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These days, it's all about "change." We all go into the new year with good-faith efforts at personal change through resolutions. Change is the theme of the nation's incoming administration. And change is the focus of this newsletter.

This edition's featured project highlights the substantial change undertaken by a Lincoln Park couple to make their beloved home match their lifestyle and needs. Our green building feature talks of new legislation that provides tax credits for homeowners who change to energy efficient systems in their homes. And our last article talks of a change we've made. Envision Kitchen and Bath is now partnering with Rich Maid Cabinetry, enabling us to provide fully custom cabinets to meet your every need as you make changes to your current home - or to your life by building the home of your dreams.

Best wishes to you all for health and happiness in the new year. And please stop by to say hello and visit the Envision showroom to see samples of our cabinetry. You'll get some great ideas for changes that you can make in 2009 to enhance your surroundings for years to come.

Sincerely,

Bob Kostelny

Featured Project

A Landmark Job



When the Chicago Fire swept through the city's North Side, much of the Lincoln Park neighborhood was destroyed. Residents rebuilt homes - many of which were mansions - as quickly as possible, and the once-struggling enclave is now among Chicago's toniest neighborhoods. One elegant structure erected soon after the Fire has been home to Cookie and Gary's family for more than a decade, and it now has official landmark status.

From the time the family first moved in, Cookie knew that although she was living in her dream home, someday she would like to upgrade the kitchen to further incorporate it into the great room living space. In addition, Gary wanted to enlarge his wine cellar and add the tasting room shown above. Working with architect Bill Murphy of William Murphy Architect Ltd., Gary and Cookie settled on a design that perfectly matched their vision and expanded the rear portion of their home. Meyer & Meyer was recommended by Murphy to submit a bid, and Gary and Cookie settled on the company based on its thorough and fair proposal as well as a comfortable feeling they had about the firm.

But when they sought a building permit, they came face to face with their first surprise: the city required that they build a staircase in the front of the home, just off the vestibule. Though the couple had not anticipated embarking on such a complicated and pricey project, it was but one of the many breathtaking, unexpected new additions that now grace their home. The construction of the stairway necessitated a reconfiguration of the second floor, resulting in an upgrade of each of their two sons' bedrooms and the master bath, and an office space for Gary as well as for Cookie.

Construction got underway in October 2007, with the family moving to temporary quarters for nearly a year. They returned to the home the following September when about 85 percent of the work was completed, which meant that Gary, Cookie and their boys were "living" with Meyer & Meyer for several months. "I dreaded the construction aspect of this project - I've heard about so many nightmares. But this was the complete antithesis," noted Cookie. Aside from her pleasure with how respectful all of the Meyer & Meyer workers were, she was extremely impressed with their attention to detail, the craftsmanship they brought to the job, and their flexibility. Cookie appreciated the fluidity with which everyone, but especially Randy Meyer, approached the job. As an interior designer, she likes to have the freedom to reconfigure as new ideas emerge, and Meyer & Meyer accommodated her working style without extending the timeline dramatically.

The final result of this landmark project is sufficiently spectacular to be featured in an upcoming *Luxe* magazine spread. And Meyer & Meyer was able to enjoy the fruits of its labor - literally. Cookie and Gary threw a "wrap party" to show their appreciation.

Cabinet pick for the Department of *Your* Interior

Meyer & Meyer and its Envision Kitchen & Bath have been named exclusive Chicago area dealers for [Rich Maid Kabinetry](#) of Meyerstown, PA. Rich Maid has been producing true custom cabinets for more than 50 years, using time-honored traditions. This new association allows us to create your dream environment with completely customized, high-end cabinets. Whether you prefer traditional face-frame or Euro-style frameless cabinetry, Rich Maid's craftsmen will produce "functional art" for your project.

In keeping with Meyer & Meyer's commitment to the environment, Rich Maid Kabinetry is certified in the Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturing Association (KCMA) Environmental Stewardship Program. This designation means that Rich Maid is doing its part to make the world a healthier place by using hardwoods from managed forests, by ensuring that engineered materials are within industry standards for formaldehyde offgas emissions, and by complying with regulations from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Department of Environmental Protection.

