviations from roll to roll or might pose problems during installation.

Another consideration is the thickness and quality of the paper. A thick, woven paper looks luxurious and stunning on a wall while a thin paper may appear chintzy and can be prone to bubbles or

tearing. In addition, low-quality papers can sometimes bleed when the wallpaper paste is applied or later on when the area is wiped to remove stains or spots.

For those who'd like ideas of how to use wallpaper in their home, check out the Instagram pages of reputable manufacturers and interior designers.

Colors are Warming

If wallpaper isn't appealing, paint is the other option and these days color is back.

In their annual color predictions, Valspar, Sherwin-Williams and other paint companies say consumers are forgoing stark whites and cool neutrals in favor of colors that create a cozy, relaxed feel.



Photography by Hayley McCormick

This bedroom by RJ Builders features a suspended bunk bed and custom wallpaper created from a photograph taken on vacation. The upper bunkbed headboard has a hidden compartment in the wood panels to store treasures.

Valspar's 2025 color of the year is Encore, a rich and versatile sapphire shade. Sherwin-Williams selected Quietude, a soft sage green.

"On the walls, we're getting away from the trend of one gray color fits all," says Madson. "People are using the colors they like and are evening painting their woodwork something other than white. Just a few months ago, we completed two different projects. In one home, we used black for the room trim and the other used a warm gray. Each was very striking and gave the home a retro look."

Nick Obrochta, owner of Bluejacket Builders in New Berlin, a NARI member company, agrees that today's color palette is softer and, in some cases, going bold.

"If homeowners are using gray or white, they're choosing warmer tones," says Obrochta. "Others are embracing colors 100%. We recently finished a second-floor addition in Wauwatosa and used an emerald green wall color that worked really well with the warm wood tones of the cabinetry."

Customization is King

Just like the uniform color of gray is fading, the pressure to adhere to strict design and décor standards is going by the wayside.

"Homeowners are doing what they want. They're being inspired by social media and are trying things that are unusual or different," says Ann Gaeta from

RJ Builders in Shorewood, a NARI member company. "They're not afraid to incorporate a variety of materials and elements to create visual interest and make the space their own."

In terms of color, some homeowners are embracing black in their kitchen or bathroom.



Photography by Hayley McCormick

Homeowners are charting their own course. In this home, RJ Builders installed tile in an unusual location - on the stair treads.

"Instead of a white or navy island, we've been using a variety of other colors like black, earthy greens and warm beiges," adds Gaeta. "Architectural elements are also coming back. We recently installed columns in a kitchen to frame the view to the backyard and created a wood treatment to accent a range hood."

Since rules are being bent left and right, another trend is to mix-and-match metals.



This home in Wales features a painted gray island set atop a pedestal, making it a focal point of the kitchen. Colorwheel Painting handled the island painting.

"For a while, everyone was stuck on brushed nickel but now we're seeing matte black, brushed gold and other finishes being used," says Obrochta. "We can incorporate different metals that play off the other colors in the space and deliver these striking



Photography by Tricia Shay

RJ Builders incorporated a custom black metal hood designed by Vogler Metalwork & Design into a recent kitchen remodel.

style details."

In the kitchen and throughout the home, lighting is no longer an afterthought. Instead, it's been elevated to an essential design component.

"I spend a lot of time with my clients picking out lighting," says Gaeta. "Lighting and cabinet hardware are the finishing touches that pull an entire room together and make a statement."

Basements Come into Their Own

For homeowners looking to expand their living space, the basement is one of the best places to turn.

In fact, if the basement is dry and the ceilings are high enough, the sky is the limit for converting it into almost anything.

"Things have changed and it's not your parent's basement anymore," says Obrochta. "We're now incorporating design features like custom fireplaces and wine cellars. In fact, in a Grafton home we built a secret door that led to a gym space."

Remodeling all or even part of a basement adds usable square footage to a home. It can turn a 2,000-square-foot-home into a 2,500- or 3,000-square-foot-footprint, which is a sizable increase.

