

James Barton



—Design-Build Inc.—
Fine Home Remodeling

RENOVATIONS



Dream. Design. Build. Enjoy.

SPRING 2006

He Said, She Said

(or maybe it is)

She Said, He Said

A new study, “Driving Design: From the Front Seat to the Front Porch,” looks at how American homeowners find inspiration for the exteriors of their current homes.

While there are many new home improvement magazines and television shows that provide American homeowners with new sources for inspiration, a time-trusted tradition is still popular for those planning a remodeling project or building a new home — the drive for design. In fact, nearly 70 percent of homeowners tour neighborhoods in their cars looking for great ideas and products to incorporate into their homes. This is especially popular among those with household income between \$50,000 and \$99,999 (77%); those ages 35-54 (75%). *

What Exterior Elements Do They Study?

	Women	Men
Landscaping	94%	84%
Architectural Style	70%	72%
Front Door/Porch	66%	60%
Exterior Surface	58%	73%
Lighting	51%	39%

Outdoor Living On Multiple Levels

Think of it as a living room where the wall colors can change from rose to sky blue to black in a day. A family den where it’s OK for the kids to throw a ball. A kitchen with natural ventilation for cooking odors. Even an entertainment space where no one panics over a glass of spilled wine.

Decks today combine the best of interior comforts with Mother Nature’s loveliness. By incorporating features such as built-in seating, outdoor kitchens, and fireplaces, families can relax, play, dine, and entertain while experiencing what has always made decks popular: being outside. Not having a roof over your head lets your mind soar. It’s an escape room where you can let your imagination go a little bit.

Lots of people seem to agree. According to the SB Material Association, two to three million decks are built every year in the United States. That’s more than 235 an hour. And the decking market has grown an average of 8 percent every year since 1991, outpacing new home construction.

Create separate spaces for a variety of activities. Don’t think of a deck as a single, flat space. Instead, designers create separate “rooms” using various tech-

niques: They build multiple levels connected by stairs; they alternate the type or color of decking material in different

areas; and they install structures, such as pergolas, built-in seating, and planter boxes. Simply changing the decking pattern can fool the eye into believing that one space is apart from another.

Whatever you build outdoors should be able to withstand the outdoor elements.

Weatherproof it. There is a downside to a room without a roof: the elements.

Any accessories that make

the great outdoors feel like the great indoors must be able to withstand whatever Mother Nature decides to rain down on them.

Thankfully, there are many ways to keep your outdoor space durable. For example, builders can use weather-resistant materials in the kitchen, frame the kitchen in metal, coat the exterior in stucco, and install appliances such as stainless-steel refrigerator, sink, and grill. They can use slate for the countertops and decorate the fronts of the appliances and fireplace with powder-coated wrought iron.

A deck can be nice-looking and aesthetically pleasing but still be durable.

Outdoor Living continued page 2





**From the Desk of
James Madsen, President
James Barton Design-Build**

Spring Tips On Remodeling

Spring is here, and from time to time clients will ask me some preliminary brainstorming steps they can take to get remodeling ideas. Remodeling your home can be an exciting experience, but it is one that requires preparation and homework.

Here are some practical tips you can use prior to the remodeling process:

- Collect photos from magazines, sketches, photos of your room or house or go on the Internet to get ideas. Put a folder together.
- Write down a priority list for each project you would like to accomplish.
- Write down your minimum and maximum budget for the project.
- Ask neighbors or friends for referrals for similar projects. This is your greatest asset, as referrals usually work out very well for most homeowners and take a lot of the worry out of a job, knowing it will be done right.
- Check references. Is the remodeler insured? How long have they been in business? Do they have employees? Or do they just work with subs?

These are all very important items to discuss with your remodeling contractor before any renovation begins. *

When Disaster Strikes Your Home, Will You Be Covered?

Minnesotans well know that the April showers that bring May flowers can also mark the beginning of the summer storm season. Now is time to be sure your home is adequately covered for water damage.

Find your policy and read the declaration page. Review the exclusion section to see what is not covered. It might be a good idea to check all this with your insurance agent.

“With the issue of water, it depends on how the water comes into the home,” said Jim Werdin of Access Insurance, based in Eden Prairie.

He offered a general rule of thumb:

If a storm causes structural damage that allows water to enter your home, the damage done by the water should be covered under the homeowner's insurance policy.

If there is a heavy downpour and rain saturates the ground around the home and seeps into the foundation, the ensuing damage is considered “flood damage” would not be covered by the homeowner's policy.

Homeowners should talk with their insurance agent about whether it is appropriate to purchase flood insurance.

Outdoor Living continued

DECK EXTRAS

Your needs, your site, and your budget will determine what kinds of extras your deck includes. But here are some of the hottest features you should consider.

Multiple levels: Separate levels connected by stairs allow a group of people to be involved in different activities while still being together.

Outdoor kitchen: With features such as a refrigerator, grill, sink, bar, and storage space, the outdoor cook need never go inside.

Built-in seating and planters: Built-ins come in a variety of styles — wood, brick, stucco, or stone.

Werdin said he works to make sure all of his clients know about additional coverage, called backup sewer and drain endorsement. This option has helped many of his clients who find their sump pump failed during a storm or stopped when the electricity went out.

