

# MAY 17 - 18 • 17-STOP TOUR

## NARI MILWAUKEE HOSTS TOUR OF REMODELED HOMES 2025 Event Expands Locations and Is Free

NARI Milwaukee is hosting its annual Tour of Remodeled Homes Saturday, May 17, and Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. The 17-stop tour features whole home transformations, beautiful additions, stunning kitchen remodels, updated living and dining rooms, bedroom suites, bathrooms, laundry and mudrooms plus exterior overhauls. New this year, the tour will also include four design showrooms.

The Tour of Remodeled Homes is an opportunity to see completed remodels in real life and ask questions of the designers and experts who conceived and completed the project.

The tour includes five kitchen/first floor remodels, four design showrooms, three “whole home” remodels, two new construction homes, one backyard transformation, one exterior overhaul and one finished basement.

Tickets for the NARI Milwaukee Tour of Remodeled Homes are free. To receive a tour map and tickets, sign up online at [NARIMilwaukee.org/Tour](http://NARIMilwaukee.org/Tour).

### At a Glance

#### 5 Kitchen/First-floor Remodels

- Delafield remodel by GMH Construction, Inc.
- Greendale remodel by J&J Contractors I, LLC
- New Berlin remodel and addition by Lifetime Renovations LLC
- Sussex remodel by Callen
- Wauwatosa remodel by Refined Renovations

#### 4 Showrooms

- AB&K, 3636 S. 108th St., Greenfield
- MKE Design Build, 3775A S. Packard Ave., St. Francis

- Bliffert Lumber & Design, 548 W. Sunset Dr., Waukesha
- Kelmann Homes, 255 N. 121st St., Wauwatosa

#### 3 Whole Home Remodels

- Greendale remodel by J&J Contractors I, LLC
- Elm Grove remodel by Alair Homes Milwaukee
- Pewaukee remodel by Dimension Design, Build, Remodel, Inc.

#### 2 New Construction Homes

- Milwaukee home by MKE Design Build
- North Prairie home by DSH Design LLC

#### 1 Completed Basement

- Menomonee Falls basement remodel by Lifetime Renovations LLC

#### 1 Outdoor Space

- New Berlin elevated deck by Excel Custom Contractors, LLC

#### 1 Exterior Remodel

- Milwaukee bungalow exterior remodel by Home Guard Exteriors



*This first-floor remodel by Callen incorporates modern finishes and thoughtful updates. The kitchen was reoriented for better flow, cabinetry was extended to the ceiling for maximum storage and custom organizers were added throughout.*



*This elegant first-floor remodel by GMH Construction seamlessly blends a modern color palette with timeless design. The primary objective was to enhance the kitchen's functionality for both everyday use and large gatherings, while creating a more open and inviting atmosphere. The remodeled kitchen features a spacious island that serves as the primary workspace, provides seating for seven and houses a drawer microwave. Opposite the island is a striking range wall with marble tile that extends to the ceiling.*

# TOUR of REMODELED HOMES

NARI Milwaukee

MAY 17-18 10am-4pm

Join us for this unique FREE event, where homeowners open their doors to visitors and showcase their newly remodeled spaces!

Hosted by the remodelers themselves, it's a rare opportunity to experience the quality and craftsmanship firsthand.

If you're thinking about remodeling and want to hire the best – the NARI Tour of Remodeled Homes is a MUST-SEE event! Explore kitchen makeovers, luxury master baths, expanded family rooms, showrooms and more!

Tickets are FREE, but registration is required.