"We're finishing basements like the rest of the home and are making them places that get used on a regular basis. We are doing bedrooms with egress windows, full bathrooms with deluxe showers and entertainment rooms with fridges and wet bars," says Obrochta.

And, while experts say basement remodels add value to a home, the most important return on investment is what the family gets out of the space and how it adds to their quality of life.

For more information on remodeling trends, visit the NARI Milwaukee Home & Remodeling Show at State Fair Park, Oct. 18-20. Tickets are \$10 online and at the door. Visit NARIMilwaukee.org for all the details.



MARVIN® 

VISIT OUR MARVIN SHOWROOM
at a location nearest you and view
the latest styles and selection of
Marvin windows and doors.

FOLLOW US  

AN EXCEPTIONAL WINDOW INTO YOUR WORLD.

Your home, your statement. Let Bliffert Lumber & Design show you the possibilities with the extraordinary craftsmanship of Marvin windows. From high-energy efficiency to beautiful, virtually endless style options our Marvin experts will walk you through our vast selection and open a world of remodeling possibilities for your home.

Experience exceptional quality with our extensive Marvin windows and doors selection. Remodel it better. Remodel it local. With more from Bliffert Lumber & Design.

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM NEAREST YOU.

Get more for your remodeling needs including custom cabinetry and millwork,
and inspiring kitchen cabinetry displays, with outstanding design services.



MILWAUKEE
LUMBER & HARDWARE
1014 E. Chambers St.

OOSTBURG
LUMBER & DESIGN
1218 Center Ave.

MILWAUKEE
LUMBER & MILLWORK
2128 W. Morgan Ave.

GERMANTOWN
LUMBER & DESIGN
N116 W16474 Main St.

MILWAUKEE
CABINETRY
1168 N 50th Place

STURTEVANT
LUMBER & DESIGN
10050 Durand Ave.

WAUKESHA
LUMBER & DESIGN
548 W. Sunset Dr.

PORTAGE
LUMBER, DESIGN & HARDWARE
1009 E Wisconsin St.

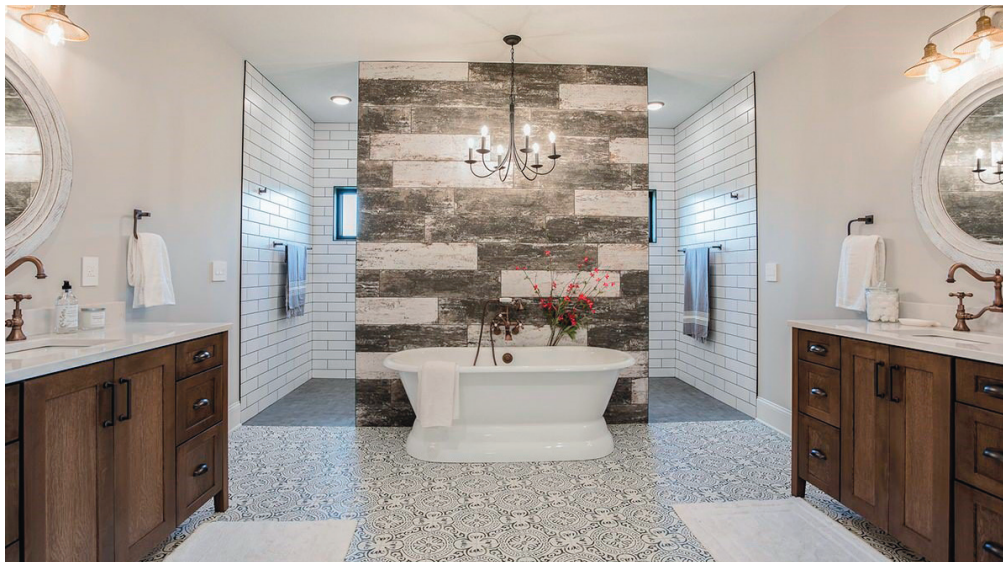
SUN PRAIRIE
LUMBER & DESIGN
2175 McCoy Road

DEFOREST
LUMBER & DESIGN
401 Market Street

MCFARLAND
LUMBER & DESIGN
5417 Long Street

FIND MORE @ [BLIFFERTLUMBER.COM](https://www.bliffertlumber.com)

Creating a Home Spa



Lifetime Renovations created a luxurious bathroom with a two-person shower and free-standing tub.

