

the Addition

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Buffer Zone

When you purchased your home, did you evaluate the layout carefully to make sure there was an adequate area for transitioning between the outside and inside? Few homeowners do. They may fall in love with a beautiful kitchen island, not realizing the island will soon be cluttered with backpacks and jackets if there is no specific place to hang them up.

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How You Benefit With Our Design/Build Process

When you choose **All Phase Remodeling** for your home improvement project, you receive the multiple benefits of our Design/Build process.

- You contract with a single company for both design and construction services. Our in-house Team of professionals eliminates the additional aggravation of hiring a separate architect and contractor.
- Our Designer works hand-in-hand with you right from the outset, listening to your needs and desires, while keeping a careful eye on your budget and timeline.
- Our Designer helps promote the most cost effective methods and designs that will also meet your design needs.

- Your design is specifically developed to meet each of your goals, and then material selections are made—before construction begins. We avoid “designing” during construction, which is more costly.
- Valuable time is saved, since the construction process can begin immediately following your design and construction contract approvals.
- Our Project Manager has direct communication with our Designer during construction, should any questions arise.

Now is the time to begin planning and designing for your spring remodeling projects! Contact our office to schedule an initial consultation. Another way to get into the mood for your spring projects is to visit us at the **Lansing Home and Garden Show at the MSU Pavilion, March 15th – 18th**. We will be at booth 1305 again. Stop by our office for your “Buy One Get One Free” Coupon!

Buffer Zone

(continued from page 1)



When the design of your home's entrance leads directly from the outside or from the garage into your kitchen, scenarios like this are bound to happen.

The solution is to create a mudroom— basically a buffer zone for all the miscellaneous items and activities you would like to keep out of the kitchen and the rest of the house. The first step is to analyze your lifestyle and determine what you expect your mudroom to do for you: it can serve a variety of purposes, from laundry room, to sports locker, to pet palace. Here are some possibilities to consider:

- ▣ Provide storage for items you only use outside your home, such as umbrellas, keys, boots and sports equipment. Use a combination of lockers, cubbies, cabinets, baskets and hooks to accommodate an assortment of different items.
- ▣ Furnish built-in seating or a bench for ease in removing shoes or boots.
- ▣ Include a docking station for recharging cell phones, tablets and MP3 players.
- ▣ Install a sink or a small shower where muddy paws or soccer cleats may be hosed off.

- ▣ Create a laundry center with washer and dryer so that soiled clothing need not be brought into the home.
- ▣ Store your cleaning supplies and vacuum cleaner in a locked cabinet in the mudroom where they will be out of the way, yet handy when needed.
- ▣ Set aside a portion of the mudroom for your pets' food dishes and supplies.
- ▣ Locate your recycling center in the mudroom. It can be a more convenient place than your kitchen to store the bins and sort your recyclables.
- ▣ Select a durable, low-maintenance product for your mudroom floor. The dirt and water that make their way into your home can damage wood and laminate floors. Good choices for flooring are porcelain tile, linoleum or concrete with a texture that provides grip.
- ▣ Incorporate sufficient lighting to illuminate your tasks, while making use of windows or skylights to bring in natural light.

DECIBEL

Zephyr has introduced some incredible new technology in their Next Generation Europa Collection of range hoods. These hoods are equipped with Zephyr's new DCBL (pronounced DeCiBel) Suppression System that includes: a direct current brushless motor, Bloom HD LED bulbs and a sophisticated, onboard computer system.

According to the company, DCBL benefits homeowners several ways:

- **More Powerful** – Provides 30 percent more CFMs (cubic feet per minute) at working speed levels, where it really matters most.

LED LEVELS

- **Increased Energy Efficiency** – Reduces a range hood's energy consumption by up to 77 percent versus similar range hoods.
- **Ultra-Quiet** – Reduces sound 77 percent to nearly inaudible levels, affording tranquility to the kitchen.
- **LED Technology** – Distributes light evenly over cook-top; dimmable to set the mood. LED bulbs come with a 25,000-hour life.