Tickets and details at  
[NARIMilwaukee.org/Tour](http://NARIMilwaukee.org/Tour)

- DELAFIELD**

1 GMH Construction, Inc.

**ELM GROVE**

2 Alair Homes

**GREENDALE**

3 J&J Contractors I, LLC

4 J&J Contractors I, LLC

**GREENFIELD**

5 AB&K **SHOWROOM**

**MENOMONEE FALLS**

6 Lifetime Renovations LLC

**MILWAUKEE**

7 MKE Design Build

8 Home Guard Exteriors
- NEW BERLIN**

9 Excel Custom Contractors, LLC

10 Lifetime Renovations LLC

**NORTH PRAIRIE**

11 DSH Design LLC

**PEWAUKEE**

12 Dimension Design, Build, Remodel Inc.

**ST. FRANCIS**

13 MKE Design Build **SHOWROOM**

**SUSSEX**

14 Callen

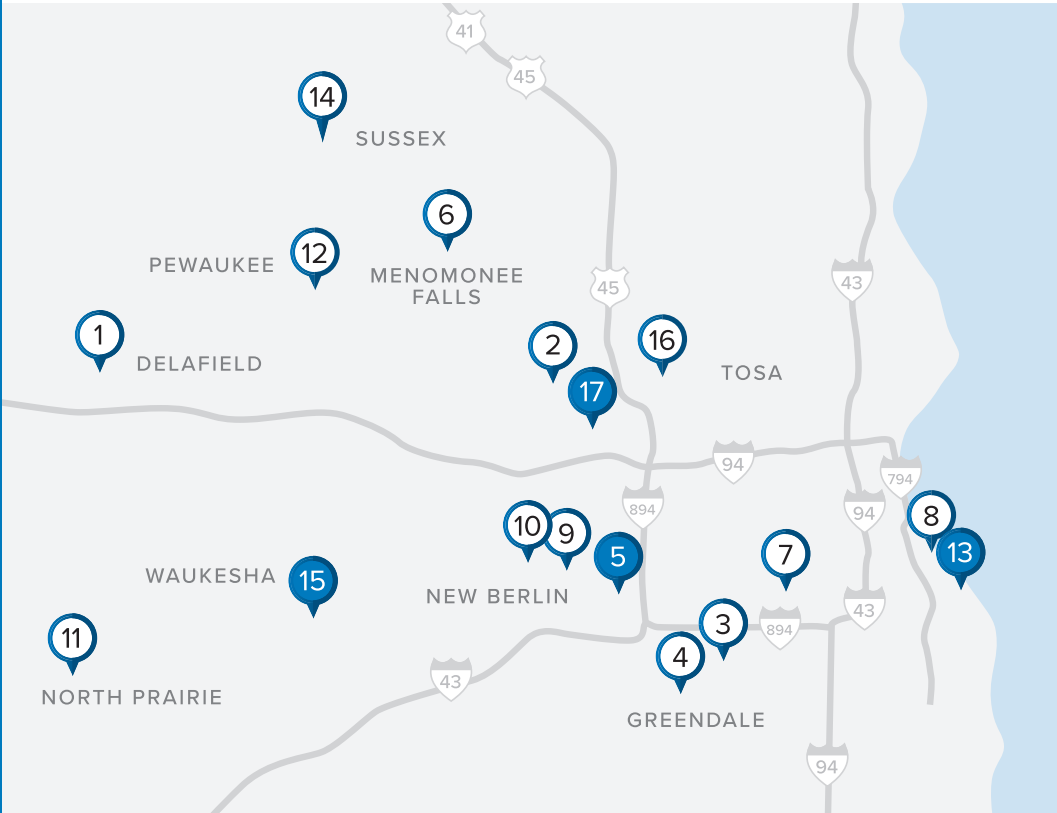
**WAUKESHA**

15 Bliffert Lumber **SHOWROOM**

**WAUWATOSA**

16 Refined Renovations

17 Kelmann Homes **SHOWROOM**



TOUR HOMES & SHOWROOMS PRESENTED BY:





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# Showroom Stops Part of NARI Tour

New this year, four showrooms are part of the NARI Milwaukee Tour of Remodeled Homes. Stop by on Saturday, May 17, or Sunday, May 18, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., to get ideas and inspiration and talk with design experts.

## The First Steps

For those considering a remodel, a showroom visit is a good place to start.