At the end of a long day, imagine coming home to a luxurious bathroom. Soothing music plays, a hydro tub massages the muscles and essential oils relax the mind.

This scenario isn't a dream. It's achievable thanks to advances in product development by companies like Brizo, BainUltra and Kohler.

"Remodeling a bathroom into a spa or therapeutic space offers numerous benefits that go beyond aesthetics," says Matt Anderson, owner of Lifetime Renovations, LLC, in Delafield. "It creates a personal sanctuary where homeowners can escape the stresses of daily life and enjoy a sense of pampering and tranquility."

Find the Space

While there is no strict minimum size for a spa bathroom, larger spaces do allow for more luxurious features, such as walk-in showers, soaking tubs and seating areas.

Ideally, an "enhanced" bathroom should be at least 75-100 square feet to comfortably accommodate these elements. However, it's common to borrow space from adjacent rooms, closets or hallways to expand the bathroom and create an open and serene atmosphere.

"Homeowners often find that reconfiguring unused or underutilized space dramatically enhances the functionality and appeal of the bathroom, transforming it into a more spacious and relaxing retreat," says Anderson.

Add Warmth

One of the elements that soothes the body and mind is warmth. To fashion a cozy environment, begin from the bottom up with a heated floor.

Radiant flooring isn't just about the feet. It adds heat to the entire room, creating a "blanket of warmth." It's interesting to note that radiant heat is quite energy efficient compared to traditional forced air or a space heater.

There are two main types of heated flooring - hydronic (which uses hot water tubes) or electric. Hydronic costs more up front but is cheaper to use over the long term. Electric is initially less expensive but costs more over time to operate.

"There are lots of surface options for heated floors but ceramic, porcelain, marble and natural stone are some of the most common," says Christine Fish, territory manager with Gerhard's Kitchen, Bath & Lighting. "While there are many choices, working with a design expert can help homeowners narrow down what works best for them and their space."

The next item on the "cozy" list is a towel warmer. There's nothing like stepping out of the shower or bath and wrapping a warm towel around yourself.

Most warmers are attached to the wall so they require a professional electrician to install them. However, there are lower cost, freestanding towel warmers that simply plug into an outlet.

Mix in Water

Water is another key relaxation ingredient. These days, there are a variety of water products to create a spa experience.

"A spacious, glass-enclosed walk-in shower with full body jets, cascading rain showerheads and steam options provides a serene, immersive experience," says Anderson.

While some may not have heard of steam showers, they have been increasing in popularity as more homeowners embrace their benefits.

According to manufacturers, steaming promotes relaxation and reduces stress, can improve circulation and lower blood pressure, reduce muscle and joint pain and provide relief from congestion due to allergies and colds.

"We have many homeowners who absolutely love their steam shower and use it to start or end their day. They've told us they can't imagine not having it," says Fish.



A bathroom remodel by Lifetime Renovations features a sleek, glass enclosed shower that opens up the space.

One of the steam shower manufacturers that Fish recommends is Brizo.

Brizo's Mystix product can be programmed for two different users and their preferences. In addition, aromatherapy, chromatherapy and audiotherapy can be added to the system.

For those who are unfamiliar with the terms, aromatherapy uses essential oils like lavender, citrus and sandalwood to promote wellbeing. Chromatherapy uses colored lights to enhance a mood or feeling. For example, orange can energize the mind and support a happy or cheery mood while purple fosters a sense of tranquility to help reduce stress. Audiotherapy uses soothing sounds or calming music to encourage relaxation.

Deluxe showers and steamers aren't the only water option for a spa bathroom. Soaking and therapeutic tubs are also popular.

When looking for a tub, Fish recommends homeowners take a look at BainUltra.

