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www.restorethenorthshore.com

D/R Services Unlimited Going 'Green'

Ron Cowgill, CR, CKBR and **Lance Winter, CR**, both recently completed a Green Remodeling Education Course provided by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. They also attended a seminar on Midwest Energy Efficiency.



WHY GO GREEN?

A lot of people think of the 60s and living

like hippies when Green Remodeling is mentioned. But today's marketplace provides many functional yet luxurious products and design practices that you can incorporate into your remodel.

Green Remodeling can be as simple as adding insulation or using more efficient lighting or as thorough as using recycled glass countertops and bamboo flooring. There are many options to fit your design style and budget. Green products can also refer to where products originate—how much energy consumption does it take to be delivered from the production facility?

SAVING MONEY WITH GREEN

While combating global warming is the ultimate "cool", many Green Remodeling elements can provide dual functions: lowering

utility bills by installing high efficiency appliances; reducing allergies by improving indoor air quality within the home; and reduction of fading furniture by installing high efficiency windows.

You can also receive tax credits on many Green Remodeling practices implemented through December 2007 (contact your CPA or visit www.irs.gov to determine what qualifies).

Green Remodeling can be done one room at a time—you don't have to do everything, but anything you can do will help. **Call Ron or Lance today to discuss your Green Remodeling project! 847-998-1687.**



The project above looks like any other D/R kitchen remodel, but here's what makes it Green:

- ◆ Bamboo Flooring & Countertops
- ◆ High Efficiency Appliances
- ◆ Cambria countertop
- ◆ Cabinets made from farmed woods with low VOC finishes
- ◆ Spray foam insulation in walls
- ◆ Low E Argon Marvin Windows
- ◆ Low VOC paints & finishes
- ◆ Energy Star Appliances

D/R: Working On Affordable Housing

D/R Services Unlimited has been working to help provide affordable housing in the northern suburbs over the last several year

Working primarily with the Highland Park Community Land Trust, D/R has rehabbed houses that are made available for purchase by people who normally couldn't afford a home in the northern suburbs—one home went to a HP firefighter

“Through your generous donations...three families...became able to afford a home of their own.” - **Howard Wender, Pres. HP Community Land Trust**

and another was purchased by a single mother with two children.

“Our motivation for doing these projects is that simply it is

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Green Cleaning Recipes

All Purpose Cleaner: Add 1/2 cup ammonia and 1/3 cup washing soda to a gallon of warm water. Use to clean floors, tiles, and painted walls.

Window and Mirror Cleaner: Put 1/4 cup white vinegar in a spray bottle, and fill to the top with water. Spray on desired surface, and rub with a newspaper or a rag. Squeegee dry.

Toilet, Tub and Tile Cleaner: Mix 1/2 cup borax and add enough lemon juice to make into a paste. Wet the sides of the surface and add the paste. Let stand for a few minutes, then scrub off and rinse.

Drain cleaner: Three words - Use a plunger. A hand plunger used every time the drain slows down will take care of almost any problem. In you need a cleanser pour 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain, and then 1/2 cup vinegar. Let it fizz for a few minutes. Then pour down a tea-kettle full of boiling water. Repeat if necessary.

Furniture polish: Add 1/2 cup lemon juice to 1 cup vegetable or olive oil. Apply with a soft rag.

General air freshener: Simmer a pot of water with cloves, an orange peel and cinnamon.

Natural Pesticide: To naturally keep ants and other insects away, add a few teaspoons of orange oil to your green cleaning products. To kill ants that are already around, just spray them with diluted orange oil.

D/R Services Unlimited is a proud and active member of the Greater Chicagoland Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. Ron currently serves as 1st Vice President and Co-Chair of the Education Committee. Our staff also attends several NARIGC education seminars each year.



D/R Contributes to Katrina Relief

Four members of the D/R Services Unlimited staff visited the Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, area for a week in February to participate in a Katrina Relief project. Our staff donated almost 300 service hours to help rebuild some of the homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Work included electrical repair; dry-walling; installation of flooring, plumbing fixtures, appliances, kitchen cabinets and trim; and removal of debris.

D/R Services Unlimited Staff Members Who Participated in Katrina Relief:

**Ron Cowgill, CR, CKBR
Carl Bodenstab, CR, CLC**

Will Kehoe

Joe Aguirre

Ron, Carl, Will and Joe joined more than twenty other volunteers from NARI in



completing one home so that a family could move back into their home following eighteen months in a FEMA trailer. Another home was almost completed.

