

WELCOME TO OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

A rich kitchen palette

When it was time to redo a dated kitchen—think pink and aqua!—this homeowner knew just what she wanted, with one exception.

After selecting a beautiful black granite sink, Merrillat's Masterpiece Collection hickory cabinets, Pepper Ivory Corian countertops, and slate floor, the homeowner agonized over which backsplash would complement her other choices. Her original pick was natural stone, in rich earth tones, but her husband was worried it was too dark once the black sink had been selected. Concerned that he was correct, another trip to the tile store resulted in "picking out one I sort of liked."

But buyer's remorse set in overnight. "Why pay all that money for something I didn't really like?" she thought. Her husband asked her if she was sure about this decision, and she said yes, and that she thought "it was going to be the focal point of the kitchen—and so it is!"

Installing the natural stone backsplash was time consuming because the pieces were small, which resulted in many grout lines. It had to be installed, sealed, then grouted, then sealed again. But the final effect was worth all the effort. The details of the stone add texture and beauty to the entire project.

Besides loving the backsplash, the homeowner said her favorite features of her new kitchen are the breakfast bar and the deep drawers for pots and pans.

A new Anderson window above the sink was installed as well as an Anderson sliding door leading to the patio.

"We had our annual Christmas party this past weekend," the homeowner said, "and everyone was impressed with the kitchen. It is not the standard (cherry cupboards, stainless steel, and granite counters), but it suits us. It is a joy to work in."

When asked about how it was to work with Keith Trembley's team, she said: "They were awesome. They came when they said they would and all did a great job! We would (and have) recommend them to anyone."

Bob Cyr, project supervisor, enjoyed working with the homeowners. "This type of customer, who appreciates our company's workmanship, honesty and timeliness, is exactly the type of repeat customer we strive for."



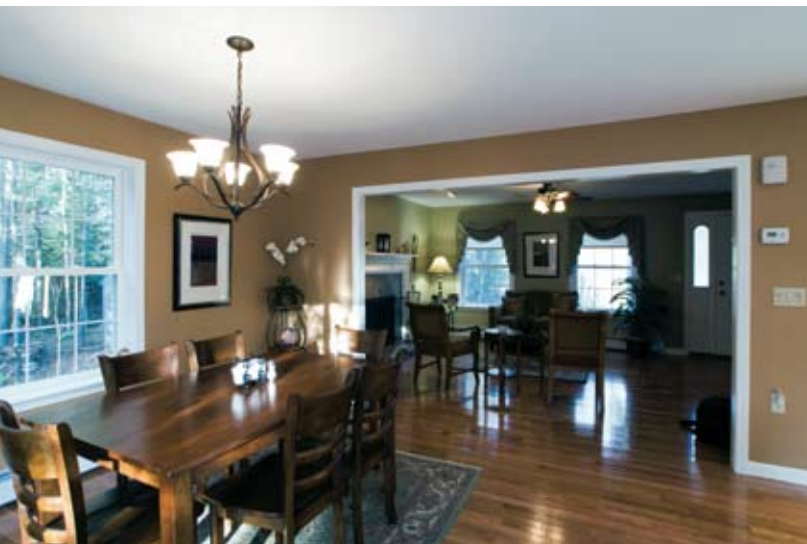
From total fire loss to a fully restored home in 16 weeks

It wasn't a good day. A fire started in the chimney, worked its way up to the crawl spaces along the roof line, and burned a good portion of the this home's roof structure and framing. The entire home was smoke and water filled when KTB was called in to look at the loss. Ceilings were soaked and hardwood floors were cupping. But because the cause of the fire had to be investigated, nothing could be touched for nearly two weeks, which resulted in mold growth.

The entire home was gutted back to the framing. The roof, insulation, drywall and hardwood floors all were all removed.

With the help of the cooperative homeowners, the process of choosing paint colors, flooring, bath fixtures, appliances and cabinetry went smoothly, allowing KTB to keep its promise of a tight schedule of 16 weeks.

