

A kitchen counter with a vase of white flowers, a pitcher of orange juice, and artichokes. The scene is brightly lit by a window in the background.

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W

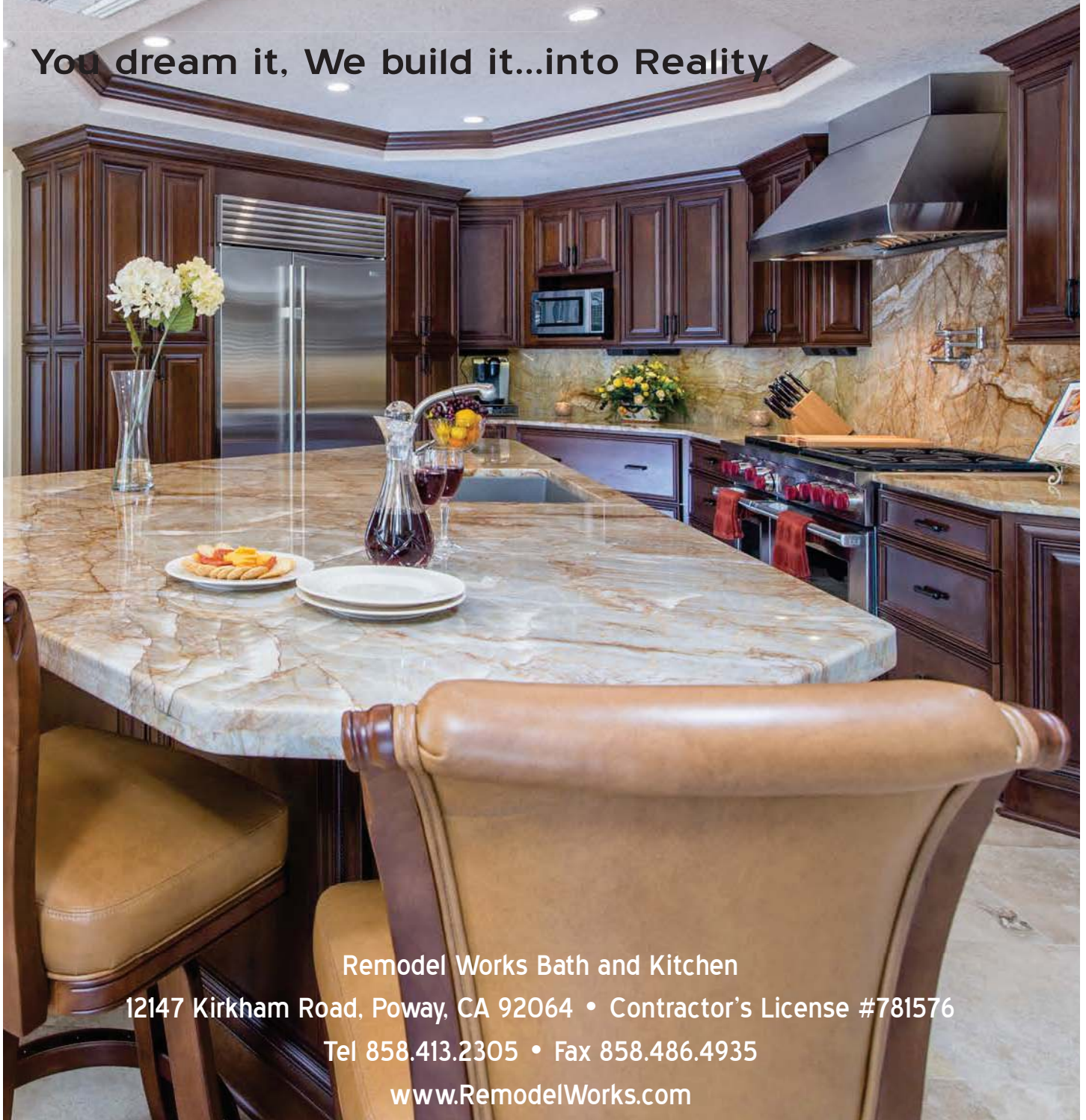
Design Guide

What's your style?

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Bath & Kitchen

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Before and After Photos
Projects
Check List