"The tub is thoughtfully designed for ultimate comfort and relaxation. Plus, it has built-in therapeutic elements, including hydro-thermo massage, thermotherapy, chromatherapy, aromatherapy and audiotherapy," explains Fish. "When you engage all the senses, it's a complete experience that leaves you feeling refreshed and rejuvenated."

Specifically, the BainUltra tub has powerful air jets that are strategically placed to deliver an acupressure massage to reduce tension and relax the muscles. It also incorporates heating elements that warm the neck, back and bottom to promote healing while soaking in the tub.

Don't Forget the Toilet

Toilets shouldn't be overlooked because today's models have been elevated to be modern marvels.

The Numi 2.0 smart toilet from Kohler has a heated seat with hands free opening and closing, a bidet setting that can be personalized to each family

member, ambient colored lighting (that's especially helpful for nighttime bathroom visits), built in speakers and self-cleaning technology.

Bidets are commonplace throughout Europe and Asia since they're viewed as more hygienic than toilet paper. In fact, in Italy, bidets have been required in new homes since 1975 and more than three-quarters of bathrooms have one.

For those who'd like a bidet but aren't ready for a new fixture, there are kits that can be added to an existing toilet.

Finish the Environment

Once all the elements are in place, it's time to add the finishing touches.

Start with organization because there's nothing that kills a calm mood faster than clutter.

Take a step back and organize the space so hairdryers, makeup and other elements all have a home that's convenient yet out of sight. This can also be accomplished through thoughtful design that includes cabinets and shelves to deliver a clean aesthetic.

Next turn to the walls and accent pieces.

"I like to use warmer, softer paint colors, like greens and creamy whites, to set the tone for a spa bathroom," says Fish.

Consider incorporating living plants to bring nature into the space. Boston ferns, spider plants and bromeliads are a few types that do well in high humidity rooms and can tolerate low light.

"There are almost infinite ways to complete a bathroom by adding elegant touches like soft ambient lighting and rich wood accents that imbue the space with warmth and sophistication," says Anderson. "To get started on a spa bathroom, begin by collecting ideas and then reach out to a NARI member company that can make your vision a reality."

Healthy Homes

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Americans on average spend 90% of their time indoors where the concentrations of some pollutants are often two to five times higher than outdoors.

The EPA also notes that indoor concentrations of some pollutants have increased in recent decades due to energy-efficient building construction and increased use of synthetic building materials, personal care products, pesticides and household cleaners.

Dave Kallie, owner of Dimension Design, Build, Remodel, Inc., works with homeowners to help reduce indoor air pollution.

“During a remodel, we can make specific product selections that don’t contribute to VOCs and improve indoor air quality,” says Kallie.

What are VOCs?

Volatile organic compounds (VOCs for short) are a group of chemicals that can evaporate into the air and have a variety of potential harmful health effects.

The EPA's list of the top sources of potentially harmful household VOCs includes:

- Paints, paint strippers and other solvents
- Wood preservatives
- Aerosol sprays
- Cleansers and disinfectants (bleach and ammonia)
- Moth repellents and air fresheners
- Stored fuels and automotive products
- Hobby supplies
- Dry-cleaned clothing
- Pesticides
- Building materials and furnishings, especially particle board furniture
- Office equipment such as copiers and printers
- Glues, adhesives and permanent markers

A strong chemical smell is one sign that VOCs are present. It's especially true for new furniture, carpets and electronics, which release VOCs in a process called “off-gassing.”



Dave Kallie, CEO, MCR, CKBR, CAPS, with Dimension Design, Build, Remodel, Inc. works with homeowners to incorporate healthy materials, products and methods into the new construction and design/build process.

Identify Health Concerns

When Kallie partners with homeowners, he begins by understanding their overall goals and specific health concerns.

Are they looking to reduce indoor VOCs?

Are they looking to reduce the potential for mold?

Do they have certain allergies?

Are they sensitive to electricity?

“We can suggest 'healthy' alternatives for every

aspect of the home to reduce pollutants,” says Kallie. “Once we’ve made product selections, we can then manage what’s left with air and furnace filters.”

Top to Bottom

Kallie has recommendations that start in the basement and continue to the main level.