How Long Will It Last?

Predictable life expectancies (in years) for a number of remodeling project components when properly maintained:

COUNTERTOPS:		SIDING	
Ceramic Tile	Lifetime	Aluminum	20-50
Granite	20+	Metal	50-Life
Laminate	10-15	Vinyl	30
Wood	20+	Wood	10-100*
ROOFING:		HVAC	
Asphalt	15-30	A/C (central)	15
Slate	50-100	Gas/Oil Furnace	18
Tile	50	Water heater	14 (elec.)
Wood shingles/shake	15-30		11-13 (gas)
FLOORS:			
Oak or pine	Lifetime		
Slate flagstone	Lifetime		
Vinyl sheet or tile	20-30		

* 10 yrs if constantly moist; 100 if properly maintained.

Source: "Life Expectancy of Housing Components" Housing Economics 8/93.

Ron And Tim's HOUSE TALK

As of April 1, 2007, "Ron and Tim's House Talk", featuring Ron Cowgill, CR, CKBR of D/R, will be moving to WCKG 105.9 "Free FM" on Sunday Mornings from 9:00-11:00.

Ron and Tim have informative guests on products and topics that will help your remodel.

Plus, if you call in and ask a question on the air you will be entered to win a \$100 gas card! The person will be selected at the end of the show.

DREAM IT! D/R Can Build It!

It all starts with a phone call to 847-998-1687 to discuss your bathroom, kitchen, custom cabinetry, basement or attic remodel, addition, historic restoration or completely new home.

What is Design/Build? D/B is a comprehensive service where master remodelers accept full responsibility for integrating design with functionality within your budgetary parameters. The benefits to D/B include: singular responsibility; quality; cost savings; time savings; reduced administrative burden for homeowner, early knowledge of firm costs and improved risk



management.

Ten Steps From Your Dream to Reality Using the Design/Build Process:

1. Initial meeting at homeowner's home or office
2. Detail scope of work; inspect site; take measurements
3. Discuss and sign the Design/Build Agreement; take deposit for design fees, start design; select products and assemble a budget.
4. Review the design, scope of work and budget. The design is presented

with a laptop or drawings.

5. Complete Design/Build Agreement, product selections and blueprinting.
6. Finalize proposal; sign Build Contract; finalize terms; apply for permits.
7. Pre-construction conference with the sales/design person, the project manager/lead carpenter and homeowner.
8. Complete design and scope of work; write additional work orders (if needed).
9. Periodic progress reviews with homeowner.
10. Final walk-through—REALITY!

Affordable Housing (contd. From p. 1)

the right thing to do," said Lance Winter, CR. "It helps the communities in which we work."

D/R works with their suppliers and other contractors to receive either deep discounts or donated supplies and services to complete the projects. All project management services are donated by D/R staff.

"The work days [D/R] organized with other builders to donate their time and services was invaluable to our organization," said Howard Wender, President of the Land Trust.



In the most recent project with HPCLT, D/R remodeled two bathrooms. The home was sold to a single mother with two children.



D/R Services Unlimited, Inc.
1951 Johns Drive
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D/R Services Unlimited, Inc. is Here to Meet Your Home Maintenance & Remodeling Needs

- ◆ Remodeling
- ◆ Design/Build
- ◆ Historical renovations
- ◆ Home maintenance and repair
- ◆ Interior design
- ◆ Landscape design & maintenance
- ◆ Emergency generators
- ◆ Custom cabinetry
- ◆ Installation of doors and windows
- ◆ Installation of crown mouldings and trim
- ◆ Custom cabinets and tops
- ◆ Replacement of rotten wood
- ◆ Flooring repairs/replacement of wood, tile and marble
- ◆ Construction and maintenance on fences, decks, patios and porches
- ◆ Roof repair or replacement
- ◆ Repair/replacement of electrical systems and fixtures
- ◆ Repair/replacement of plumbing systems and fixtures
- ◆ Gutter cleaning or replacement
- ◆ Drywall and plaster repairs
- ◆ Painting and decorating
- ◆ All your “honey-do” needs; picture hanging, changing hard-to-reach light bulbs, rotate a mattress...

Call us today at 847-998-1687 to schedule your work or learn more about us at our website www.restorethenorthshore.com.
