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Artwork: Courtesy of Andersen (www.andersenwindows.com)



From Andersen Windows' Home Style Library

Style MATTERS

One of the many benefits of remodeling is that it can revive our older homes, bringing back to life the beauty and dignity of past eras in our nation's history, and preserving our heritage for future generations. Whether the style of your home is a grand Tudor or an unpretentious Ranch, it has a compelling story to tell and is worth your best efforts to do it well.

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Last year we started a Referral Rewards Program. For each friend or family member that you referred to **All Phase Remodeling**, your name was entered into a drawing to win one of three prizes. In addition, if the friend you referred hired us for a remodeling or home improvement project, you automatically win one "Dinner and a Movie" pass!

2012 winners of Referral Rewards are:

Ruth Smith wins one "Handyman for a Day"!

Ann Emmerich wins one "Handyman for a Day"!

Kathy Fortin wins one iPad!

Ten clients have won "Dinner and a Movie" passes!

A sincere "Thank You" to all who referred our services to your friends and family! We appreciate your confidence and goodwill and will always strive to maintain your valued confidence. We value our relationship with you and look forward to working with you in the year to come.

MSU Home & Garden Show

Though spring may still seem far away... The MSU Home & Garden Show will be here before we know it! This year the show will be held at the MSU Pavilion Thursday March 14 thru Sunday March 17th. We have buy-one-get-one-free tickets available at our office (a \$9 savings!) For more information: www.lansinghideshow.com

Style MATTERS

(continued from page 1)

Have you ever driven by a home that was remodeled without giving any consideration to the architectural style of the existing exterior? Perhaps the homeowners are very proud of their new addition in a contemporary style that features large walls of glass. Unfortunately, the addition looks disconnected from the rest of the house, which is of a completely different style. Because of this, the remodeling project actually devalued their home, rather than increasing its value as the homeowners had hoped and expected.



Artwork: Courtesy of Andersen (www.andersenwindows.com)



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Familiarizing yourself with the architectural style of your home is key. Keep in mind that your home does not need to exhibit every aspect of a style in order to be considered part of a general style category. The architect or builder who designed your home may have used his own signature style that distinguishes his Ranch houses

from all the others in town. The important thing is that when you renovate your home, you make every attempt—especially on the exterior—to be authentic to the original style, even while enhancing your home's amenities. This is true, even if all you are doing is replacing your windows with new high-performance windows for the purpose of saving money on your energy bill.

It can be quite fascinating to research and discover the factors that influenced how your home was originally designed and built. For example, the Queen Anne style home, (example on the cover), was impacted by the industrial revolution in the early 19th century during the Victorian period. The advent of mass production made it possible for homeowners to add detailed ornamentation relatively inexpensively to their homes. All kinds of brackets, finials, curlicue cutouts and patterned shingles were popular. The Queen Anne style also included a one-story porch across one or two sides of the house, bay windows, gables, overhangs, and fanciful towers in an asymmetrical facade. The double-hung windows often incorporated art glass and grill patterns that created geometric shapes.

On the other hand, the mid-twentieth-century Craftsman style bungalow

(example on this page) came about as a reaction against mass-produced ornamentation. It is derived from the Arts and Crafts movement that believed a return to a simpler, less flamboyant style would lead to a healthier lifestyle. The style emphasized natural materials, handcraftsmanship and functional design. A Craftsman bungalow is typically 1½ stories and features large covered front porches with battered columns, a low-pitched gabled roof, wide unenclosed overhanging eaves, exposed roof rafters, and dormers. The double-hung windows feature multiple lights in the upper windows and a single pane in the lower.



Photo: Courtesy of Häfele (www.hafele.com/us)



A WINNING COMBINATION

In AIA's recent Home Design Trends Survey, adding a recycling center to the kitchen rated high on the list of homeowner must-haves. That makes a lot of sense, because the kitchen is the space in the home where the typical American family generates the most trash. When you prepare a salad, the fruit and vegetable trimmings remain. When you cook, empty plastic bottles, glass jars, metal cans and cardboard containers are left over. If you are like most homeowners today, you are looking for a way to conveniently and responsibly dispose of these items.

