

SPRING 2023

# AT HOME WITH ELM

Kitchen Remodeling, Basement Renovations, Additions & More



## Enjoy the Great Outdoors Without Leaving Home

Feature articles inside

## Historic Bathroom Remodel

Our latest remodel project took us out to a historical home in Forest Park. Our clients wanted to update their guest bathroom while keeping the renovations true to the style of the original home. It was also important to make the small space feel larger, add storage, and update the finishes.

Remodeling a historic home has plenty of challenges. Two that we ran into here were venting the bath fan through the roof and moving a drain line for a new toilet. We were fortunate that the homeowners had a box of the original clay roof tiles or else we would have had to special order the very expensive tiles.

The original shower had white subway tile surrounding the tub. We were able to keep the same color and classic traditional style, but upgraded the tile to 3x12 handmade ceramic tile, which dressed up the space. We also extended the tiles to the ceiling to elongate the space and

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# Enjoy the Great Outdoors Without Leaving Home

This cold, dreary winter has us daydreaming about springtime. We can't wait for some warmer weather where we can enjoy the great outdoors.

While camping and hiking are great ways to get some fresh air, the best way to enjoy the outdoors is in your own home. Let's look at some remodeling projects that will allow you to enjoy all that nature has to offer without leaving your home.

## Outdoor Kitchen

The outdoor kitchen is one of the most underrated features of a home. The ability to prepare and cook a meal without using your primary kitchen makes the process easier and more enjoyable. Plus, cooking outside will prevent your home from heating up, which will be much appreciated in the summertime.



Your outdoor kitchen should include most of the same features as your primary kitchen. A sink, a small refrigerator, and adequate prep space are a must. Instead of an oven, you can have a built-in grill and a wood-fired pizza oven.

You'll want to construct the outdoor kitchen out of durable materials like stone, stainless steel, and brick that won't crumble when exposed to the elements. You'll also want some built-in storage areas to have all the gadgets you need to prepare a restaurant-worthy meal that can be enjoyed al fresco.

## Deck

Adding a deck to your yard maximizes yard space and creates an area specifically for entertaining or relaxing, depending on what you're in the mood for. Your deck could have a firepit, chairs for relaxing, or even a dining table.

There are so many options when it comes to building a deck. It can be raised to give you a better view of your yard or the surrounding area, or it could be ground level to provide you with a seamless indoor-outdoor transition.



You could also consider a covered deck which will allow you to block some sunlight and rain while still getting some fresh air. Whatever you choose, we are confident your deck will quickly become one of your favorite spots in the house.

## Sunroom

If you have the space, consider adding a sunroom. A sunroom is a transitional, indoor-outdoor space that allows the outdoors in. These spaces are great because you can still have nice furniture without worrying about them getting damaged by the weather. Spending time in a sunroom will instantly boost your mood.

You have a few options when it comes to sunrooms. You want to allow in as much light as possible, but you still need some protection from the outdoors. We love including floor-to-ceiling windows to surround the sunroom, but you can also use shades. The goal is to allow as much light into the space as possible to create a cozy and bright space.

If you'd like to get started on your own indoor-outdoor living project, give us a call. We would be happy to discuss your options, including how you intend to use this space and create something you and your family will love.





# How to Brighten Up Your Home for Spring

When it's cold and dreary outside, the last thing you want is a home that also feels dark. Having spaces that are light and bright will boost your mood and help cure the winter blues. Plus, a bright space makes a room feel larger. Let's look at how you can brighten up a dark area in your home.

## Choose the Right Materials and Colors

The colors and materials you use to design a space make all the difference. Everything from flooring to paint colors and even the furniture can make a room appear dark, but if you go with a lighter, more crisp color palette, you can avoid this problem. That doesn't mean everything has to be white; you can and should still use color to decorate a space.

Pale grays and light blues are great for spaces that receive a lot of natural light. If you have an area like a basement with little natural light, choosing bright sunny hues will give the space more life.



## Add Windows

Adding more windows is the most obvious way to brighten up a space. Since the indoor-outdoor living trend is popular right now, adding a huge floor-to-ceiling window that takes up an entire wall will make your home brighter and look modern too.

If you don't have the wall space available for large windows, you can consider a skylight instead. Skylights will illuminate your room from above, making it feel warmer and more inviting.

## Organize

Clutter can make a space feel dark and heavy. If you can't part with some of your trinkets, family photos, or the book collection that is taking over an area, try displaying them differently.

We recommend installing built-ins that can double as functional storage and decoration. Displaying your items in a clean and organized manner will allow you to clear up some space on the floor and make your room look larger and brighter.

Are you hoping to brighten up a space? We can help! Give us a call to put together a plan to make your room look brighter.

# Products: Solutions for Indoor/Outdoor Spaces

You have plans in place on how to create the perfect indoor/outdoor space. Perhaps you're going to build an outdoor kitchen and dining area. Or maybe your space will be for relaxing by an outdoor fireplace.

Whatever its purpose, we rounded up some products you should include to take that space to the next level.

## Retractable Screens

Retractable screens are great for allowing fresh air in while keeping pests out. They are easy to move out of the way so that you'll have unobstructed views when they're not in use.

## Glass Walls

To take your indoor/outdoor space to the next level, you must have a glass wall. Think of this as a sliding glass patio door on steroids.

Glass walls can either slide open or open up accordion style



to optimize your indoor/outdoor space. When the wall is open, you will have a space seamlessly flowing from inside to out. When it's closed, you will still have a great view and lots of natural light.

## Built-in Outdoor Appliances

You will be surprised at how often you use this space for preparing and cooking meals, so it makes sense to splurge on built-in appliances for your outdoor kitchen.

Including a built-in gas grill is a must, but you should also consider a pizza oven, refrigerator, and even a built-in ice maker to make the most of your outdoor dining experience.

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# Historic Bathroom Remodel

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make the space look larger. We were able to add a soaking tub which is something the homeowners were missing since there is no other tub in the home.

The most significant change in this space is the sink. It was previously a simple pedestal sink, but we upgraded it to a floating vanity which provides additional storage and acts as the bridge between the historic space and its modernized upgrade. We also included a custom medicine cabinet above the vanity which brightens up the space.

We loved the finished product of this historic bathroom renovation and loved working with these clients. To see more of the before and after pictures, see this project's photo gallery at [elmbuilds.com/bathroom-renovations/forestpark-jack-jill-bathroom-renovation](http://elmbuilds.com/bathroom-renovations/forestpark-jack-jill-bathroom-renovation) or use the QR Code below.



**See More of This Project**

Point your phone's camera at this QR code to see a link to our online gallery

