

# Trends

## Welcome and Happy Holidays!

K and A Carosella, Inc. would like to welcome you to our first bimonthly newsletter! Stay up-to-date on news and information of current trends in the design world. Get some great tips for your next remodeling project! Choose K and A to assist you through all your remodeling needs! Call us @ 215-465-2700 to get started.

## Basements with Flair

Looking for space to put an exercise room, entertainment center, or playroom? Go underground! If your home has an unfinished basement, remodeling might be a great way to transform this commonly under-used space. When considering a basement remodel, start by making a floor plan. Be sure to mark the location of your furnace, washer and dryer, and any other large appliances.

Take notes on:

- Access to the basement from upstairs and outside
- Location of existing plumbing if you want an additional bathroom
- Location of vertical support columns
- Location of windows and doors
- Floor/ceiling/wall materials.

Given their constant contact with the earth, basements are vulnerable to dampness, which makes basement remodeling a bit more complex than first meets the eye. We'll help you take

appropriate measures to ensure a room free from moisture.

Most basements have low ceilings and few windows. But this doesn't have to limit you. There are many creative ways to make your basement light and airy. Talk to us about the variety of wall and ceiling lighting options available. We'll make sure to provide appropriate electrical lines and outlets.

Here is some tricks-of-the-trade for making your underground space first-class:

- Stay away from dark wood paneling and instead consider drywall painted in light tones to make the room brighter.
- Open up the visual space. Double doors—take away the typical cubicle look. Or, how about a rounded archway doors—take away the typical cubicle look. Or, how about a rounded archway or pass-through area from one room into another?

## & Tips



- Check to see if existing windows can be enlarged. Or, consider installing a small boxed window for a mini-garden to grow herbs or start plant seedlings.
- Built-in bookcases and entertainment units add richness and depth to a room; these can be used to hide pipes or other obstructions along a wall. Light them with interior lights or from the top to cast light downwards.
- Disguise vertical support beams and horizontal ceiling pipes or floor joists by boxing them in. Or, you might decide to accentuate them by painting. Use pipes and beams as interesting accents by painting them with bold colors or subtle earth tones.

An unfinished basement is much like a diamond in the rough—unexplored splendor awaiting your discovery!

RECIPIENT OF MULTIPLE REMODELING INDUSTRY AWARDS 2008, 2009



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# Give Your Bathroom a Facelift!

*...Some tips to consider when remodeling an existing bathroom*

Nothing dates a house more quickly than a bathroom that time has forgotten. Yet drab or outdated bathrooms can be dramatically revitalized. Bath products abound that can give you as lavish a bathroom as you could possibly want. Many homeowners want their bathrooms to be totally utilitarian, but others want rooms in which to pamper themselves. How about you? Your answer, and your budget, will determine the best way to remodel. Do you want to work within the existing space of your current bathroom? Do you want to expand by taking room from somewhere else? Would you rather build an addition to accommodate your new bath? These are just a few options which vary greatly in cost.

Renovating your current space is usually the least complicated and least expensive option. While the layout of your existing bathroom can be altered to some extent, moving major plumbing fixtures is the most costly aspect of a remodel. Local building codes require minimum clearances between, beside, and in front of fixtures to allow for use, cleaning, and repair.

If you have an extra bedroom, you could move the bathroom to this space or expand a current bath into a portion of it. This will mean moving the plumbing but it will also add a modern, spacious resale value. An addition or even a small bump-out could be the solution.

This requires the largest investment but will give you just what you want. If you've decided to remodel, start with an analysis of your existing bathroom:

- What is the condition of the sink, toilet, and tub/shower? If it's an older, wall-hanging toilet, you might update the look, perhaps with a low-water consumption style. If your tub is basically sound, consider re-glazing it. However, many homeowners are moving up to whirlpool style tubs.

- Does the sink have a vanity for storage? If it does, but you just don't like it, consider replacing it with one of the many beautiful varieties that are available today.

- Does the sink have independent faucets? If so, you know how inconvenient this can be. Why not switch to a single operating lever which is easier to use and gives a better mix of temperatures?

- Does your tub include a shower? One can easily be added with a combination tub-shower valve.

- Think about reinforcing the walls, adding grab bars, and widening doors for visitors with physical disabilities or for your later years.

- Is your medicine cabinet small and outdated? Consider the various styles of newer cabinets, perhaps with recessed or decorative lighting.

- How is the tile? If it is chipped and cracked and matching tile is not available, replacement or re-glazing may be your best option.

- If a wooden window is suffering the effects of humidity, it may be best to replace older metal windows with new vinyl windows. Deco glass block has made a comeback and is a good option for adding light and design flair to a bathroom.

- Many older bathrooms don't have adequate ventilation. You should add a fan to avoid moisture build-up which can deteriorate materials and promote the growth of mold and mildew.

- Are electrical outlets a problem? Face it, the number of electrical appliances we use in our daily rituals has multiplied since the time many houses were built. That means that you probably want more outlets. New and replacement ones should be protected ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets that are made to shut off automatically when they sense water.

Today's bathroom can be all you want it to be. Enjoy the opportunity to explore the variety of materials, styles, and colors available to you. In the end, you'll have a well-designed bathroom that functions as beautifully as it looks.



## Next Issue's Topics!

Unfinished Attics are Remodeling Opportunities

Make an Addition to your Family



PA law now requires that home renovation contractors register with the state.

For your protection, always ask for your contractor's registration number.

Our registration is: PAOAGHC:000193

Give us a call to begin your next remodeling project. We will be happy to assist you every step of the way!

T. 215.465.2700  
T. 610.365.1795  
F. 215.465.5713

contact@kandacarosella.com



Visit our website @ [www.kandacarosella.com](http://www.kandacarosella.com)