

# CHICAGO homeimprovement

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Donatelli Builders Inc.

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## »» Remodeling Through the Ages

The home remodeling industry is driven by homeowners who need to change their living spaces to accommodate changes in lifestyles and needs.

**ON THE COVER:** This Chicagoland home was remodeled for a middle-aged couple who longed for more architectural detail in their home's interior. Learn more about this project in the special section that begins on page 9. Photo courtesy of Donatelli Builders Inc.

## Still young, but refined

Middle-aged homeowners with grown or no children are often very keen on remodeling their homes to fit their personalities and lifestyles. This age group is a common market for remodeling projects—they are settled in their location, but dream of upgrading their space, and often have the savings or equity to achieve that dream.

"Now that the kids are gone, make your space everything you have always wanted," says Marilyn McClarence, designer and sales manager for Kitchen & Bath Authority in Wheaton. "Architectural details can make plain rooms really sing."

Another tip: start planning for future needs now, so they're there when you really need them. "When redoing a bathroom at this stage of life, don't be afraid to put in support boards to hold grab bars in the future," says Karen Tate, CR, owner of Tate Enterprises Inc. in Hinsdale. "Make doorways a little wider to accommodate wheelchairs or walkers—they may be needed in the future."



Photos courtesy of Donatelli Builders Inc.

## SENIOR HOMEOWNERS' PROJECTS

- Modifying **bathrooms** to accommodate walk-in showers and tubs, handrails and 36-inch counter height
- **Master** or **in-law suite additions** to the homes of their children, so the parents can live with and be cared for by their family
- Modifying **entryways** and **stairways** to accommodate wheelchair access and elevators
- Upgrading items to be **maintenance-free**, such as adding gutter guards, installing aluminum soffits and fascia, etc.
- Modifying **kitchens** to keep everything within easy reach, including pull-out shelving in cabinets and pantries

—Chris Donatelli, Donatelli Builders Inc., Wheaton; and Karen Tate, CR, Tate Enterprises Inc., Hinsdale 🏠