

CHICAGO homeimprovement

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2010 REMODELING PLANNER

Projects compiled by Kathy Kidwell

Sooner or later, all homeowners take a good, hard look at their homes and see room for improvement. Whether it's updating the outdated or making more space for a growing family, the following remodeling planner will walk you step by step through the process. When discussing your remodel with your contractor, take this checklist along to ensure you are on the same page about what you are looking for in the project and how the process will work.



Seamless Second-Story Addition

Renovation by: **Normandy Builders, Hinsdale**

Location of home: **Kildeer**

Approximate cost: **\$248,000**



Photos courtesy of Normandy Builders

While the owners of this home wanted to add on a partial second floor and increase their square footage, their main concern was improving the exterior of the home and ensuring that the second-floor addition appeared as if it was always there. The team at Normandy Builders removed the bedrooms on the first floor, which allowed for a better traffic flow and more open spaces. The relocation of the staircase was probably the biggest interior impact of the renovation, and the biggest challenge for the remodeler. The choice of its location affected most of the space planning for the home, and it had structural ramifications. A final decision to put the staircase towards the rear of the home allows for a more open and spacious entry and better circulation to the second-floor bedrooms. To tie the addition in with the home's old exterior, Normandy Builders incorporated a sweeping roofline, decorative masonry work and custom cedar detailing, resulting in a striking before-and-after transformation.