“Over the years, we’ve worked with people who want to ensure they don’t get mold in their home,” says Kallie. “The basement can be a hot spot for mold so, in addition to taking steps to eliminate dampness, we can paint the underside of wood joists to deter it.”

In terms of flooring, he suggests products that don’t require the use of toxic glues during installation. He typically stays away from carpeting but, if clients want it, can help guide them to carpet options that are lower in VOCs.

Paints and stains are another consideration. In the mid-1990s, Glidden was the first major supplier to introduce a zero-VOC paint. Other manufacturers soon followed suit, and homeowners now have a plethora of choices.

When it comes to countertops, Kallie goes with quartz since it doesn’t off-gas VOCs and is durable and attractive.

“Many people love granite but, if you’re properly taking care of it, that means using chemicals on a yearly basis to seal it,” says Kallie. “Oftentimes, homeowners do their food prep on the counter surface so their meal is coming into contact with chemicals and that’s something we want to avoid.”

Finally, during an extensive remodel when walls are being replaced, materials for rough framing and sheeting can be selected with low or no VOCs in mind.

Filter the Air

The best way to improve indoor air quality is to

bring in fresh air from the outside.

However, today’s homes are built extremely tight and therefore don’t allow air to seep in, which is good for energy efficiency but not so good for air quality. To combat sealed homes, homeowners can upgrade or add a filter to their existing furnace or purchase high efficiency portable air cleaners.

High-quality HVAC filters catch dust, pollen and pollutants. Look for furnace filters with a high MERV rating since they’re typically best at capturing very small particles. The MERV scale ranges from 1 to 20 and U.S. News & World Report recently identified six of the best air filters for central AC and furnaces.

Ultraviolet (UV) lights can be added to an existing furnace or come with a new unit to neutralize viruses, bacteria and mold spores. In terms of room air purifiers, the most effective ones are those with HEPA filters since the units remove particles and mold spores from the air. Some use a three-stage filtration system that includes a pre-filter, HEPA filter and activated carbon filter.

“My best advice for homeowners is to put their HVAC to ‘fan’ when they’re not using the heat or AC. The fan setting ensures that the system is continually pulling in fresh air and circulating it through the house,” says Kallie. “Be sure to change the filter every three to four months and you’ll greatly increase your air quality.”

It All Adds Up

When homeowners are mindful about improving their indoor air quality, they’ll quickly realize there are a variety of steps they can take.

“Some people don’t feel well or are sick all the time and, once we implement some strategic changes, their health begins to improve,” says Kallie. “There’s a whole science to constructing a healthy home and I’m more than happy to talk with anyone who’s interested in learning more. You can find me at the NARI Milwaukee Home & Remodeling Show in October at State Fair Park.”



Every room of the house, including the kitchen, can be designed with healthier and safer products.



Photos courtesy of Dimension, Design, Build, Remodel, Inc.
HVAC systems can help filter a home's air.

A Kitchen Made for Entertaining

Thanksgiving, Christmas, birthdays, graduation parties and casual get togethers with family and friends. There are a plethora of occasions when having a kitchen that's designed for entertaining makes the entire event easier to host and more enjoyable for all.

"It's almost always true that everyone ends up in the kitchen," says Dave Hoffman, design partner and creative director for HighPoint Design Build Group and a member of NARI Milwaukee. "Having a space that's been carefully thought through and laid out to accommodate numerous people in a variety of ways is essential."

Hoffman and two other designers who are members of NARI Milwaukee share their thoughts on the elements that make a kitchen perfect for hosting.

"Homeowners considering a remodel, should ask themselves a few questions. What do they like about their kitchen? What don't they like about it and how would they like to use it in the future?" says Nicole Raffensperger, CKBR, owner and lead designer with Design Tech Remodeling. "After that, it's time to look for a design partner who will listen to their needs and wants and develop a plan that accomplishes what they're looking for."

It All Begins with a Layout

While the layout phase of a remodel may not be the most exciting part for homeowners, it is the

road map for the entire project.

When creating a layout, designers must take into account a wide range of items. Where will food prep, cooking and eating take place? Where should the appliances, cabinetry and sinks be positioned? How does traffic flow?