"Showrooms give homeowners the chance to experience products and finishes firsthand, which can make a huge difference in the decision-making process," says Linda Nitkowski, cabinetry sales manager with Bliffert Lumber & Design, at 548 W. Sunset Dr., Waukesha. "You can see and feel the quality of cabinetry, countertops, windows, doors and hardware and ask any questions you may have."

Many showrooms also have kitchen and bathroom vignettes that can help homeowners visualize how their space might look.

"Vignettes bring individual elements all together so clients have a more complete view of what a remodel can accomplish," says Joe Heleniak, remodeling manager with Kelmenn Homes, at 255 N. 121st St., Wauwatosa. "Really, a showroom is a hands-on education center where homeowners can see different designs in person."

In addition to vignettes, many showrooms feature galleries of the company's projects.

"We love to show off our work and can share projects that are similar in scope and budget to what you're considering," says Tracy Grosspietsch, general manager for AB&K Bath & Kitchen, at 3636 S. 108th St., Greenfield.

## A Bit of Background

To get the most out of a showroom visit, it's good to come prepared with a few pieces of information.

"It's helpful to bring photos of your current space, measurements (if available) and any inspiration images or Pinterest boards you've been collecting," says Nitkowski.

The designer will also ask a series of questions.

"We start with simple questions like what room are you thinking about remodeling and what's your timeline to more specific ones about your goals for the space, past experiences you may have had and your preferred style," says Grosspietsch.

A general idea of the budget is also important since financials drive a lot of the conversation.

"Contrary to TV shows, there are some remodeling realities and two of those are scope and budget," adds Heleniak. "There's a big difference between a slight refresh or a complete gut and remodel. It's best if couples have a conversation ahead of time so there's a unified idea about the dollar amount and the type of project."

## Moving Forward

If the project is in the early "take a look" phase, allowing 20-45 minutes for a drop in is just fine. Most showrooms don't require an appointment but do appreciate the heads up.

"If you are just looking around for ideas and inspiration, I would recommend about 20 minutes or so," says Michelle Swier, co-owner and principal designer with MKE Design Build at 3775A S. Packard Ave, St. Francis. "Regardless of how much time is needed, it's best to schedule

an appointment so you can have the designer's undivided attention."

Once homeowners decide to move forward with a remodel, the designer will want to schedule a time to visit the home. That way, they'll be able to get a feel for how the home functions, see how the space is currently used, learn more about the homeowner's design aesthetic and take exact measurements.

"Seeing how the individual or family lives and

what they need helps bring everything that we've previously talked about together," says Swier. "While it varies by homeowner, investing some upfront time in getting to know each other and understanding the purpose of the project pays off in the end."

To visit the four showrooms and 13 remodels and new construction homes that are part of the NARI Milwaukee Tour of Remodeled Homes, sign up for free tickets and get a tour map at [NARIMilwaukee.org/Tour](http://NARIMilwaukee.org/Tour).



**Kelmenn Homes in Wauwatosa designed its showroom to feel comfortable and welcoming for those who are thinking about remodeling their home.**



**Bliffert Lumber & Design recently remodeled its Waukesha location and has a number of kitchen and bath vignettes that showcase a variety of design options.**



**AB&K Bath & Kitchen in Greenfield will be open on May 17 - 18 as part of the NARI Milwaukee Tour of Remodeled Homes.**



# Don't Forget the “Jewelry”

Inside and out, there are a variety of ways to add finishing touches, aka jewelry, to almost any project.

“In the kitchen, door hardware can significantly impact the look of cabinetry,” says Robin Braun, lead designer with GMH Construction, Inc. “These days, hardware is far from an after-thought - many homeowners take great pleasure in selecting the perfect finishing touches to complete their space.”

There aren't many hard and fast rules for hardware. In fact, mixing and matching hardware is perfectly acceptable and even suggested in some cases.

“Typically, we like to specify the cabinetry hardware, lighting and plumbing fixtures in the same finishes. It is one of those details that really brings the project together,” says Michelle Swier, co-owner and principal designer with MKE Design Build. “However, we are never

afraid to mix and match. For example, gold and black finishes are a great complement of one another, as well as brushed nickel and matte black.”

