A Unique Kitchen

A Buckhead homeowner shared a magazine photograph as his vision for a new kitchen. This inspiration triggered a six-month process of developing samples and prototypes of various wood species, finishes, construction techniques, and profiles. The resulting kitchen’s distinctive style is achieved with rustic white oak, flush, full overlay, fluted door and drawer fronts.

Turning a Jungle into an Oasis

We are back for Phase 4 for our Candler Park urban pioneer client. Having renovated her architecturally-distinctive early 20th century home, our focus is now on the yard. Largely neglected for years prior to her purchase of the property, we will chop back the encroaching vegetation, re-grade and establish proper drainage, and install a perimeter privacy fence with security gates on a new concrete driveway to be located on the opposite side of the house from the current driveway.

Inspiration can come from anywhere—a magazine, a growing family…even a simple tree leaf can start the imagination on a path that changes an entire landscape. At Cruickshank Remodeling, we’re lucky enough to get to work on a variety of inspired projects that challenge us in both design and craftsmanship. Here we share three recent projects that piqued our interest and we hope they further inspire you.

Front Porch Addition

An ungainly porte cochere dominated the front elevation of this otherwise handsome home, and the driveway directed surface water to the basement. Keeping in mind the family’s needs and desires, we shifted the design focus from cars to people by designing a front porch to replace the carport. First and foremost, we manipulated the grade so surface water is now directed to the street. As for the addition itself, we used a decorative motif borrowed from a rear porch to maintain the home’s unity of style, and replaced a rarely seen round window with a half round window. Today, a custom set of oak entry doors welcome guests and the new driveway layout still provides ample parking for a family with teens and their cars.

While writing the article on high performance glass, I was reminded of my student days in the Master of Architecture program at Yale University—I was a daily occupant of the iconic Art & Architecture Building designed by former dean, Paul Rudolph. The building, in Brutalist style, is characterized by rising towers of corduroy textured concrete with large fixed plate glass windows. My structures classes were held in a first floor classroom whose entire wall was one large piece of glass. On most gray New Haven winter days, the cold radiated from that window to the extent that no student sat within three desks of the glass. Fortunately, our Atlanta winters are not so severe. And because of that, we like to expose many of our rooms to expansive views of our decks, patios and yards; so we feature more windows, and more French doors than in less temperate locales. Windows and exterior doors make up a large part of many remodeling projects. Unfortunately, Atlanta residential construction has been dominated by the use of cheap windows over the years. so as you consider changes to your home, don’t forget about your windows—advances in window construction and reaching the end of their useful lives increasingly make them candidates for replacement.

Worlds of Windows

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High Performance Glass for Homes

Many of us in older homes have no doubt felt cold air leaking around or radiating from our old double hung windows on a windy winter day. New windows and doors improve comfort and save energy by dramatically reducing infiltration and heat loss through better design and the use of new technologies. Through our work with two separate clients on replacement of west facing windows and doors, we’ve learned that high performance glass can also play a critical role.

Double pane (insulated glass) is the new glazing standard in residential construction. The airspace between the panes is typically filled with an inert gas such as argon. Cardinal LoE-366 glass seems to be the industry standard for high performance glass. Some window manufacturers label it under their own name, as Pella does. This glass uses a special formulation as well as three layers of low-E coatings. Low-E coatings are highly reflective of heat and the sun’s energy.

At 20 degrees outside, the inside glass temperature of a typical low-E, double pane glass is 57 degrees. On a high performance glass window it is three degrees warmer. The typical low-E window transmits 76% of visible light; the high performance glass transmits 65% while cutting out over 60% more heat from direct sunlight and reducing fading transmission by a third. These characteristics make high performance glass an obvious choice in all east or west facing elevations of a building.

Who knew a change of glass type could have such a great impact? Give us a call if you would like to discuss options for your windows and doors.

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When Inspiration Strikes

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