“It's a really common claim,” said Werdin. “When we get a 5 to 7-inch downpour, there is no way a sump pump can keep up.”

Because the furnace and water heater usually reside in a home's basement, it can be wise to purchase backup sewer and drain coverage even when a basement is unfinished, Werdin said.

If a storm does hit, Werdin advises homeowners to call their insurance agent as soon as possible. He also said homeowners must do what they can to minimize damage, such as cover up broken windows to prevent additional water damage. In this age of digital cameras, he suggests homeowners take pictures to document damage.

Jim Werdin and the staff at Access Insurance are happy to answer any questions. They can be reached at 952-881-3232. *

Lighting: Exterior lighting can bring mood and beauty to your deck while extending the hours your outdoor living area is useful.

Heater: Propane, kerosene, wood, and electricity can all provide heat for an outdoor deck, depending on whether it comes from a barrel-size metal “fire pit” or electric heaters.

Outdoor fireplace: The ultimate heater, a foot built-in fireplace.

Plantings: A deck looks naked without landscaping. Prices for flowers, shrubs, and trees vary widely. *

(Source: *Better Homes and Gardens*)

Baby Boomers Setting the Trends

The baby boom generation helped redefine its world. Now, as baby boomers find their own babies are packing up for college, they are redefining their homes.

Remodelers across the country see a growing trend as baby boomers modify their homes to suit their changing needs and interests, now that the kids are grown up and gone. Boomers' wish lists include art studios, exercise rooms, media rooms. Happily, these wishes can usually be fulfilled within the walls of their original family home structure, which means the features that will enhance the homeowners' future will also connect to the memories of the past.

Some popular projects include:

My own office space. Boomers don't want or need to share their office space. He may want built in bookshelves; she may want a perfectly sun-lit room. Two separate offices fit the bill.

Master bedroom suites. Boomers often request large bedrooms and a bathroom with both a Jacuzzi and a shower stall. His and her closets — the bigger the better — also are key.

Room for Mom and Dad. As boomers age, so do their parents. Many homeowners are opting to create a special suite for their parents, including a sleeping area, sitting room, bathroom and kitchenette. Specially tailored private space provides dignity and independence, along with accessibility and the comfort of being with loved ones.

Space for hobbies. Kids' rooms are often converted into new space for old hobbies or space to learn new ones, such as art, music, yoga or indoor gardening.

Preparing for the next phase. And boomers are preparing for their own long-term needs in subtle ways, like creating wider doors and hallways. ✱

JBDB Heads to the Upper Peninsula in Michigan

With an average of 200 inches of snow per year, the snowmobile trail country of UP Michigan was the perfect place for some exhilaration for the production staff of JBDB. The staff rode 450 miles in two days through pristine Michigan forests. This is the third annual trip for them. They stayed at the Gogebic Lodge on Lake Gogebic. Adam Olson, a vendor representative from Lamperts, joined the excitement as did Nate Hunt, a tile setter vendor, and Mike Thompson, from



The photo is taken at "Lake of the Clouds" along Lake Superior. Pictured from the left: John Miller, James Madsen, Rick Byrne, Josh Risberg, Chris Paige, Jason Larson, Andy Hagloff, Adam Olson, and Chris Lange.

Nationwide Floor and Window Coverings, had in the past. ✱

Referral Program

Although the contest is over for the most referrals through March 31, please keep in mind that the referral program is an ongoing program and is available to customers, subcontractors and vendors. The program

You refer. We Reward.

is simple. For every referral that turns into a signed contract with a down payment, you will receive 1% of the signed contract amount. Please visit our website for future and updated information. ✱

Meet Josh Risberg, Lead Carpenter

James Barton Design-Build is happy to feature this quarter's employee, Josh Risberg. Keeping with the James Barton Design-Build tradition of excellence, Josh is a very detailed and dedicated



employee who takes his profession seriously. Working as the service lead carpenter for the company, Josh has been with JBDB for more than two years.

"The best part of what I do is not only meeting new clients, but also ensuring and striving to make sure clients are happy with their newly completed project," Josh said.

Josh has worked in the remodeling industry for three years. He attended ITS, a Construction School in Madison, Wis., where he built custom and executive homes. In his free time, Josh enjoys snowboarding, and spending time with family and friends. Josh is engaged. He has a cat named "Huck" and a dog named "Buddy."

We're proud to have you on our team, Josh. ✱

James Barton



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FEATURED PROJECT

Main Floor Renovation and Exterior Addition

Custom design and renovation changed a limited-space main floor into gorgeous, new open and spacious living area for this suburban family.

To achieve this project, structural engineers were brought in as consultants. James Barton Design-Build removed the corner of the house and used custom beams to support the second story. Ultimately, a family room with vaulted ceilings was added, plus a newly designed front entry and a new mudroom, all resulting in functional efficiency for the project. All new custom Quartersawn Oak cabinetry was installed and innovative solid-surface counter tops, new appliances, recessed lighting and hardwood floors finished off this magnificent main-floor renovation.

Please visit our website at www.jamesbartondesignbuild.com for colored photos of this featured project. *