"As difficult an experience having a fire was, Bob Cyr made it easy for us every step of the way," the homeowner said. "He was always available for a phone call or meeting whenever we had questions. The workers were all very friendly and professional, down to the last nail. We can't say enough good things about our experience; we are both very happy."



Offices Locations

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It's not time to move, it's time to improve

Without question, the mortgage situation is in the midst of a major, long-needed shakeout, occurring in the sub-prime market, which affects the broader financial markets. But what the doomsayers are not reporting is that there is no credit crunch for qualified buyers.

Housing, as with all markets, is cyclical. As the best long-term investment Americans can make, home ownership remains unmatched by any other purchase in terms of real benefits. Homeowners with good credit and steady income find there is still plenty of money available for remodels. In fact, for qualified borrowers, rates are running at near historic lows.

A recent study by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB, nahb.org) found American homeowners own \$21 trillion in real estate assets—a number greater than the absolute value of the entire portfolio of stocks and bonds on Wall Street. Of this amount, homeowners control \$10.85 trillion in as yet untapped equity in their homes.

It just makes sense to remodel and take advantage of the benefits within the four walls you already own. Remodeling your existing home makes it more marketable when it does come time to sell, yet you can enjoy it to its fullest potential until that time comes.

When you're making the decision to remodel, keep these points in mind:

- Home values still appreciate more than the stock market.
- Interest rates remain at near-record lows so you can lock in a payment that fits your budget.
- Lenders are still eager to make loans to qualified borrowers.

Give us a call to learn more about how we can help you assess the investment value of a remodeling project to realize a more marketable home when the housing market rebounds. And it will.



Old Man Winter is here!

Give your Furnace a Check-up

During the winter your heating system is the last thing you want to break down. Schedule a yearly maintenance check-up with a certified heating and cooling professional to make sure everything is functioning properly.

Prevent Freezing Pipes

When on vacation, turn off all running water to the outside and all non-essential appliances. This will prevent water from freezing in the pipes. Wrap your pipes with heating tape and insulate unfinished rooms that have exposed pipes.

Keep Your Fireplace and Chimney Safe

It is important to have both your fireplace and chimney serviced once a year. Install carbon monoxide detectors around the house and replace the batteries in your smoke detectors.

Trim Back Bushes and Tree Branches

Ice and snow can collect on tree branches and bushes, weighing them down and causing them to break off, potentially hitting your home or your car. Trim back your bushes and cut down dead or hanging tree branches.

Add Warmth to Your Home with Extra Insulation

Check the insulation in your basement, attic and crawl space. If these areas are lacking adequate insulation, you will want to add more, especially in your attic where ice and snow can collect on the rooftop.

Our clients say...

"I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the excellent job... There was great concern and anxiety that accompanied the discovery of water damage to my house. This concern was mitigated by your prompt response and expertise. The immediate attention paid to the problems of my house and the installation of a permanent repair kept my home safe and certainly prevented further deterioration. From my initial contact through the last day of the project, your organization has shown itself to be one of the most professional and cooperative. The quality of your work and employees is outstanding... I have never met a nicer, more courteous and thorough group of people. These men came in each morning with a warm greeting, and every day before they left, I could not have asked for more. I was impressed with their efforts and dedication. Thank you for restoring my home... Professionalism is exhibited throughout your company.. (Everyone) was honest and always returned phone calls promptly... Thanks to you and the entire team for super service!"

— Maryanna Bradshaw, Bangor ME

We love it when our satisfied clients refer us to their friends and family. To show our appreciation, we send up to \$100 gas card whenever a referral results in a new client. Thank you! Our most recent referrals were:



Heather Ricker, Parsonsfield referred Christina Hughes, Parsonsfield

Heather Ricker, Parsonsfield referred Erica Girard, Casco

Ted Trembley, Hermon referred James Greer, Brewer

Kathleen Rushmore, Brewer referred Eve Fabrizio, Brewer

A Keith Trembley Builders' custom home was featured in January 2009 issue of *From House to Home*, "Long & Lean." http://fromhousetohome.com/articles/long_lean



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