"Layout is the first thing to look at because it's not just about making a pretty kitchen. We must make it functionally convenient for everyone," says Marie Owens, a designer with Callen.

These days, designers have a variety of tools at their disposal to create three-dimensional (3D) floor plans. 3D renderings and virtual walk throughs allow homeowners to have a better understanding of how the space is arranged and how it will look.

With a realistic picture in mind, homeowners can envision their activities in the room. What does the morning routine look like for themselves and their children? At night, how would dinner prep and meals happen? When hosting, where would guests gather and where would people eat?

Based on those scenarios, homeowners can provide feedback and adjustments can be made.

Islands and Peninsulas

Thanks to their versatility and multi-functional nature, islands and peninsulas have become almost standard in many of today's kitchens.

For entertaining purposes, they are a perfect place for a spread. Friends can gather around for drinks and snacks or an entire buffet-style meal can be laid out.

"Whether they're big or small, islands provide a natural socializing spot for guests," says Owens. "They allow you to prep and cook while engaging with your guests, and they serve as a buffer to keep people in the communal area instead of drifting into the work zone."

Islands and peninsulas can also accommodate a variety of convenient elements, including a prep sink, pull-out trash and recycling bins and a drawer microwave that can be housed in an undercounter cabinet.

Plus, they can be configured in a variety of shapes (rectangle or square), sizes (oversized, large, medium or small) and heights (table, counter or bar).

"Sometimes we create a two-tiered island so small children and older adults can sit comfortably at table height instead of having to climb onto taller chairs or stools," says Raffensperger.

Beverage Stations

The first order of business when entertaining is usually offering guests a beverage. However, for large gatherings, serving guests individually can sometimes overwhelm the host.

A beverage station within the kitchen or in a nearby great room helps ease that stress.

"Having a place where people can serve themselves makes entertaining so much easier," says Raffensperger. "Beverage station options range from a wet or dry bar to a sleek beverage fridge or a counter that's topped with open shelving that's stocked with glasses and spirits."

A separate beverage area also eliminates the congestion that can occur around the refrigerator if guests have to head there for something to drink.

Dining Area

The location of a dining table is another key consideration for a kitchen that's built for entertaining.

"We oftentimes expand the footprint of the

kitchen and anchor everything off of the dining area," says Hoffman. "We like to group interior dining close to the kitchen so there's an easy path from the food prep area to the place where everyone is gathering to eat."

Once again, a nearby island or peninsula can be utilized. They can serve as a staging area for dishes, act as a buffet or they can be used as the spot to rest items once they've been passed around the table.

Color and Adornments

Finally, entertaining kitchens should incorporate elements that establish a mood and "wow" guests.

The past few years, more homeowners have been incorporating color in bold ways. They are moving away from a single color of cabinetry and are instead opting for a two-toned cabinetry look. For the perimeter cabinets, they might select darker base cabinetry and top that with lighter uppers. For example, a gray or navy-blue cabinet below could be paired with a white or cream cabinet above.

For those who are really looking to make a statement, there's the option of a three-tone color palette. The island can stand out by adding a darker or bold-colored base that's different than the surrounding cabinetry.

Lighting is also a significant consideration for an entertaining kitchen.

"Pendant lights placed above an island or peninsula add visual interest to a room," says Owens. "From natural materials to geometric designs to gorgeous glass, there are so many options so homeowners can make almost any design statement they'd like."

In addition to pendants, dimmable undercabinet lighting allows homeowners to adjust the brightness for task lighting when they're prepping or to provide a soft glow in the room.

Finishes are another staple that shouldn't be overlooked.

"Selecting a fun backsplash with bold patterns or colors can really liven up a space," says Raffensperger. "Cabinetry hardware adds a layer of intrigue to a room. You can mix and match different knobs, pulls and handles throughout the space."