1

Moen offers a stylish grab bar with an integrated towel bar.

Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? Here is one to consider: According to the Home Safety Council, the top three home-related injuries resulting in medical visits and even deaths every year are: #1) falls, #2) poisonings, and #3) fires and burns. Many of these accidents happen in the bathroom. Why not resolve in 2012 to complete home updates that will help keep you and your loved ones safe while in the bathroom?

Fight Against Falls

Did you know that a person who lives to be 75 years old will have spent an average of 1.5 years in the bathroom? That's why it is essential that this highly-used room be as safe as possible. Grab bars are an easy and effective solution for avoiding falls, and they no longer need to have an institutional appearance.

A comfort height toilet offers a toilet seat at the same height as a standard chair, ensuring maximum comfort and ease when you are sitting down or standing up.

An LED light-sensor nightlight in the bathroom—or in the hall outside the bathroom—provides a well-lit path for nighttime visits to the restroom. The nightlight automatically turns on at night and off during the day. The illumination will help you avoid any potential tripping hazards in your path.



2

This mirrored cabinet by Robern includes a safety lock box.

Prevent Poisoning

More than 2 million poisonings are reported to poison control centers each year—with the highest rates among children under age five. To prevent these poisonings, keep all cleaners and medications in their original containers with labels to ensure they are used properly and not mistaken for another product.

Make sure all poisonous items and medications are locked up and out of reach of children. This can be as easy as adding child-proof locks on the cabinets where your cleaners are stored and installing a medicine cabinet with a built-in lock box for added safety.



3

ioDIGITAL by Moen lets you set and maintain water temperature precisely.

Banish Burns

Although 93 percent of adults report functioning smoke alarms in their homes, some burns occur without any smoke! In fact, more than 112,000 emergency room visits occur each year due to hot tap water scald burns. To prevent these burns, turn down your water heater to 120 degrees and install an anti-scald regulator fixture in the shower, tub and vanity sink.

Finally, never leave potential fire hazards, such as space heaters, candles, or curling irons unattended. Replace lit candles with battery-powered "flameless" candles and put your curling or flat iron in a protective case when finished for added precaution. ■

Morning *Glory*

Today's spending-conscious consumers consider some expenditures to be over-indulgent, but apparently having a breakfast bar in the home is not one of them. Homeowners continue to view a breakfast bar as a necessary part of their morning routine. When the day ahead promises to be hectic, they especially appreciate a stress-free breakfast with everything conveniently available at their fingertips.

Your breakfast bar can be tucked into a corner of your bathroom so you can easily grab that cup of joe after you climb out of the shower. A fully-functional mini-kitchen may be located in your master bedroom suite where you can sit comfortably and watch the news while you eat breakfast.

Since a breakfast bar organizes everything so well in one location, some homeowners are incorporating them in their kitchens to simplify breakfast preparation. Appropriate task lighting is key, since the rest of your home may remain unlit while others are still sleeping. For today's families whose members are always on the go, the kitchen breakfast bar has become a real focal point for meals that can be eaten quickly at different times of the day.

Your breakfast bar should be able to function independently from your main kitchen. Depending on your typical morning needs and habits, the space could include everything from a built-in coffee maker and storage cabinets to a

sink, under-cabinet refrigerator, single dishwasher drawer and a flat-screen TV. Other items to consider would be a coffee grinder, tea infuser, juicer, microwave and toaster. Incorporate pull-out drawer space for coffee, tea and utensils, and remember to include a trash disposal area.

If space allows, you may want to create a breakfast nook—a breakfast bar that integrates seating for one or two people. This gives you the option of grabbing breakfast on the run, if need be, or sitting awhile to savour the last bite of homemade muffin. A popular trend is to design a small banquette for this purpose, coordinating the style and finish with the rest of the kitchen décor. ■



Photos: Courtesy of Timberlake Cabinetry (www.timberlake.com)