The first step in making your cooking process eco-friendly is to consider ways you can change your purchasing habits in order to lessen the amount of actual trash your cooking generates. Pre-packaged convenience foods make dinner preparation a breeze on those evenings when you are otherwise busy. However, for sustainable living the best practice is to purchase fresh food items or grow your own whenever possible. Edible landscaping is increasing in popularity as homeowners discover they can grow delicious food that simultaneously serves decorative purposes. Building an interior window garden into your kitchen lets you harvest tasty herbs year around.

The next step is to add composting to the process. It is better to allow leftover organic material, such as banana peels and egg shells, to decay and return to the soil, rather than grinding it down the disposal or throwing it in the trash. For convenience, install a stainless steel compost container with a tight-fitting lid in your kitchen countertop next to the sink. This way you will save time by collecting your food scraps until you are ready to take them outside for composting. A different option is to conceal an automatic

compost bin inside a base cabinet. The NatureMill composter is designed to turn your food scraps into compost in just two weeks.

Another important step is to research which plastic, glass, cardboard and metal containers may be recycled in your area. You might be surprised to find out how little of your kitchen waste actually needs to go into your trash bin. Choose an easily accessible location in your kitchen base cabinet and install a recycling unit with several removable recycling bins. Selecting a unit with bins of varied colors increases the likelihood that you will separate everything properly. A recycling unit provides an easy way to separate and store recyclable materials until they are ready for curbside pickup or a trip to your local recycling center. If this procedure is simple enough, you and your family members will be more apt to do it on a regular basis.

Fewer trips to take out the trash and less trash in the landfill: composting and recycling are a winning combination!



New Product Introductions

SLIDE RULES

Frontino is an innovative hardware solution for sliding cabinet doors. The new hardware by Häfele permits sliding doors to operate smoothly and quietly on a single track. This allows the doors to sit flush when closed, and also offers space savings inside the cabinet.

Sliding doors maximize space in the kitchen—unlike hinged doors that open outward and

take up valuable space. Cabinet doors can stay open while meals are being prepared, increasing the functionality of the kitchen.

Frontino is a great fit for Universal Design applications, since it allows easier access to the cabinet interior for those who have physical constraints.





Photos: Courtesy of Edge Lighting (www.puredgelighting.com)

LIGHTING EFFECTS

As homeowners make plans for their new kitchen or bath, they typically focus on the intricate details of their cabinets, countertops and appliances, while giving only a passing thought to lighting. Nevertheless, lighting performs so many valuable functions in the home that it deserves your thoughtful attention. How would you rate the effectiveness of your lighting in the following key areas?

- Illuminates your work area so you can complete various tasks
- Provides visual interest by accenting significant features in your home
- Creates atmosphere
- Enhances the style of your home
- Helps you safely navigate your way through the home
- Acts as a deterrent to crime

The best way to maximize your lighting effectiveness is to take a layered approach—divide your lighting into three categories: ambient, task, and accent.

Ambient lighting is the general lighting that illuminates your surroundings so you can see to walk around safely. This lighting should

be comfortably bright, but without glare. Recessed ceiling cans and wall-mounted fixtures work well for ambient lighting, and it is also a good application for chandeliers with a moderate light output.

Task lighting assists you in performing specific tasks, such as preparing and cooking food, putting on makeup, doing homework, and reading a favorite book. The lighting should be bright enough to prevent eye strain, but free of glare. Keep in mind that as your eyes age, they require a greater amount of light to see the fine details. Undercabinet and track lighting, pendants, and portable lamps can provide task lighting.

Accent lighting creates visual interest. It can be used to emphasize the form of a cabinet, accentuate objects in a display, or create drama as it highlights an architectural feature in the space. Accent lighting can be supplied by recessed and track lighting, or wall-mounted accent lights.

Decorative fixtures perform the dual functions of illuminating, as well as beautifying your home. A large, graceful pendant over your kitchen island creates a pleasant glow, while adding texture and color

to the surrounding area. Remember that the size of your fixture should always harmonize with the scale of the space and the other objects in that space.

As for which type of lamp to install, LEDs make a good lighting choice if you take into account the entire life cycle of the lamp. Consider not only the initial costs, which are usually higher than for CFLs, but also the reduction in annual replacement costs—since LEDs typically last longer. And you will save on the labor required every time a lamp needs to be replaced. There are energy savings to consider, and HVAC savings as well—because LEDs do not produce heat. Additionally, since LEDs stay cool, they will not destroy the food and/or medicines that you store in your cabinets. ■

LEDs were used to create all the lighting effects shown on this page.