Bathrooms



Before



After



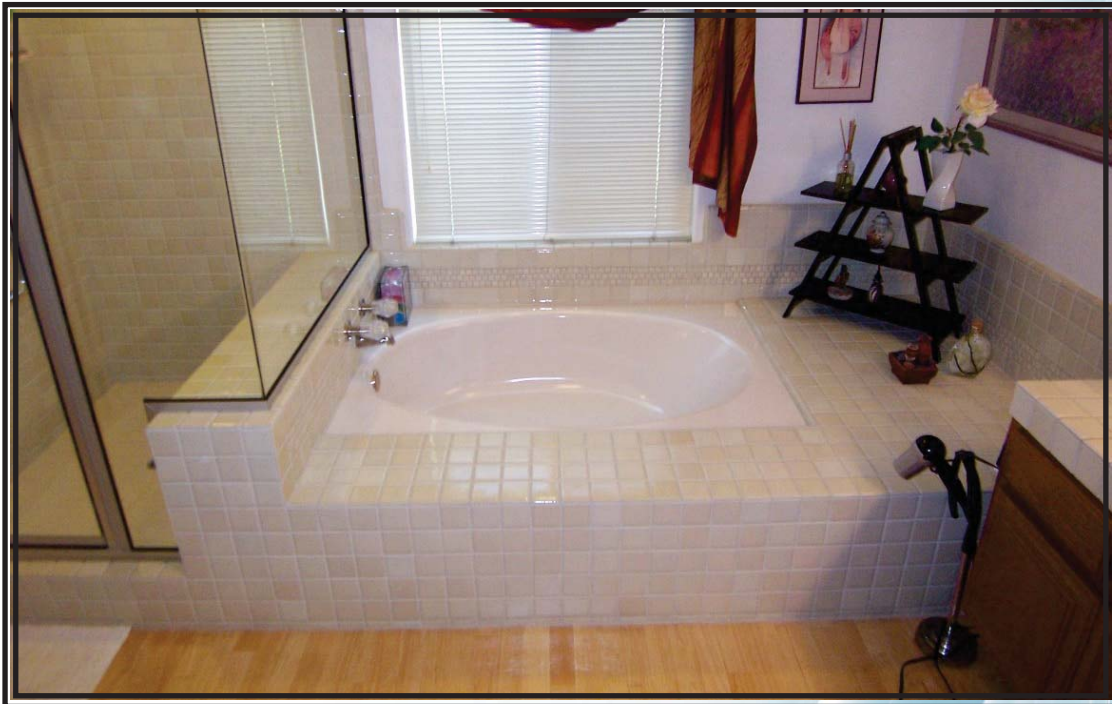
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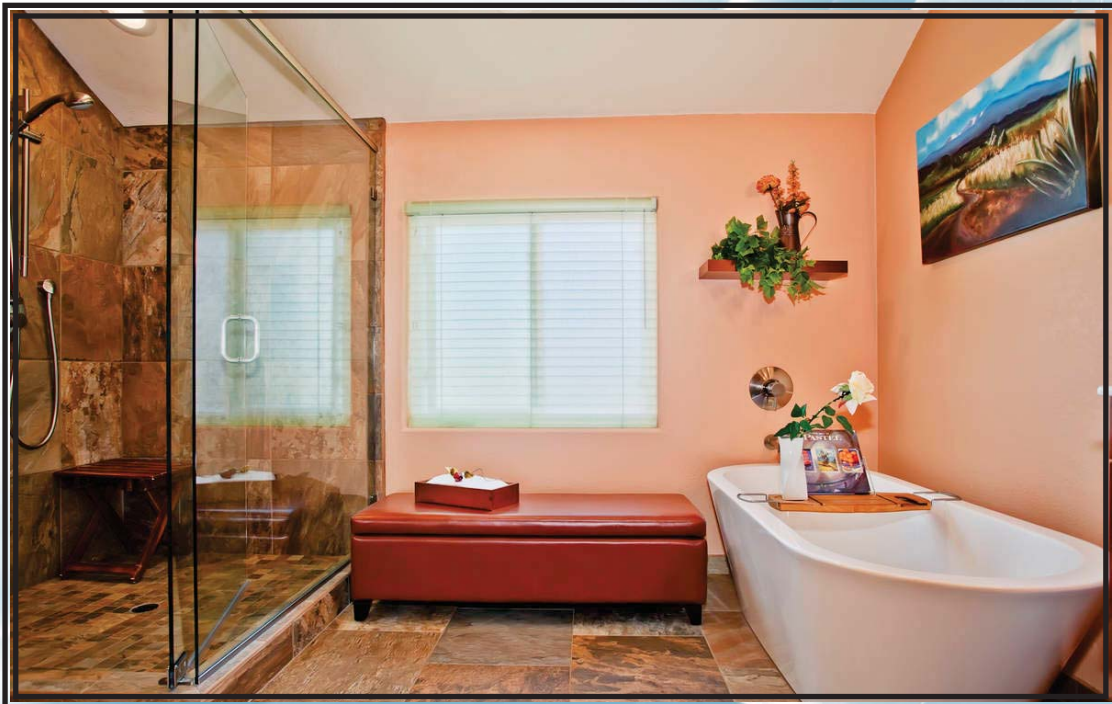
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Before



After



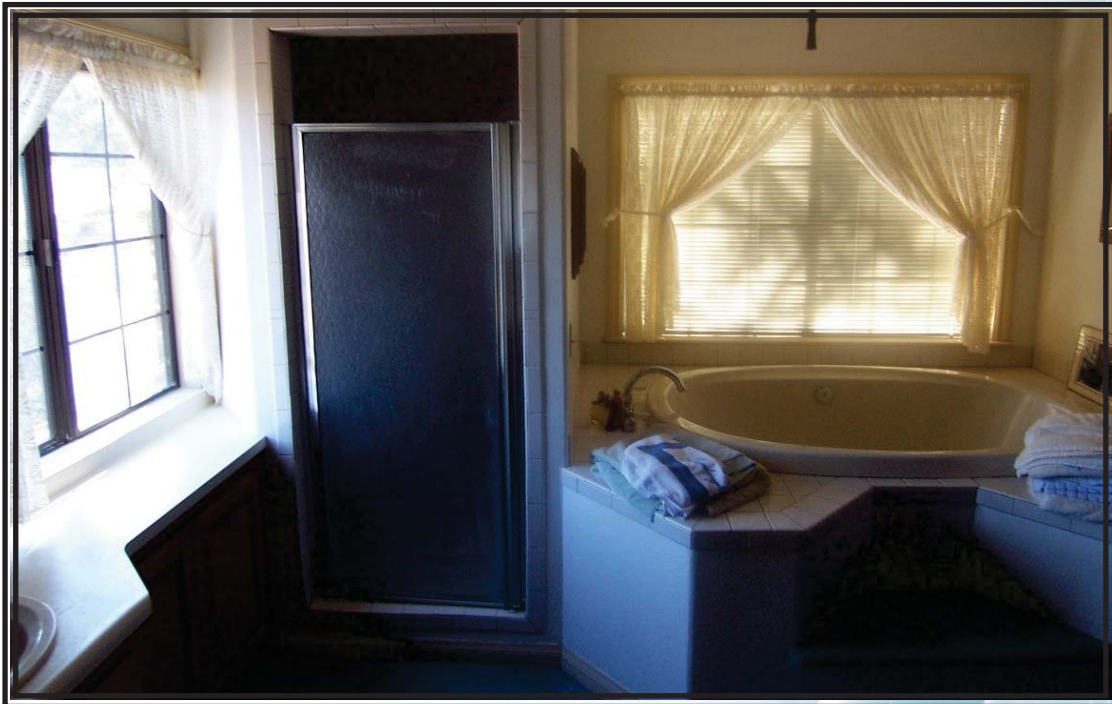
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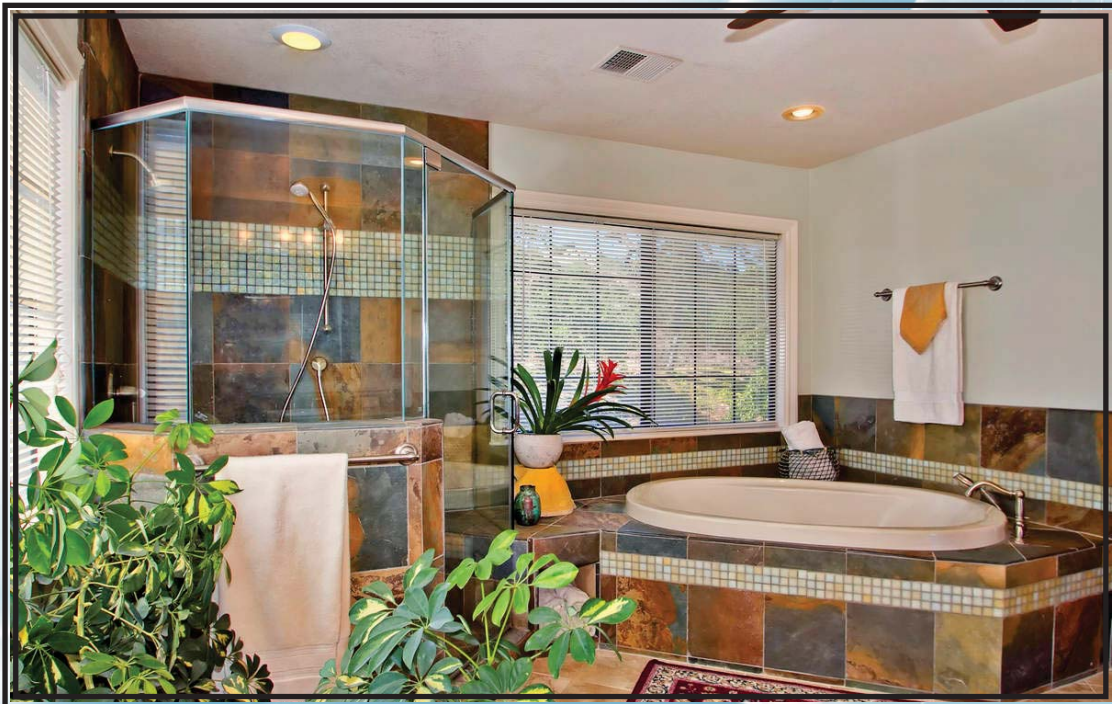
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Before



