### **AUTUMN 2021**

### **HOME TRENDS**

**DESIGN/BUILD** REMODEL • CUSTOM **HOMES** • CUSTOM **DECKS** 





# PROJECT REVIEW: Creating a New Outdoor Living Space

An outdoor space for entertaining or relaxing is a great addition to any home, and it pays off. Installing a deck increases your home value by an average of \$10,083.

In the case of one of our most recent clients, they already had a deck space, but it was outdated and looked cluttered. So we got to work and completely

remodeled the outdoor area to be more eye-

appealing and functional.

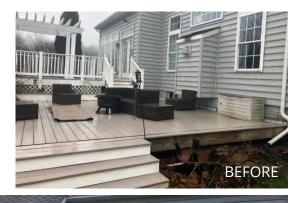
In addition, the new space is sleek and more accessible since we took out some of the steps and opened up some yard space by removing some of the steps that took up a lot of space.

If you already have an outdoor space or a deck but are not pleased with it, you will want to see this project. Here is a quick rundown of what we did to improve our client's outdoor space:

### **Removed The Old Space**

To begin the project, we took down the existing deck, railing steps, and pergola. Once we did that,

continued on page 4







# **BEIGE OR BOLD?**

### When to Remodel for Resale or for You

While scrolling through Houzz and Pinterest, you'll see many bold home decorating trends. Statement-making black doors, geometric wallpaper, and brightly colored kitchen cabinets seem to be all the rage, and you may be considering adding them to your home.

But then this voice in your head warns that these remodeling trends may not be the best for resale. What should you do?

There are times to remodel your home for your enjoyment and times to consider resale value—and we are here to help you make that determination. Let's take a look at some considerations you should take before committing to a bold home remodel project.

### Reasons to Remodel for Resale

First, let's look at some reasons to pass on the bold home improvement projects.

### You have older children

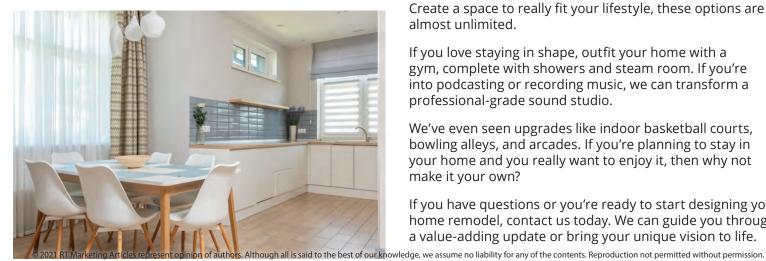
If your kids are getting ready to graduate high school and move out on their own, maybe reconsider any bold home renovation plans.

There's a chance that once the kids are gone, the house you raised them in will feel huge and empty. You may decide to sell your home and downsize. In that case, we can incorporate features into a remodel that are appealing to home buyers and also serve your current needs.

### The house is more investment than home

If you bought your home intending only to own it for a short period of time until it appreciates in value, all of your choices regarding the home should reflect that.

Make sure the materials used during home renovations like an upgraded kitchen or bathroom are resale friendly to maximize your home's value.





### It's a starter home

If you know you won't be in this home for much longer, it is probably best to skip a bold upgrade.

Similar to an investment home, make improvements that will maximize appeal to new buyers. Sticking to neutraltoned floors and walls will look fresh and clean and help you get the highest sales price possible.

### Reasons to Remodel for You

Your house should be a reflection of your style. There is a time and place to make renovations that may not appeal to everyone. These are just a few:

### You love your area, neighbors, and everything else about the home

If you have no intention of selling, do whatever you want to your house! Paint the wall lime green and the ceiling black. Our design team can bring your ideas to life and create a home that is personal in both form and function.

Install bright orange carpeting. Not having to worry about resale value opens up room for creativity.

### You have an unusual style

There's no point in living in a trendy all-white home if it doesn't make you happy. Create a space that works for you to help boost your mood and make the house a home.

#### You want to have fun

Create a space to really fit your lifestyle, these options are almost unlimited.

If you love staying in shape, outfit your home with a gym, complete with showers and steam room. If you're into podcasting or recording music, we can transform a professional-grade sound studio.

We've even seen upgrades like indoor basketball courts, bowling alleys, and arcades. If you're planning to stay in your home and you really want to enjoy it, then why not make it your own?