Bruan agrees with the concept of bringing gold and black together.

“Gold finishes have the potential to dominate a space when used excessively. We can soften the look by incorporating black hardware in a similar style, which enhances the gold accents,” explains Braun. “Polished chrome and matte black also create a striking contrast in any application.”

In terms of hardware profiles, it's OK to have a variety of formats. A single room can have knobs on doors and pulls on drawers and they can be in different sizes and lengths based on the cabinet face.

“Hardware not only protects your cabinet fronts from fingerprints, it also adds character

and dimension so we encourage homeowners to have fun with it,” says Swier.

## Outside Elements

For homes that are undergoing an exterior transformation, there are lots of ways to add curb appeal.

While a big change is exciting, Ryan Blunt, sales manager with Home Guard Exteriors, offers some words of wisdom.

“Keep in mind the age of every element and consider where it's at in its lifecycle,” says Blunt. “You want to make sure you are remodeling in the correct order and not neglecting an aspect of your home, like the roof, just because it's not as 'fun' as the other items.”

In Bay View, Home Guard recently completed a makeover that included a new roof, siding, windows and gutters.

The siding combines two colors and styles to make a statement. While black board and batten was used on a majority of the exterior, it's paired with bronze shake and copper gutters as accent elements.

“The homeowner wanted a small portion of the home's exterior to contrast but didn't want to go the traditional route,” explains Blunt. “Copper gutters aren't a typical selection for homeowners but, for this project, it really tied it all together. It's cool to see homeowners input their own style - it turns a house into a home.”

For homeowners who are looking to make a change and want to add visual interest to their home, there are a myriad of ways to accomplish that. To see interior and exterior hardware “in action,” visit the NARI Milwaukee Tour of Remodeled Homes May 17 and 18. Sign up for free tickets and get a tour map at [NARI Milwaukee.org/Tour](http://NARI Milwaukee.org/Tour).



Photo credit: CJ Brown

**This stylish bathroom from MKE Design Build mixes matte black hardware with gold faucets, mirror rim and light fixtures.**



**In Bay View, Home Guard Exteriors recently completed a top-to-bottom makeover that gives the home plenty of curb appeal.**



# Ways to Wow!

When it comes to remodeling or updating a home, function is essential - but it's personality and “wow” elements that truly bring a space to life. Whether it's a single room or an entire house, incorporating character and standout features can deliver decades of delight and enjoyment.

“Homeowners don't want their space to be a cookie-cutter that looks like everyone else's,” says Matt Anderson, owner of Lifetime Renovations. “Instead, they want a home that reflects who they are and fits with how they live.”

To showcase its recent work, Lifetime Renovations has two homes on the NARI Milwaukee Tour of Remodeled Homes - one in Menomonee Falls and the other in New Berlin. Each remodel was designed specifically to meet the individual needs of the homeowners.

## Golf Galore and More

In Menomonee Falls, what was once an unfinished basement, is now a multi-faceted entertainment area.

Since the homeowner is an avid golfer, a golf simulator was a must.

“Before the remodel, our homeowner would play in winter golf leagues with his friends but now he can host everyone at his house,” says Anderson.

For relaxation after a round, there's an inviting bar area with a classic wood pool table. Not to be overlooked is an open concept theater so the family can enjoy movie nights together. However, the remodel isn't all fun and games because it also includes a full bedroom with a large egress window.

## Ranch Expansion

In New Berlin, Lifetime Renovations opened up and added onto a traditional, 1,400-square-foot-ranch built in the 1970s to give the homeowner some much needed functionality. To create an open concept layout, Lifetime removed a center wall that had cut the kitchen off from the living room. The result is a space that's great for family dinners and gatherings.

To make daily living easier, an existing carport was converted into a first-floor laundry room, eliminating the need to carry laundry baskets up and down the basement steps. The space also accommodates a new zero-threshold bathroom with accessibility features like a walk-in shower and comfort height toilet.