After



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Project 1



This bathroom remodel was done in El Cajon, Ca. The clients desired a spa-like bath and we included a tiled niche near the vanity for artwork. The flooring is Arizona Hopedale 12x12. Wall Tile: Arizona NuTrav Cream Polished Rectified Porcelain Tile. Glass Liner: Arizona Skylights, Jewel Melange Glass 1x1 mosaics. Cabinets: Starmark, Cherry cabinets. Countertops: Granite. Sink: Ronbow Evin Rectangular sink. Faucet: Hansgrohe Metroe Single Handle Faucet.

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Project 2



This Escondido, California master bathroom remodel has a lot of space with plenty of natural light. This bathroom design has three designated areas; vanity station, bathing area and showering area. Arizona Tile and Hansgrohe fixtures provided these beautiful accents and tiling for the bathtub surround. A Moen Faucet and Kohler bathtub creates a perfect escape to wind down after a long day.

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Project 3



This bathroom remodel was done in Escondido, Ca. Great colors and tiling embody this elegant design of class, luxury and relaxation. Double vanity with white and blue coloring. This beautiful stand alone bathtub situated at an angle in the corner off this bathroom remodel adds a level of elegance throughout this master bathroom. It is a jacuzzi tub, free standing, floor mounted tub with pedestal. The two mirrors really open up the space, which are situated over the Kohler sinks. White cabinets help make the blue walls pop and stand out in this bathroom remodel.

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Project 4



Piedrafina
marblesurfaces

This Del Mar, California bathroom remodel was designed with our product Piedrafina and white cabinets, modern nickel fixtures and plenty of narrow space. The shower is completely separate from the bathtub area as both are provided with Kohler fixtures.

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Project 5



SENTREL™
BATH SYSTEMS

This bathroom remodel in Scripps Ranch, California was designed with Sentrel in a narrow space. The wall color and granite countertops creates a traditional look with a modern twist. Double sinks and vanity create plenty of storage space, also being highlighted by brushed nickel modern fixtures.

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Project 6



This San Diego bathroom remodel was designed with a traditional flare. Modern dark wood cabinets, marble counter tops and nickel plated fixtures creates the traditional flare. Standing glass shower creates plenty of room to wash in the morning and is conveniently located a the corner next to the vanity.

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Project 7



This bathroom was remodeled in Rancho Bernardo. We really utilized the big space by adding a standing shower with complimentary soaking tub. We also added double sinks with plenty of storage space in the bathroom.

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Project 8



This San Diego master bathroom is located in Encinitas, California and has an open feel with a large walk-in closet. The unique aspect of this ocean bathroom is the tidal wave shower door which has a 3D effect while you are standing inside it.

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Check List: What to look for

General

- Why do you need a new bathroom (selling, update space, needs changed)?
- What do you like most about your current bathroom?
- What do you dislike about your current bathroom?

Use

- Is this a master bathroom, children's bath, guest bath?
- How many people will be using the bathroom?
- Who will be the primary users of the bathroom?
- What is the primary time of day this room is used?
- Does anyone have special needs? Elderly, children?

Comfort

- Do you prefer to take showers or baths?
- Do you want separate bath and shower units or a combined unit?
- Will there be a separate toilet or will the toilet be inside the bathroom?
- Do you want bright or mood lighting?
- Do you want heated floors?
- Do you want a large or small mirror? Should mirrors be built into cabinetry or wall hung?

Storage

- What type of storage will you need?
- Do you want vanity or closet storage or both, medicine cabinet?

Appliances

- What appliances do you plan on using in the bathroom?
- Electric toothbrush, towel warmer, hair dryer, electric shaver, hot rollers, radio/CD/I-Pod, TV?

Look and Feel

- What style of bathroom do you want? Modern? Traditional? Retreat? Functional? Rustic?
- What colors are you considering? What do you like? What does the family like?
- What floor and benched surfaces do you want to use? Tile, wood, marble, stone, glass?