If you have questions or you're ready to start designing your home remodel, contact us today. We can guide you through a value-adding update or bring your unique vision to life.

# **Remodeling For Pets**

Pets cheer us up, make us laugh, and pretty much run the household. When planning out your next remodeling project, don't forget to include functional and enjoyable things for your furry family members. These are a few of our favorite pet-friendly home renovation additions:

### **Hidden Feeding Spot**

As much as we love our pets, their food and water bowls don't usually go with our decor. Consider hideaway food and water bowls that slide under your kitchen or mudroom cabinets when not in use. While we're at it, include a designated cabinet space just for their huge bags of food and other various belongings to keep order in your space. It should be easy to reach but still hidden away.

### **Central Vacuum**

Dog and cat hair all over the house is not ideal, and neither is sweeping up after them all day. There are several central vacuum system options for your home to help keep floors clear of furballs and dirt that gets tracked inside.





### **Flooring**

Sometimes pets get a little too excited, and your floors pay the price. When upgrading floors, water and scratch-resistant flooring like tile or stone are the best choices. They look nice, are durable, and easy to clean.

Bamboo flooring could also be another great option for easy clean-up and defense against wear and tear. Bamboo is also a more sustainable material, so while pet-proofing your flooring, you're also being environmentally friendly.

### **Dog Washing Area**

If you have plans to renovate your mudroom, why not create a dog washing station? This way, you can easily bring your dog inside without getting sand, dirt, or whatever else he rolled in all over the house and quickly bathe him. Dragging your dog into the bathtub can be a chore and a workout, and this would make your life so much easier!

### **Built-In Beds**

Your favorite family member deserves to be comfortable, so why not install a luxurious pet bed from them. Add a window box too for your dog to lounge in after barking at delivery drivers and neighborhood kids.

If you don't have a problem sharing a room with your pet, a raised bed area in the nook of your bedroom is a great choice. This could include steps up and a nice, comfy bed for them to lounge on.

Do you have other pet-friendly home renovation ideas? We'd love to hear about them and help bring them to life as a part of your next remodel.

# **New Bathroom Technology**

If you haven't updated a bathroom recently, you may be surprised to learn about all new technology.

Some upgrades are for comfort, and some are for luxury. Whatever the reason, you will be amazed to find innovative products at any price range. If you are planning to upgrade your bathroom, consider these new technological advancements:

### **Just For Fun**

- Bluetooth speakers can turn your bathroom into a relaxing spa. They can be hidden into your bathroom design and are waterproof.
- Adding a waterproof tv to your shower or near the tub is now possible thanks to updated technology. Give it a try!

### **Smart Options**

• Smart mirrors are becoming popular. They are fog-resistant and can display things like the weather or text messages, and even watch TV or listen to music.

 Moen has designed a voice-activated shower. Turn on and control the shower's temperature simply by speaking a command.

### **Cleanliness**

- Touchless toilets prevent you from having to come into contact with the bacteria that is present. They also conserve water.
- Touchless faucets also conserve water and minimize germs by turning on automatically when your hands go near them. They add a sleek, modern look to your bathroom.

Technology is constantly evolving to improve health and safety. Don't forget to incorporate them into your next bathroom remodel.



Our Family Working Together with Yours







T.W. Ellis Creating an Outdoor Space

2243 Rock Spring Road Forest Hill, MD 21050

Remodeling for Pets

New Bathroom Tech















## **Creating a New Outdoor Living Space**

continued from page 1

we were pleased to find the area looked much more open than before, which gave us plenty of room to work with.

### What We Installed

We installed a 5'x7' EP Henry Coventry landing with steps and black Westbury railing to create the new space. The new railing makes the space look much more modern and on-trend than the old white railing did.

We also installed approximately 546 square feet EP Henry Bristol Chiseled

Stone Paver Patio in Blue Slate and a 2'x14' EP Coventry 2-sided Cast Stone Seating Wall in Adirondack.

The finishing touch to the project was the addition of a firepit. We installed a 3' EP Henry Coventry Cast Stone Fire Pit and Adirondack.

The new space looks clean and wide open. It's the perfect spot to have an end-of-summer get-together or a bonfire in the cool autumn months.









