



Rethink *your* Space

Find inspiration
» for inside and out «
from these reimagined spaces.

BY EMILY LEAS AND MARNI MCENTEE

Extra Room, Extra Life

» Porch Addition «

PHOTOS COURTESY OF HOME WORKS REMODELING

» » A fire pit, grill and comfy seating can only go so far during the cool days of fall and unpredictable precipitation of spring. Throw five young kids into the mix and even the most posh outdoor living space only cuts it for a small portion of the year.

Jen Read and her husband, homeowners in the Blackhawk neighborhood, knew they wanted to create additional living space for their large family, as well as an escape for the adults. They designed something that sheltered them from the weather but also allowed them to keep an eye on their kids as they played.

“My vision was it would be a room that felt like it was always there,” Read says. “And where you could take a nap or have a glass of wine...and listen to the outdoors, but get blocked from the wind.”

Read had a specific look in mind with wide columns and big airy screens that reflected their North woods family

cottage. Creating a smooth transition from the existing rooflines to a large addition without having it look like a flat, metal-roofed screened-in porch was the biggest challenge for Jayne Johnson and the Home Works Remodeling team.

“During the design phase, our goal was to improve every functional and aesthetic aspect of the existing outdoor patio,” says Johnson. “Our largest challenge was blending the desire for an interior cottage feel while blending the exterior with the rest of the house.”

To keep that “Up North” feel, Johnson and her team chose smooth white pine for the high, tray ceiling. A stone fireplace adds texture to the room and bright blue accents complete the airy, cottage look.

“It is really clean and crisp, and feels like you walked into a new place, yet it feels like home,” says Read. “We use it every chance we get!” —E.L.





Mirror the home's design. Dark floors reflecting white paneling and trim give this room a crisp yet comfortable vibe. Coupled with strong columns and base paneling, the porch feels more like an extension of the house than a typical porch.

Communication is key. The Reads and Home Works had collaborated well previously. "Remodeling work has its challenges and bumps along the way. Good working relationships make any bumps easier to work through," says Johnson.



Size and placement matter. Consider ventilation and natural light when selecting window location and screen sizes in three-season rooms. Be sure any necessary solid panels (around doors or fireplaces) don't block the breeze or the views.



Embracing New Views

» Lake House Remodel «

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JEFF AUGUSTINE

Sunset views and Madison's twinkling skyline drew Deb Sullivan to purchase her Lake Monona home. Unfortunately, the barn-style roofline and boxy addition were nothing short of an eyesore.

"I knew the house needed a sense of flow and it really was not taking advantage of the sunset view," Sullivan says.

She knew that turning her dreams into reality involved an extensive remodel to replace the clashing shapes of the previous design with modern, symmetrical rooflines. Sunsets previously cut into four pieces and viewed only from the inside of the house are now enjoyed in panorama from the living room or outside on a spacious deck.

"With the addition of a deck and a wall of windows in my living room it was a burst of light," says Sullivan. "Even on dark, dreary days the living room is light so it is always a pleasure to sit in that room."

Sullivan's Home Works Remodeling design team included nautical touches to fit with the neighborhood and lake vibe. A circle window provides a porthole feel inside and out, and cedar shake shingles top the gables to complete the aesthetic.

Easy-care materials were high on Sullivan's list since she plans to enjoy her remodeled home for a long time. Fiber cement siding, which resists swelling and moisture, as well as Dec-Tec decking material that's polished-looking and waterproof keep the living easy.

"I liked the material that Home Works put on the deck so much that the following year I had them come back and install it on my porch at the back of the house," says Sullivan.

Her vision for her lakefront eyesore has paid off. Not only did she increase her living space and create a phenomenal view, but friends and family just can't stay away. —E.L.





Eye up design lines. In Sullivan's project, flowing horizontal trim creates a clean, modern feel and highlights each tier of the home; mimicking deck railing draws the eye and visitors to enjoy the view.

Appreciate the aesthetics. When changing the entire look of an exterior, don't just plan around the materials. To have a cohesive remodel that works, consider all aspects of the aesthetics.



Know what you do and don't like. Keep a visual scrapbook. "Lately, people have been showing us pictures of projects they find on Houzz.com," says Home Works Remodeling's Johnson. "It's a great starting point."