Other Considerations

- Ventilation. Do you need to install a fan?
- Is there a window? Is it suitable for ventilation, light or privacy?
- Placement of power points and light switches?
- Water saving devices. Taps, showerheads, hot water priming pumps and rain water tanks.
- Heating and cooling. What direction does the bathroom face?

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Before and After Photos
Samples
Check List

Kitchens



Before



After



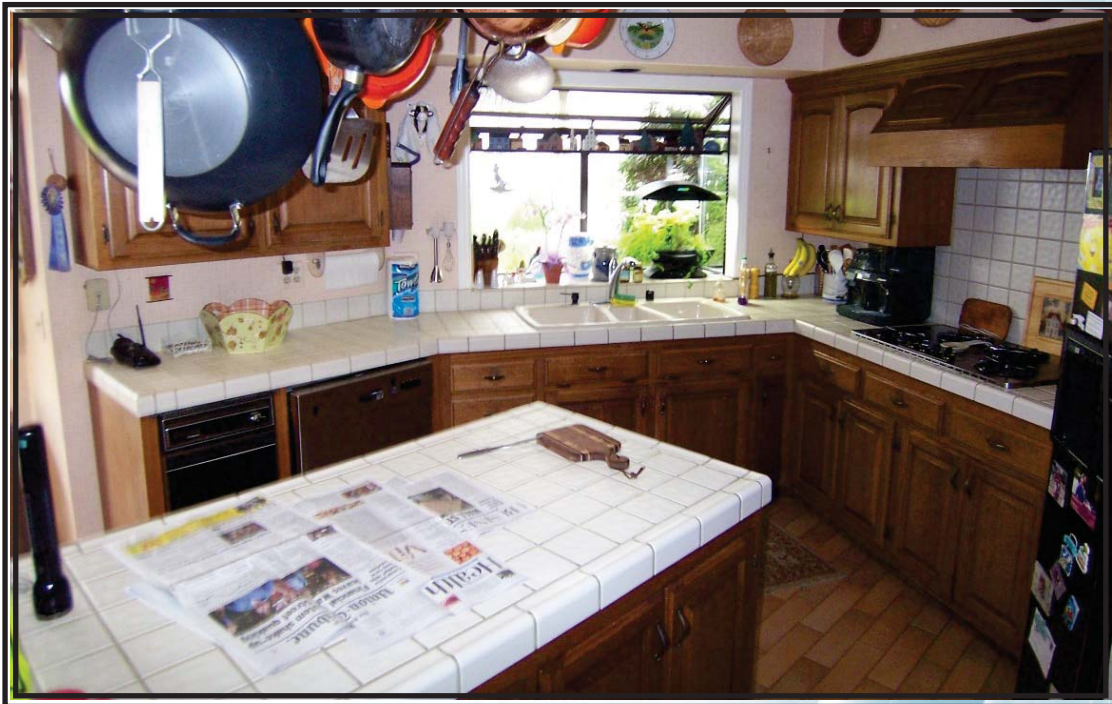
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Before



After



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Before



After



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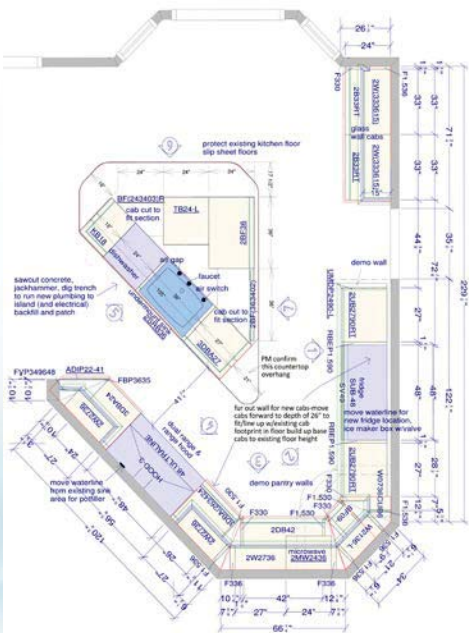
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Kitchen Type: Kitchen with Center Island



This extensive kitchen remodel was designed in Poway, California. The products used in this project include StarMark Cabinetry, Richilieu hardware, Blanco America, GROHE and much much more.



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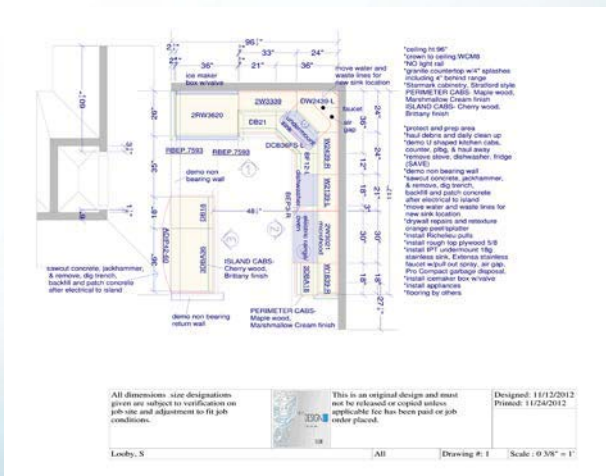
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Kitchen Type: Kitchen with Center Island



This California kitchen is located in the San Diego area with plenty of features including an island area, moen faucets, white starmark cabinetry, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances

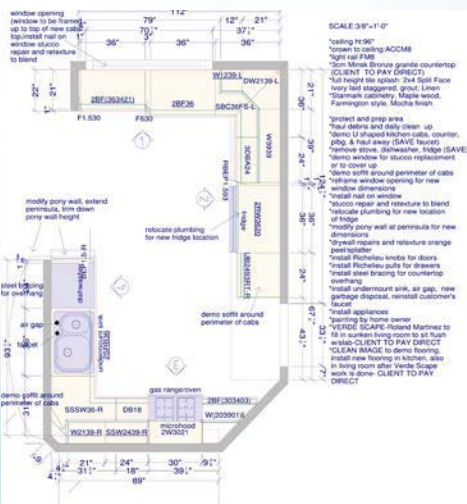


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Kitchen Type: Kitchen with Peninsula



This Rancho Penasquitos has Porcelain Slate flooring, Starmark Cabinets; Maple wood, Farmington Style, Mocha Finish. The countertops: are Minsk Bronze Granite and the backsplash is Split Face Ivory laid Staggered with Linen grout. A mixtue of dark and ligh accents compliment this kitchen.



