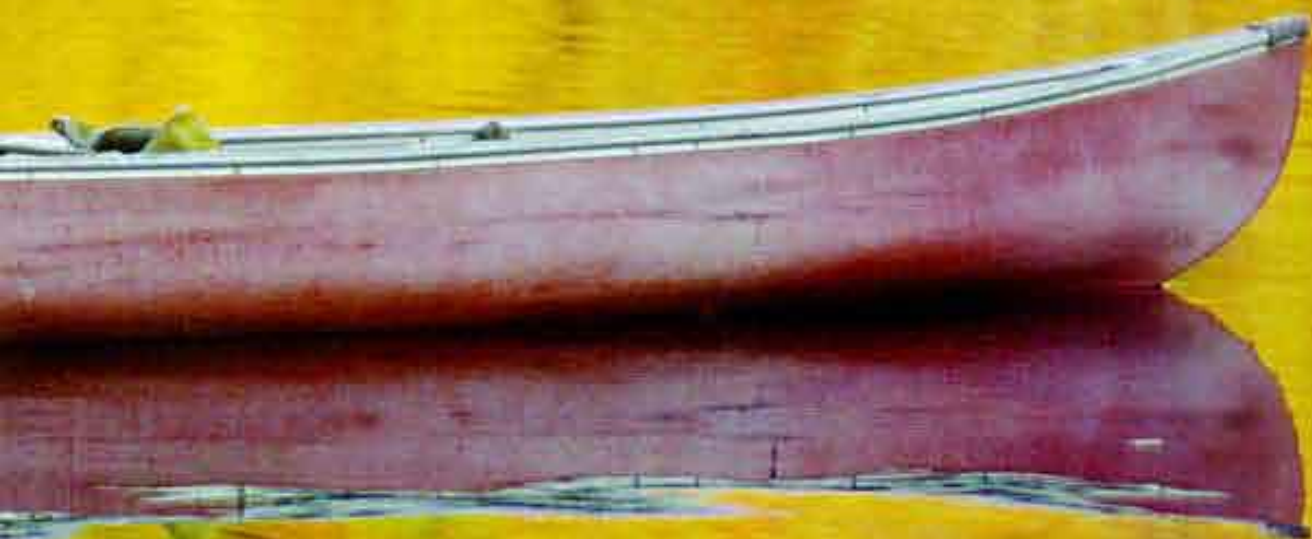


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Modular Mansions

Embracing the Future of Home Building

Making the Most of Your Lake Home and Your Investment

Some of the most important choices you will make in your life are those involving your home. These are choices you may have to live with on a day-to-day basis for the rest of your life. In addition, they can be choices that result in making large investments of both time and money. Therefore it is important to choose the right company to fit with your needs. Sometimes knowing a bit more about a company can help you to make the right choice.

We have allowed some of our larger advertisers the opportunity to tell our readers a bit about their company. Their stories tell why they feel each of theirs is a quality company with good customer service. While there are many important things to take into consideration, maybe knowing their backgrounds and philosophies will help you to make a better choice.

Keep in mind that the National Association of Home Builders and the National Association of Remodeling Industry are both very helpful in these decisions as well. Knowing the background of a company will not only help you to make the right choice, but will help to put your mind at ease.

Utility Spaces Deserve Design Sensibilities

Even utility spaces like laundry rooms, powder rooms and hall areas benefit from intelligent design and space planning, says national interior designer Sandra Greenway. As part of the design/build construction team that recently converted a four-story Kenwood split residence back into a single family home, she has a unique perspective on the importance of small spaces.

Sandra transformed the back entrance – a dark, dingy multi-purpose room that included two tenant entries, laundry facilities, a sewing area and a utility closet – into four distinct rooms. The 205-square-foot space became a walk-in pantry, a laundry room, a powder room and a lovely center hall that connects the back of the house to the front.

“My first challenge was to build a lot of function into very small spaces,” she said. “Just as important was to make the space feel livable. I also needed to create unity with the many adjacent rooms in the historic home.”

Good design always begins with the homeowners, according to Sandra. “They

had the vision to remake this 1894 Country English Cottage to fit their modern lifestyle. I developed their objectives through a design concept plan and then construction plans, elevations and specifications of distinctive finish materials.”

To reclaim as much usable space as possible, construction crews removed all but the exterior walls, reversed one stairway and removed another. “They were major changes, but that’s what it took to transform the former tenant entrance into space that met the needs of an active family,” she explained.

Sandra designed the spaces to achieve openness and simplicity, leaving room for the family to live. For the walls, she developed a hand-glazed finish in warm tones and a hand-painted stencil border to blend uniquely with other rich, natural materials. She chose specialty lighting to individually fit the function of the spaces.

“The design prominently featured custom architectural millwork and distinctive original art,” she said. “It was essential that I be on site regularly, working alongside

the general contractor and tradesmen to help resolve and direct important design and construction details. I was intimately familiar with every square inch of the space by the completion of construction!”

The most exciting design feature was the original art piece by Stephen Hartman. “The piece is dramatic and inviting, and creates a focal point in the hall from several vantage points. The scale, color, texture, and combination of materials are really outstanding together. Young or old, everyone who experienced the space is delighted and intrigued by the art.”

Sandra believes that even small, utility spaces can benefit from the design expertise of a professional interior designer. The smaller the space, the more important planning, design and project management become.

“All spaces start with the same basics – ceiling, windows, walls and floors. It’s what I do with those surface planes that transforms the space to serve my clients’ lifestyles,” she explained.

“In essence, I transform lives by transforming spaces.”

Sandra Greenway transformed the laundry room into an efficient, inviting space for the family of six. The left side locates a front loading washer and dryer and a solid quartz countertop at an ergonomic height for folding laundry. Overhead is a spacious area to air-dry garments. The right side has a wall of cabinets for storage, an extra deep sink, a practical gooseneck faucet and excellent task lighting.

Sandra chose light values of warm tones for the wall colors to create a subtle, comfortable feel. The room is well lit using a combination of ceiling lights, natural daylight, and halogen task lighting.



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