

IN THIS ISSUE:

- **HOW TO INCREASE YOUR HOME'S VALUE...**
- **HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR NEXT REMODELING PROJECT...**
- **COMPANY CORNER...**



News & Tips from the Home Improvement Industry...

After a long, hot summer, we're all ready for the Autumn Season! With crisp weather and the kids back in school, now is the time to start planning for your next project...and prepare your home for festive Holiday gatherings! In this newsletter, you will learn **How to Increase Your Home's Value, Get the Most out of Your Remodeling Project, DIY & Home Improvement Tips, and company news.**

HOW TO INCREASE YOUR HOME'S VALUE...

Don't Move! Grow Your Equity & Renovate....Minor Updates Create a Major Difference!

You enjoy the area in which you live but would love an updated environment or really need more space...a more efficient floor plan? The real estate market, often cyclical, is not currently in an upswing. Therefore, before you consider moving, consider staying... Renovation costs are quickly recouped when you are ready to move. According to the **2005 Cost vs. Value Report** published by *Realtor & Remodeling Magazines*, **nearly 80% of the cost of minor kitchen remodels was recouped in Atlanta.** Recouped %s were even higher in other categories, such as Bathrooms & Decks.

Update your Kitchen for Holiday Gatherings! The Kitchen is the heart of the home, especially during the holidays. Newer kitchen layouts provide adequate space and elegant styling (*with sleek appliances, furniture-grade cabinetry, artistic hardware...*) suitable for all types of entertaining. *Is your kitchen the ideal spot for guests?* If not, consider these ideas....

The featured picture shows an **Addition and Family Room Renovation** recently completed in a Marietta home. The couple had just moved into their 18-yr-old home, but did not care for the cramped and boxy layout of their kitchen. We added a **breakfast area addition** and removed a wall which was replaced with a **gorgeous, arched entryway with columns** to integrate the Kitchen into the adjacent living area. This renovation provided dramatic results and this family now enjoys their "new" home even more! Visit our **Project Gallery** on our web site for the full project description...



Kitchens are not the only popular entertaining centers. **Finished basements** are gaining as the perfect "center"...er, foundation...of the home. Often, basements provide more casual elegance than the levels above making it the ideal space for entertaining kids, teens, and adults. Also, with our mild Atlanta weather, basement entertaining offers convenient access to a focal point of many well-maintained southern homes: the backyard! Another recent project features a **basement renovation with a poolside cabana.** The homeowners loved their Buford home built in the late '90s but wanted to create a backyard suitable for entertaining...from elegant events to casual affairs. We updated the look of the basement, finished the area below the upper-level deck, and transformed the Screened Porch into a gorgeous, pool-side cabana with kitchen amenities (wet bar, refrigerator, cooktop and grill), and even a TV. The homeowners will never want to leave their lake home again! And, should they ever move, these updates will significantly increase the value of their beautiful home.

HOW TO MAXIMIZE YOUR NEXT REMODELING PROJECT...

Proper Planning & Understanding the Process Increases Your Chances of Achieving Your Goals...On Time & On Budget!

While you've already chosen your contractor (US!) and have either completed or are in the process of your renovation, reviewing planning tips and understanding the full process are still relevant keys to your current and future remodeling successes.

A recent article from *Atlanta Home Improvement Magazine's* June issue covers the planning process from conceptual designs to *"5 Steps to Remodeling Success"* written by Jesse Morado, CR, with Renovation Coach. Morado's article offers great tips, such as how to discuss your budget expectations (why this is vital) and reminding the homeowner to regularly communicate with the contractor. We expound upon this by requiring that all requests and correspondence be provided in writing. We've found that keeping a documented paper trail is helpful to both of us while keeping everyone on track as the project progresses.

The featured **New Construction** project located in the Brookhaven area of Atlanta is a beautiful pool house that is a perfect complement to the stunning pool landscape constructed by **Olympic Atlanta Pools & Spas.** Intended for multi-functional use as a teenage haven/recreational area, homeowner retreat, and guest house, the two-story house with basement includes a full kitchen, sitting area for multi-media entertainment, two full baths and one bedroom.

While the addition of many new structures can be difficult, timely, messy, and frustrating, our construction projects typically defy the norm. *Why?* Because we guide clients through the process and encourage proper planning and design at the onset. The homeowner collaborated with our President and Olympic Pools to design the perfect pool house. Designs and sketches were submitted and no decisions were rushed. When the construction phase began, both our team and the homeowner understood the final goal and the project progressed smoothly and quickly. The homeowner understood that her backyard would become a mountain of red clay; but, as you can see, the final results were well worth any mess!

Also, visit our web site's **Home Page** - toward the bottom of this page, you will find our "Important Tips & Free Advice" Section.



Fall 2006 Newsletter:
 How to increase your
 Home's Value,
 Getting the Most out of
 your next project...

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LICENSED RESIDENTIAL REMODELING CONTRACTOR

COMPANY CORNER...

Check Out What We've Been Up To...

We've had a busy summer! In June, we attended the **Chrysalis Award Ceremony** and enjoyed celebrating the national award we received earlier this year (photo, right).

Our on-line **Project Gallery** has been updated with lots of new projects! Visit www.totallydependable.com/projects to learn about the latest remodeling trends, as well as see what we've been up to over the past few months...

This summer, Don Hagemeister, President, became a "**Licensed Residential Remodeling Contractor**" in compliance with new requirements imposed by the state of GA. We also joined "**Greater Atlanta Home Builders**" (GAHB) - a prestigious association that only accepts the cream of the crop. In an effort toward continual improvement, we are working to offer the highest level of professionalism available within our industry.

In May, we added a new member of our team, whom you'll soon meet if you have not already. **Steve Ard**, our new **Superintendent**, brings years of construction experience to our growing team. His helpful nature makes him approachable as he works directly with homeowners and vendors to achieve the desired results: a seamless renovation!

Other exciting news includes the imminent arrival of Stacey's son and 2nd child, **Jaxon Layne Hyatt**, expected in early September. Stacey will be enjoying time with her family through most of October, but looks forward to speaking and hearing from each of you again soon! In her absence, Crystal will be available to answer any questions.



Company attendants included (L-R) **Michael Hyatt, Sr.** Project Mgr., his wife, **Crystal Hyatt**, Accounts Payable Mgr., Theresa and **Don Hagemeister**, Owner/President, and **Stacey Hyatt**, Marketing Dir. with her husband Jeff Hyatt (Michael's brother).

SPECIAL SAVINGS....

This fall, we would like to extend special savings to our existing clients of **10% off** of your **Kitchen or Bath Remodel** or **1 Free Hour** (a \$65 value) off of our Handy Man Service.

Savings cannot be combined with other offered discounts and is not retroactive for existing Kitchen or Bath projects. One discount per project/customer. Contract must be approved by December 31, 2006 to receive Remodeling Discount; Handy Man offer expires Dec. 31, 2006.

CONTACT US...

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We can't wait to hear from you again! Send us an e-mail just to say "Hi!" or to get answers to your remodeling questions....

Sincerely,

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..... & the rest of the Totally Dependable Contracting Team!