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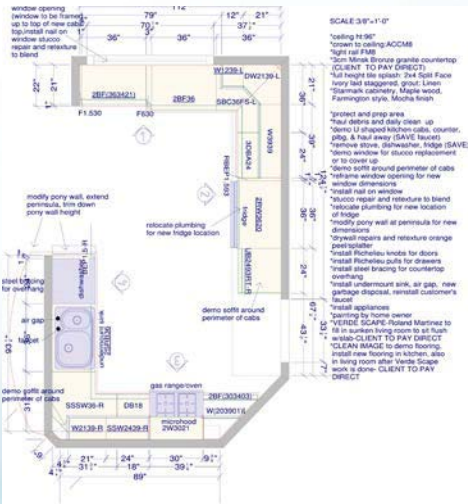
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Kitchen Type: U-Shaped Kitchen



This colorful, bamboo kitchen is located in Rancho Penasquitos. The cabinets are KitchenCraft Bamboo, backsplash Oceanside Glass, and the countertop is granite Green Peace.



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Kitchen Type: L-Shaped Kitchen



This Poway kitchen has a unique vertical backsplash behind the stove. This kitchen also includes, Oakcraft cabinets; Door Style, Alder Wood, Kona Color., countertops by Cosentino, Sensa Granite; Caroline Summer, backsplash: Espresso Linear glass Stone Blend Mosaics. The sink is Blanco Diamond, Super Single Bowl and the faucet is Moen Arbor with Pull Down Head.



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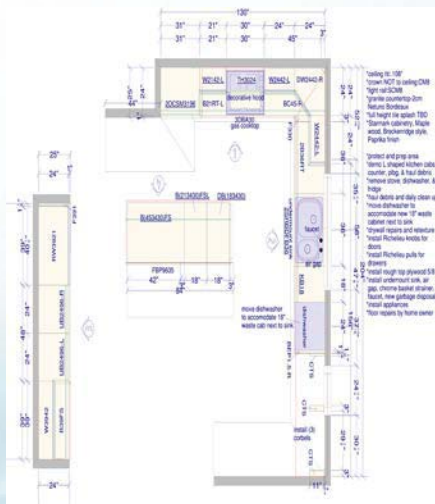
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Kitchen Type: L-Shaped Kitchen



This bright Ramona kitchen has a unique appearance. The cabinets are Starmark, Paprika finish, countertops are Shivakashi Granite, Arizona Tile., backsplash; Birds of Paradise Tile Mosaic and Birds of Paradise 2" accent pieces, Petra Latina Tiburtino Chiaro wall tile, and Richelieu handles.



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Kitchen Type: Galley



This galley kitchen combines red and black colors with stainless steel finishes for a bold statement.



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Check List: What to look for

General

- What is your budget?
- Are you keeping the same configuration of the kitchen as the existing layout?
- What do you like/dislike most about your current kitchen?
- Does the kitchen area flow into surrounding rooms the way you would like? How?
- Style preference: Contemporary, Formal, Traditional, Country or other?
- Do you plan to use wood cabinetry in your new kitchen? If yes: light/dark wood, painted/faux?
- Use
- Activities that will take place: Sit-down dining, homework for the kids, paying bills, other.
- Where does your family currently dine and where will they dine after the remodel?
- Do you entertain: How many, how often?
- What is your entertainment style? Formal or casual?
- Are your gatherings typically small or large: More mix-and mingle or formal sit-down affairs?
- What type of everyday seating would you use: Barstools, chairs, booths, bench seating, none?
- Entertainment Features: Seperate beverage area, wine storage, television, intercom, radio?

Cooking & Preperation Areas

- Is mealtime a family affair?
- How many people are normally involved in food preperation?
- Would additional or seperate work areas be helpful? Plan for the location of like items.
- Is there enough counter space for appliances you use everyday? Built-in or stored away?

Storage

- How do you usually shop: By meal, for the week, in bulk, canned goods?
- Do you have enough accessible storage for bulk and everyday food items?
- Cabinets: Type of wood, Painted or stained?
- Do you want to showcase any kitchenware or serving items in a glass or cabinets?
- Any additional storage for items currently house elsewhere in your home?
- Do you need areas which are safeguarded from children? Recycling center?

Lighting

- Do you need additional task, ambient, and or low-level cabinet lighting (above/below)
- More lighting overall: Recessed lighting or skylights (solar tubes) installed?

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Before and After Photos

Check List



Cabinet Refinishing or Re-facing

Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



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Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



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Check List: What to look for

- **Cabinet refacing** is the process of replacing cabinet doors, drawer fronts and knobs and then applying new veneer to all the externally visible parts. Instead of breaking down the entire cabinet and installing a new one, you can reface your cabinets in the kitchen or bathroom. This process saves a lot of money, labor and time. Cabinet refacing is highly popular because of the remarkable benefits it offers.
- **Very Economical** On average, cabinet refacing costs about 50% or less than the amount of money you would spend on new cabinets. Whether you use this option for your kitchen, bathroom or elsewhere in your home, you can save a lot of money. In most cases, cabinets that look drab and dull are in perfectly good condition. If you are happy with the present layout of the cabinet and only want to give it a face-lift, cabinet refacing offers the perfect solution. A lot of money is wasted when good cabinets are ripped out to install new ones in a similar layout.
- **Less Complicated** Cabinet replacement is a huge task that takes days to complete. You will have to make changes to your schedule and plan extensively before you perform cabinet replacement. On the other hand, cabinet refacing can be completed in as little as a day or 2, with the correct personnel performing the task.
- **Offers Several Possibilities** With cabinet refacing, you have several options available to you. Some companies do a refinishing job on the exterior of cabinets and drawers, without removing the doors or the fronts of drawers. In such cases, you can have new veneer applied on the exterior and have new knobs and pulls installed. Your cabinet will still end up looking new.
- **Several Finishing Options Available** You can choose among a variety of veneering options and colors to reface your cabinets. Real wood veneers such as hickory, maple and birch are available. You can change the look and grain of the wood by choosing appropriate covers and doors. You can add new trim and molding as well. You have the option of adding glass doors to showcase collectibles.
- **Provides an Eco-friendly Option** Most cabinets contain a material called formaldehyde, which is a hazardous item if it ends up in landfills. You can prevent this by choosing cabinet refacing over new cabinets. Many companies that offer cabinet refacing also recycle the removed parts such as cabinet doors, hinges and drawer covers. Also, you can prevent the demolition of more trees that will be required to build new cabinets. Cabinet refacing is therefore a green option.
- **Provides a Brand New Look** The final results of a cabinet refacing are similar to that of cabinet replacement. There is no reason you should not choose this option if your cabinets are not in bad shape. You can save money, time and also the environment.