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

m martens
PLUMBING & HEATING INC

117 MacArthur Drive
Mukwonago, WI 53149
Telephone: 262-363-7146
www.martensplumbing.com






DIANE NELSON
INTERIORS

NARI
Remodeling Done Right.™

**Residential/Commercial Interior Design
& Remodeling**
414.461.4640
Email diane@dianenelsoninteriors.com
Web dianenelsoninteriors.com

Creative Ways to Maximize Space

Sometimes homes have “dead zones” - spaces that, for whatever the reason, are rarely used. It could be an unusual nook or cranny that's been ignored and left vacant, a formal dining room that's collecting dust or a cluttered garage.

Three members of NARI Milwaukee share their ingenious ideas for turning wasted space into almost anything.

Michelle Swier, Allied ASID, Principal Designer, MKE Design Build

MKE Design Build frequently works in converted condos, meaning there are often interesting shapes and spaces to address.

One condo owner had a large column that created a dead zone in an alcove that adjoined the living room and master bedroom.

When the owner began working from home in 2020, he positioned his desk in the space but didn't like seeing his work during off hours. To solve that problem, Swier created a day-to-night solution.

“We built an all-in-one piece for him. We fashioned a beautiful bar cabinet for nighttime use and during the day it converts into a desk thanks to clever drawers and hidden pull outs,” says Swier. “We also used lighting to accentuate the column and by doing that turned it into a signature architectural element.”

Another condo had a large corner tub in the

master bathroom that was being used to collect laundry. The homeowner wanted more organizational space so Swier removed the tub and in its place built a fully enclosed closet with shelving at different heights to accommodate laundry and other essentials.

“The master bath was in really good shape so we simply tucked this amazing closet in between the shower and vanity and gave our client four times more laundry space,” says Swier.

Attics can also be tapped. Swier recently worked with a couple in Bay View to turn their unfinished attic into a complete living area. The home had a tall, steep roofline so there was plenty of room to work with.

The attic now boasts two bedrooms with a full master suite, adjoining bathroom, living area and kitchenette. Skylights were added to flood the space with natural daylight.

“This couple almost doubled their square footage and now their main living space is upstairs. They use their first floor when they go to work,” says Swier.

Jenny Voss, Lead Designer, Riemer Remodel

Voss has a great deal of experience maximizing a limited amount of space since she also designs tiny homes for Riemer Remodel's sister company, Utopian Villas.

“In tiny homes, we use lofts to take advantage of every single inch that's available,” says Voss.

The loft concept can also apply to traditional homes. Homes that have vaulted ceilings can put that space to good use by adding a loft to create an upper bedroom or home office.

The exposed area underneath the staircase is another goldmine that's often overlooked.

“We can easily convert that neglected nook to accommodate a washer and dryer, desk or turn it into a well-organized storage zone. Really, there are so many possibilities,” says Voss. “On-demand water heaters are great space savers and can go under the stairs to free up other valuable real estate in the basement.”

Voss says she's even built a small bar under the stairs of a tiny home.

Underutilized closets are another place to repurpose space. For families who need an extra bathroom, a closet can be converted into a powder room and, depending on the size, might even be able to accommodate a corner shower.

Erica Schaad, Designer, White Rabbit Home Improvement

A garage is another place that's loaded with potential.

“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 do you need 'overflow' space when you entertain? A garage can help with all of those things.”

For families living in an older home, there's usually 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.

Sometimes homeowners are looking for a little extra 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.

“We can install base cabinets and top them with a fun, decorative counter to give the homeowner a place to serve drinks or snacks. The counter can even be used as a buffet,” says Schaad. “Adding a fridge in the garage and flanking it with cabinetry gives it a finished look and helps reduce overcrowding in the kitchen or other areas of the house. The options are really almost endless.”



Utilizing cabinetry, shelving and racks can bring much-needed compartmentalization to a garage.



Change Your Home, Change Your Life.

Change is the only constant in life. Living in a space that no longer fits is just not enjoyable. Kitchens, bathrooms, lower levels — no matter what space needs attention, a home renovation offers highly customized solutions. Our full-service, design-build approach gives you the most personalized experience of any Milwaukee area remodeling contractor.

Contact us today for a free consultation.



