

Custom Home Remodeling Increasing in Popularity

With home prices increasing and mortgage rates rising, many homeowners are choosing to create their dream home by remodeling their current abode. A good contractor can take an outdated home and make it look totally new.

A custom remodel reflects the homeowner's style and individual taste, said Shawn Bowman, owner of California Dream Builders, a Silicon Valley construction company. With home improvement shows now a part of "Must See TV," many homeowners come to him with ideas he hasn't seen yet.

"I am constantly amazed at some of the concepts brought to me by homeowners," Bowman said. "I often have to research these ideas before quoting a price."

Custom remodeling projects vary from client to client, he said. Bowman and his company recently renovated a 8,800 square foot estate, which included a guest house. This project featured materials from all over the world, including India, Ireland and Italy.

"The project took two years to complete but had amazing results," Bowman said.

Not all remodels involve massive estates. California Dream builders recently remodeled a 1930s home for a family but only worked with the kitchen, family room and laundry room.

"The neighborhood consists of similar homes that have been modernized on the inside but maintained the original exterior architecture," Bowman said. "We modernized the kitchen and added a family room for additional space to entertain. The end result was a functional kitchen with plenty of room to cook and serve. The renovation displayed the client's individual style and taste."

Homeowners wanting to remodel their home should be careful when choosing a contractor. Bowman said it is important to work with a licensed contractor. If you are not sure if the contractor is licensed, check the state of California's website at www.cslb.ca.gov.

If friends recently remodeled their home, ask them who their contractor was.

"A lot of my business comes from referrals from satisfied customers," Bowman said. "That's why I go the extra mile for all my clients, no matter how large or small."

Founded by Shawn Bowman in 1998, California Dream Builders is a Silicon Valley construction company specializing in customer home remodels. Bowman can be contacted at 408-588-1541 or at shawnb@californiadreambuilders.com