



RIVER CREST

DESIGN BUILD, INC.

Remodeling Report

Quality Living by Design

www.rivercrest.com • (410) 626-1241

A Message from Joe

We hope and trust all our friends have been successfully weathering the recent turbulence in our nation's economy. Although stock prices have been free-falling and your 401K may seem anything but okay, there is still one place to invest where you'll get a guaranteed positive return – your home.

In this month's extended issue, we'll talk about the real and immediate value homeowners can get from a home remodel by River Crest. Plus, with forecasters predicting this will be the coldest winter in five years, we'll also talk about how River Crest can help save you money by making your home as energy efficient as possible.

Whether doing a major remodel or just trying to identify and resolve problem areas in your home, River Crest's expert staff can help you make sure that every dollar you spend in your home yields positive returns every day for years to come!

Joe D. Duval, President

Your Home is the Key to Earning Positive Returns Now

When most people think about earning a return on their home investment, they think about the increase in the resale or market value of their home. And while this is certainly a factor in any long-term financial plan, it turns out there is a much more immediate and tangible return homeowners can tap into.

An investment in remodeling your home guarantees immediate returns by improving the quality of your life every day. Home remodeling creates new and improved spaces that let you live and enjoy family and friends in ways you just couldn't do before. Imagine relaxing in your home sauna or spacious master suite, preparing a delicious meal in your beautiful new kitchen, or watching a movie in your new home theater/media room.

The best part is that the value of this return on a home remodeling investment is NOT dependent on the housing market, financial markets, or the economy. It is only dependent on your timing. The sooner you remodel, the longer you will get to enjoy the daily bonuses of a beautiful and remodeled home that's perfect for you in both design and function.

As recent events have demonstrated, the housing and financial markets are subject to ups and downs and are, in some respects, unpredictable. Many kinds of investments are more risky than they have been in a long time. But remodeling your home now is a smart investment with real and meaningful returns you will see and experience every day you live in your home. ♦





Your Energy Efficient Home – Saving You Dollars Every Day



With energy as a hot topic in the recent presidential campaign and in the news, more and more homeowners are asking us to help them make their homes more energy efficient. Energy efficient homes save money, are more comfortable, and even help the environment! A home that is energy efficient won't have cold drafts, humidity, and other seasonal discomforts. It also produces less air pollution that leads to respiratory diseases, smog, acid rain, and climate change. Did you know that the average home causes twice as much carbon dioxide emissions as the average car?

When you remodel with River Crest, we purposefully maximize the energy efficiency in your home to create value and comfort. Maybe it's designing a new gourmet kitchen with Energy Star appliances that use 10-50% less energy and water than standard models. Or putting in a new sunroom with Energy Star qualified windows that help keep your home cooler in the summer and warmer in the winter. Ask us about the many ways River Crest can make your home beautiful and welcoming while saving you money.

We find that many homeowners can also make minor, but important, changes in their home to save money. RC HomeWorks, our new small project and home maintenance service, can help you identify and resolve problem areas



in your home where you are losing energy, or using more than you need. Perhaps it's something as simple as installing a programmable thermostat or adding insulation in your walls, attic or behind outlets. Or maybe you've noticed a slight breeze

in some rooms in your home or that you always seem to need a sweater – sealing windows and doors properly can result in real savings. Look for information on RC HomeWorks in this newsletter to help you get started on the path to energy savings!

In the meantime, here are some tips you can keep in mind to help you make your home more energy efficient.

Air Conditioning/Heating

- Regularly clean or replace the air filters in your home's cooling and heating systems. Dirty filters have to work harder and use more energy.
- Replace your cooling or heating systems with ones that have earned the Energy Star Label.
- Install a programmable thermostat to help you better control the temperature of your home.



Photo courtesy US EPA, ENERGY STAR Program.

Lighting

- Turn your lights off when you leave the room. Install extra switches in convenient places to make this easier for you.
- Use light bulbs and fixtures that have earned the Energy Star Label.
- Take advantage of the sun. Windows and skylights allow natural light to brighten your room during the day.

Insulation

- Inspect your home and make sure it is properly insulated and air sealed. This act alone can help you save 20% on heating and cooling costs or 10% on your total annual energy bill.
- Install high energy efficiency windows. They reduce drafts, noise, and ultra-violet rays from entering your home.

Appliances

- Replace old inefficient appliances with new Energy Star appliances.
- Unplug appliances and electronics when they are not in use. Many appliances go into standby mode and continue to drain energy when they are turned "off."

The government's Energy Star website also offers more tips and ideas for making your home more energy efficient. You can visit their site at www.energystar.gov. And please let us know if there is any way we can help you remodel your home to further improve its energy efficiency. ♦



New! RC HomeWorks – One Call to Get Your To-Do List Done

Our customers have been telling us how much they love RC HomeWorks, our new Handyman and Small Project service, because it lets them get things done easily and with confidence.

Imagine you discover a leak in your bathroom. Typically, you'll need to find a plumber, carpenter, electrician and painter to fix the leak, repair and paint the ceiling, and replace the light fixture it damaged on the floor below. That means at least four service calls, four trip charges, and four times you have to be at home and wait for them.

With RC HomeWorks, one call will get the entire job done, saving you both time and money. Taking care of your home has never been so convenient and easy, plus you'll finally be able to check off all those home projects you have been meaning to get to but never can.

Most importantly, we provide you the confidence of knowing the professionals working in your home are fully trained, experienced and work for a company you know and trust. In fact, many of the people we send to your home will be the same people you recognize from our remodeling projects.

And you get all these benefits while gaining the peace of mind that comes from having a well-maintained home.

Here's a list of some of the things we can help you with:

- Home winterizing
- Roof and gutter repair/cleaning
- Exterior siding and trim repair
- Interior trim work and repair
- Drywall patching and repair
- Painting
- Interior/exterior caulking
- Electrical repairs and maintenance
- Plumbing repairs and maintenance
- Door and window repair and installation
- Screen porch repairs
- Deck repairs including loose railings
- Disability and aging in place needs
- And more

If what you need is not on the list, call us — chances are we can help. ♦

Pass It On...

As you might expect, the vast majority of our business comes to us as referrals from pleased homeowners like yourself who generously spread the word about our company. I would like to ask you to take a moment and consider whether any of your friends, family or associates would benefit from River Crest's commitment and expertise. If you know someone, please encourage them to visit our website www.rivercrest.com, and, if they like what they see, tell them to call us. ♦



RIVER CREST
DESIGN BUILD, INC.

202 LEGION AVENUE, SUITE 4
ANNAPOLIS, MD 21401

410-626-1241

MHIC#26254 MHBR#1759

See more projects at:
www.rivercrest.com

OUR MISSION:

To provide high quality design and construction services to our community with honesty, integrity and in a timely and profitable manner.

Established in 1986, River Crest Design Build, Inc. is an Annapolis-based company which prides itself on forming relationships with its clients.

River Crest projects have been featured in the Home Section of *The Capital* and in *Woman's Day Kitchen & Bath*. The company has won numerous national awards, including *Qualified Remodeler Magazine's* "Top 500," Certified Pella Contractor—Silver Award for Excellence and a 2001 Chrysalis Award.

River Crest is a member of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI), Remodelers Advantage, Inc. and the Better Business Bureau.

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see page 1



COMING SOON in our NEW e-newsletter:

- The Hidden Costs and Risks of Moving
- Avoiding a \$50,000 Mistake
- \$250 Discount Certificate

Go to our website www.rivercrest.com and sign up now!