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**Before and After Photos
Check List**



Garages

Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



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Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



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Check List: What to look for

What are Your Goals for Your Garage Makeover?

- Where do I start my garage renovation?
- Garage cabinets, garage shelving, garage floor?
- First you need to ask yourself, "What do I want to use my garage for?"

Here are some ideas for garage makeovers that will change the way you look and feel about your garage:

- Garage Storage and Organization Fanatics
- Garage Fitness Center
- Home Garage Mechanic
- Cabinets
- Workbench
- Garage Door Unit
- Lighting
- Electrical
- General Construction

Cost

- Available Budget
- Actual Cost of Labor and Materials

Time

- How long to do it?
- Yourself
- Hiring someone else to do it

Physical Effort

- How much of a physical toll will it take on you to do it yourself?

Quality of Work and Materials

- Do you need heavy duty materials

Do you need professional services to install?

- Electrical
- Drywall
- Plumbing
- Insulation

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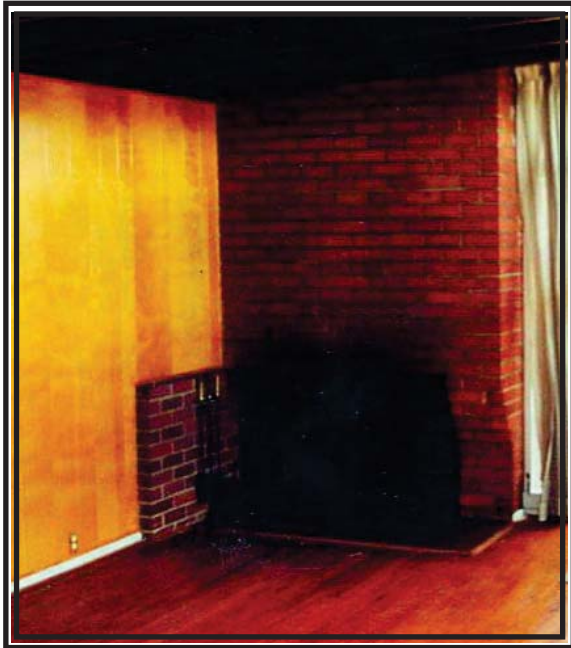
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Before and After Photos



Fire Place Surrounds

Before



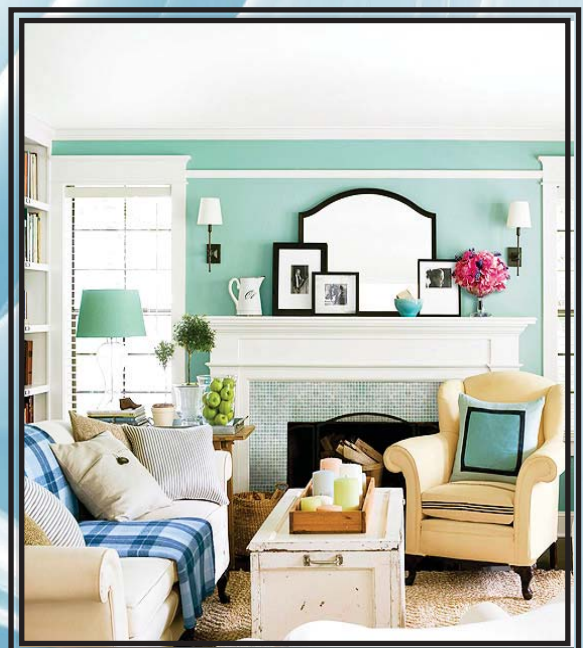
After



Before



After



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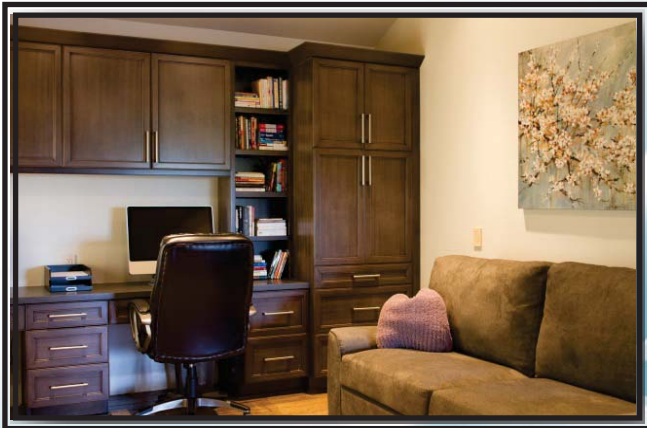
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Sample
Check list



Office



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Check List: What to look for

Office Set-up

- Adequate desk or work station
- Comfortable & supportive office chair
- Good lighting
- Adequate storage
- Location of office in your home
- Do you already have an office?
- Do you want to change the orientation of the space?
- What kind of work environment are you more efficient in?
- Sufficient electrical outlets
- Have you performed an office safety check?
- Are small children are around?
- If so, have you child-proofed your office?

Computer Equipment Notes / Explanation

- Type of unit:
- No computer required
- Desktop
- Laptop

Internet Connection

- Type of Connection:
- Dial up
- DSL/Cable
- Other
- No connection required

What you will need

- How much storage space?
- How many people will be working out of your office?
- How much counter space will you need?

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Check list



Whole House Water Filtration Systems

Check List: What to look for

What is a Whole House Water Filter?

A whole house filter connects to the main water line entering your house so that all of the water dispensers in your house – faucets, toilets, showers, baths, kitchen, laundry – dispense treated water. Typically the whole house water filter is connected to the main water line before it splits into the hot water heater.