“The wow factor is that the home now has an updated look and feels much bigger since the main area isn't compartmentalized anymore,” says Anderson. “The home's expanded footprint is 1,800 square feet and includes two full bathrooms, a first-floor laundry and open, gourmet concept kitchen that's similar to what you'd find in a home twice its size.”

## Top to Bottom Transformation

In Elm Grove, Alair Homes Milwaukee turned a tired and run down 1960s ranch into a neighborhood gem, adding lots of personality and custom touches along the way.

The transformation began at the top by replacing the original roof. This allowed Alair to create a stunning barrel-ceiling front entryway. Walking into the home, the vaulted ceiling continues, making the foyer wide and welcoming.

Custom elements continue with a cozy library.



**Lifetime Renovations completed a basement remodel that includes something for everyone in the family -- a theater, bar, golf simulator and bedroom.**

“The homeowner wanted a 'retreat' where he could read, reflect and meditate,” says Louis Weiher, partner with Alair Homes Milwaukee. “We created a classic library look with dark blue paint on the walls, brown tweed wallpaper on the ceiling and a sliding library ladder at the back of the room.”

The kitchen, which is an addition, has an open and inviting feel thanks to a vaulted ceiling and bank of patio doors that flood the space with

natural light. The room balances new and old with sleek stainless-steel appliances and vintage leaded glass that the owner salvaged from a convent where a beloved family member used to live.

“We used the leaded glass in the sliding doors of the pantry and then incorporated a similar glass design into cabinet doors above the wet bar to tie it all together,” says Weiher.



**Alair Homes Milwaukee completed a whole home remodel in Elm Grove that, among other dramatic changes, includes a cozy library and a guest bathroom with a stylish vanity and eye-catching wallpaper.**





To see Alair's Elm Grove remodel in person, stop by during the NARI Milwaukee Tour of Remodeled Homes.

Custom Creations

Fillinger Millwork, which is owned by Bliffert Lumber & Design, works with homeowners to bring their personal style and passions to life through custom fabricated woodwork, otherwise known as millwork.

Fillinger's work runs the gamut from "everyday" to extra ordinary. In the kitchen, they fashion specialty cabinetry, custom range hoods and one-of-a-kind islands with furniture-style detailing. Today, with the rise of mudrooms, the company can make custom lockers with individualized cubbies for each family member.

But the requests don't stop at the back door.

"One client wanted a built-in whiskey and cigar lounge tucked behind a hidden bookshelf door. It was equal parts craftsmanship and conversation starter," says Ryan Fillinger, custom millwork sales with Fillinger Millwork.

Another family requested a wall of floating

walnut shelves, complete with integrated lighting and brass rail accents, to showcase their rare book collection.

"Custom millwork is all about transforming a space from standard to something truly special. It's not just about the look - it's about how a space feels and functions for the people who live there," says Fillinger.

As part of this year's NARI Milwaukee Tour of Remodeled Homes, Bliffert is showcasing its recently updated Waukesha showroom at 548 W. Sunset Dr.

In the end, a successful remodel should reflect each homeowner's individual taste while offering comfort, function and inspiration. With intentional design choices, bold features and a few personal touches, any home can go from cookie-cutter to truly unforgettable.

Take a tour of some of the area's most impressive home remodels and design showrooms as part of the NARI Milwaukee Tour of Remodeled Homes, May 17-18. Tickets to the tour are free and can be downloaded at [NARIMilwaukee.org/Tour](http://NARIMilwaukee.org/Tour).



This 1970s ranch now has an open kitchen after a wall was removed and the space was remodeled by Lifetime Renovations.

NARI Milwaukee is a 550-member strong 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 promotes professionalism, ethical conduct and sound business practices in the remodeling industry and works to educate and inform Milwaukee-area homeowners. Consumers can have peace of mind and confidence when selecting and working with a NARI Milwaukee member. 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 2025 consumer magazine and membership directory.

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