

Home is where the heart is

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Many older homes in the Houston area are in need of a heart transplant.

Many are not energy efficient. They have too many hallways; the kitchens are inefficient and separated from the family rooms. The bathrooms are small and out-dated. There are not enough closets or storage areas. The ceilings are low and windows are small – making for a dark interior. Many homes have rooms that are just not used and, outdoor areas are often not utilized as living spaces.

Did you know that walls can be relocated or removed completely and ceiling heights can be changed fairly easily? Lighting can be added throughout the home. Mud rooms and closets can be added to reduce clutter. Larger, energy efficient windows can be added to create more light in the home. These new windows will also make your living spaces appear much larger, brighter and more comfortable. Exterior doors can be added to transform outdoor spaces into extra entertainment areas.

Kitchens can be enlarged and redesigned so they open into family areas. Upgrades to your newly designed kitchen can include efficient pantries, appliance storage areas, solid surface countertops, new cabinets and appliances. Bathrooms can be remodeled to include larger countertops, curb-less glass showers, free standing bathtubs, larger closets and linen storage. Full length mirrors, the right lighting and a TV space will make your bathroom even more functional.

It's a known fact that remodeling areas in your home such as those listed above are good investments and will make your home more livable and energy efficient.

The right design will not only enable you to enjoy your home more now. It will also enable you to remain in your home longer.

As a growing number of our population approaches retirement age, they want to stay in their existing homes longer. An increasing number of homeowners are opting to modify their homes in preparation for aging in place. Renovations of this nature are not only far more economical than relocating to assisted living facilities or retirement communities; they also provide the option of remaining in one's home.

Relocating can be treacherous in the best of situations, but perhaps even more so for those who are disabled or at retirement age. Properly designed and remodeled homes will result in living spaces that are accessible and safe, not to mention easy on the eyes.

Following are some steps to help you get started:

Decide which areas of your home need updating.

Determine your budget.

Contact a building designer who has remodeling experience. Your building designer will be able to help you formulate a master plan, using your budget to create your vision.