Types of Common Contaminants

Sediment – typically refers to visible particles in the water, which need to be mechanically strained out such as dirt, dust, rust and sand. Water supplies with high amounts of sediment should consider multiple stages of sediment filtration, with the stages gradually becoming finer. Reusable filters should also be strongly considered. Water supplies with less sediment can use disposable, finer filters.

Chemicals – most chemical contaminants can be removed using carbon filtration. The most common chemical disinfectant found in municipal city water supplies is chlorine, which can be removed with a carbon filter.

Iron – there are 2 types of iron found in water supplies, ferrous (aka dissolved or clear water iron) and ferric (aka rust or red water iron). Red water iron and rust particles can be removed with a sediment filter, whereas clear water iron can be removed via oxidation or ion exchange. Factors affecting the life of an oxidizing filter are pH and the presence of Hydrogen Sulfide.

Flow rate – measured in gallons per minute (GPM), flow rate determines the amount of water available to run your shower, toilet, hot water heater, dishwasher, etc. When calculating your requirements look at the demand ratings printed on your appliances and toilet. Typical showerheads flow 2.5 to 5 gpm, toilet 5 gpm, dishwasher 3 gpm. Depending on the size of your house and family your water flow rate requirements may range from 15 - 40 gpm. A whole house filter system with a flow rate less than 10gpm is unacceptable for maintaining uninterrupted, comfortable water pressure during peak use.

Filter size – the larger the filter the longer the service interval, and the more water it will flow and with greater pressure. However port size has a greater impact on GPM and pressure. The ideal filter size for most homes is 4.5" x 20", however large homes may require the 25 gpm flow rate and 1 1/2" ports found in the largest Nelsen SP3 system.

Filter life – sediment filter life will vary depending on the sediment quantity and quality. Good quality whole house 4.5" x 20" carbon filter cartridges will last 100,000 – 150,000 gallons in normal municipal water supplies. Stand-alone carbon filters with carbon beds, as opposed to carbon filter cartridges, will last longer ONLY if they have a backwashing valve and a regular back wash cycle.

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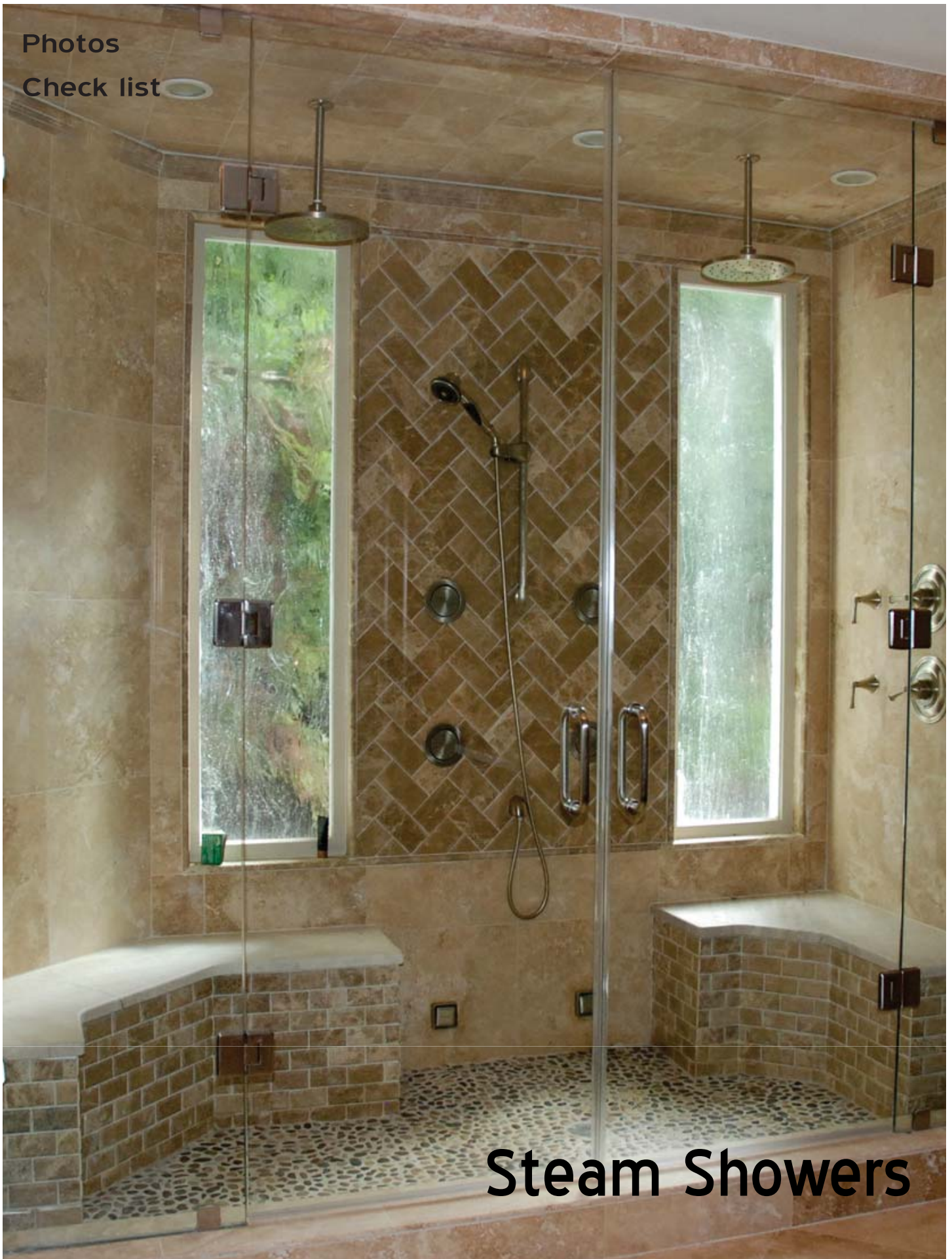
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Photos

Check list



Steam Showers



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Check List: What to look for

Steam Showers:

What if you want to have a soak, a sweat, and a bath all at once? Then you may want to look into steam showers which provide all three capabilities and more.