Your Trusted Milwaukee Area Remodeling Contractor

262-853-8180

victoryrenovationsllc.com

Preparing Your Home for Winter

When the days start to cool off, that's the sign it's time to conduct fall and winter home maintenance.

According to Randy Miller, MCR, UDCP, owner of Allrite Home & Remodeling and president of NARI Milwaukee, one of the first things to do is a visual inspection inside and out.

Roof, Gutters, AC and More

"You want to walk around your home's exterior and look for things like cracks in the siding, loose caulk around windows and the condition of your roof," says Miller.

Signs that a roof is aging include missing or torn shingles, granules in the gutters and roof streaks. Granules coming off shingles may not seem like a big deal to homeowners, however, it is a warning that the shingles are breaking down. The worst-case scenario of putting off an aging roof is that water gets under the shingles and damages the attic and travels down into ceilings and walls.

In most cases, water is detrimental to a home. Homeowners should keep in mind the goal is to always direct water away from the house.

To that end, landscaping around the house should be sloped away from the foundation to help reduce or eliminate water seeping into the basement. Next, look up to the gutters that run along the roof. Notice if there's any sagging or cracks. When it rains, walk outside to make sure there aren't leaks. Then, check to make sure downspouts

extend at least four to six feet away from the house and into the yard.

"Gutters and downspouts are extremely important since they pull and direct water and moisture away from the roof and home," says Tod Colbert, president of Weather Tight. "A properly operating gutter system protects a home from water damage and helps prevent the growth of mold and mildew on a home's exterior."

Each fall and spring, gutters and downspouts should be cleaned to remove debris. In addition, any tree branches that touch or are close to gutters should be trimmed so they're not dropping leaves, needles or acorns into the system.

While trimming, plants, bushes and trees that surround an air conditioning unit or the exterior PVC furnace vent pipe should also be cut back to keep the area clear.

David Nason, owner of Best Inspections, LLC and president of the Wisconsin Association of Home Inspectors, recommends touching up paint and caulk on a home's exterior seasonally.

"Exterior caulk prevents water from getting behind your siding, underneath windows and into your home so it's important to remove and replace old or cracking caulk," says Nason. "For those with wood siding or trim, if you notice spots where the bare wood is exposed or paint is peeling, scrape, prime and paint those areas to protect your home."



Many Wisconsinites were taught to completely wrap their air conditioning units with a tarp to protect them during the winter.

Bill Brink, owner of Kettle Moraine Heating and Cooling, advises against that.

"If you completely encase your unit, you're creating a cozy place right next to your house for mice to nest and it's not far for them to travel to get inside your home," says Brink. "Instead, I recommend using a 'beanie' type of cover that goes on top to keep leaves, sticks and other debris from getting in."

The outside dryer vent and louvers should be inspected at least once a year and leaves and lint should be removed. Once that's done, head inside

to clean out the vent to avoid a potential fire hazard and improve drying time. For families and those with pets, this cleaning should be done every six months.

Last but not least, check the outside (and inside) stairway railings to make sure they're secure and haven't come loose. A shaky railing can lead to a slip or fall and that's no good during the cold winter months.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Daylight savings is a good time to check the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and install new ones.

"There should be a minimum of one smoke and carbon monoxide detector on each level of the home and that includes the basement," says Nason. "In fact, new homes have detectors in each bedroom."

Nason also suggests homeowners check their GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) receptacles monthly since they can wear out. GFCIs protect people from electrical shock and are a small white or red button that's located between the two outlets.

At the end of the day, while owning a home requires some work, there are a multitude of NARI professionals who are available to help homeowners easily maintain and update their place.



*Serving your community
since 1948*



**FULL SERVICE
REMODELING**

KITCHENS. BATHS.
LAUNDRY. BASEMENTS

20880 W. Enterprise Ave • Brookfield, WI 53045
262-782-7190 • snkremodeling.com
Check us out on facebook!

STARMARK
CABINETRY

HOLIDAY **HK** KITCHENS

NARI
Remodeling Done Right.
MILWAUKEE

NKBA
KITCHEN BATH
CONNECTION