Controlled Condensation

Steam showers are a traditional stall with regular heads and fixtures. And though you can take a regular bath within the enclosure, you also have the ability to turn this space into a steamy sauna. A generator heats the water to a boil and then this hot water vapor is pushed out through jets that line the walls and ceiling. The surfaces are constructed of specialized material made to withstand the extreme heat without damage (the surrounding temperature can range anywhere from 90-115 degrees). Plus, the unit is thoroughly sealed so moisture cannot enter the bathroom to ruin wallpaper, paint, or drywall.

Curative Powers

You may be wondering: Besides the obvious extravagance, why would you want to invest in these contraptions? First off, they're very relaxing, which is great after a long day of work. But relaxation also has many health benefits as well.

Increased Circulation: Hot air helps thin the blood and enhance the body's circulation, which alleviates arthritis, fatigue, and soreness.

Humidity Therapy: Moist air raises the metabolism and improves the respiratory system. Plus, it works up a sweat which helps to remove toxins from the body.

Hydro-Acupuncture: The jets can work together to provide a body massage in order to relax, rejuvenate, and relieve muscle aches. You can even get a foot massager installed to help rub down those doggies after a long day.

Aromatherapy: You can also add essential oils and scents to the water vapor to create a relaxing atmosphere. It helps to reduce stress, calm the body, and lift your mood.

Luxury Accessories

Steam showers aren't just functional; they're also luxurious, decadent, and completely comfortable. It's supposed to create the feel of a spa, retreat, or resort. There are downfalls to these installations, but each one comes with an up-side as well.

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Before and After Photos

Samples

Check list



Closet Organization

Before



After



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Check List: What to look for

Closet Organizing:

Whether you've decided to stay in your home and do a remodel or take the plunge and buy a home - odds are you'll be addressing storage issues. Almost every American home has them, and homeowners define them as very important, according to research conducted by the National Association of Home Builders, which indicates that two of the most important things to home buyers these days are "built-in cabinetry and cleverly hidden storage spaces."

So, if you're about to embark upon the journey to organization Here are some things to look for if you're comparing designs and bids:

- **Hanging Out:** Are the closets designed with a Hanging System or a Floor Based System? If the panels don't touch the floor (such as the closet in the picture on the left), it's a hanging system, which is more economical and easier to install. Floor based systems look more like built-in furniture. They also offer more flexibility for future design changes because the structure is already in place.
- **Drawer Details:** How many drawers are included - are the slides full extension, self-closing or 75% extension - are the boxes wood, melamine (white or matching color) or metal? And how deep are the drawers?
- **Accessorize and Glamorize:** What accessories are included - and how many - and are they basic or deluxe. There are lots of closet accessories on the market that function but have minimal beauty (meaning that the hardware and mechanisms are not concealed).
- **Height Matters:** Is it an 84" high system, a 96" high system or something custom?

A Pretty Face:

- Is any element custom in size, color or shape?
- That adds to the costs and doesn't lend itself to doing an accurate
- Apples-to-apples comparison.

How do you relate with the sales person/designer?

- You need to be a well informed consumer.
- You need to know what to look for.
- How to compare designs and what's in the design.
- Being comfortable with the person who's in one of the most intimate environments in your home is just about as important as having enough space to store your shoe collection.

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Before and After Photos
Samples
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Entertainment Centers

Before



After



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Check List: What to look for

Entertainment Centers:

If you appreciate the convenience of the digital age but would rather not have TV's and media clutter your space, custom TV and media storage is the answer. Unlike the "entertainment centers" that are available on the market today, custom crafted TV and media storage blends attractive design to conceal your electronics, etc. with functionality and quality. Whether you are a collector of vinyl, movies, music, or love your big screen TV, you have countless options for custom media and TV artisan-crafted storage. Work with a Designer to select materials and a design that works beautifully in your home.

When you first decide to upgrade your entertainment habits, you think about the components of the system:

- Wide Screen Television
- Amplifier
- Tuner
- Speakers
- Other resulting design problems.

Before all of this, however, you should consider how you intend to house and display all these components. The variety of home theater entertainment centers is staggering. Both functional and decorative, they can be used in a modular manner, either expanding or contracting for various purposes.

Media centers are flexible in design because of the proliferation of home media formats. The screens have increased in size to the point where the thin ones can be mounted directly on the wall or they have to be supported by some rugged furniture.

There are:

- DVD players
- Redundant CD players
- TIVOs
- iPod docks
- 6-8 speakers per system
- Pre-amplifiers
- Etc.

They all have to be put somewhere .

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Photos

Check list



Lighting



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Check List: What to look for

Lighting:

Filling your home with light can be accomplished in a variety of ways and like anything else, can be done well or poorly. Good lighting stems from good design concepts that involve the right kind of lighting, congruency with how the space will be used and consideration of lighting controls. Sticking a few lamps in a room might keep you from bumping into things but there's a whole lot more that you can do with lighting.

Where To Start - Understand The Basics: Tackling a broad subject like home lighting design might seem a bit intimidating but you don't have to become a lighting designer to achieve good results in your home. Understanding the basic principles of lighting and how it's used effectively will get you off on the right foot.

The Basic Concepts Of Home Lighting: There are several concepts of light and lighting design that will give you a good foundation for making the right lighting decisions for your home.

Using "Layers" Of Light: Lighting professionals often use the term "layering" when referring to lighting design. In more practical terms, you can view light layers as describing the different functional categories of light: Ambient, Task, Accent and Decorative. Knowing the effects these layers have and how they can be used will help you achieve a balanced and effective lighting plan.

Ambient: Light refers to the general fill light that is necessary to function in a space. It's source can be from any one or more of the various types of lighting - by "types" we mean the various physical lighting fixtures that are available like recessed cans, track lighting, etc.

Task lighting is used in areas where specific tasks are performed with the main purpose of providing illumination for those functions. Examples include lighting over the sink for doing dishes, under the cabinets for preparing meals on the countertop and next to an easy chair for the purpose of reading.

Accent: Lighting is used to highlight certain features or elements within a space. Examples include using a down light to highlight framed portraits on the wall or to accentuate the texture of a stone hearth.

Decorative: Lighting refers to the lighting fixtures themselves rather than the what the light is being used for. In this case, the light fixture is the focus of attention and not necessarily what it's intended to illuminate. One example is a chandelier that's designed with aesthetic qualities that make it part of the decorative landscape of a room.

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