



## Creative Home Remodeling

*Gaining usable space with extraordinary design*

By Judith Spitzer

When Grant Shanafelt was about 10 years old he remembers rearranging retail items on a shelf in a neighborhood drugstore – organizing just for the fun of it. Not your typical 10-year-old boy's behavior.

But then Grant Shanafelt is not your typical home builder.

Whether he's remodeling, building an addition to a home, or even building from the ground up - Shanafelt and his team at Creative Home Remodeling (which includes his son John and daughter Jill Lueth, are all about the most efficient use of the space, rapt attention to the homeowner's lifestyle and desires, and a keen attention to detail.

His creativity and out-of-the-box ideas are legendary -- details like warming up a room by putting recessed lighting inside cove molding and decks that extend the living area – a way to add usable space to a floor plan.

And what woman wouldn't love a slide-out drawer in a cupboard above the fridge that comes with a see-through bottom for a perfect view of the contents; toe drawers, trademarks of Creative, which provide extra storage in the toe-kick area under the cabinets – some that open up to provide a step stool; or angled custom cabinets which create "lots of storage" in rather small spaces.

How did he come by these solutions that win the hearts of women?

"I must be in touch with my feminine side," he says with a grin slowly spreading across his face. He pulls out a slender, six-foot vertical cabinet that holds spices and accessories in a unique fashion – showing off the versatility of his cabinet designs.

Ask anyone who's ever undertaken a home remodel project, most of the time builders rely on sub-contractors. Which means the builder doesn't always have complete control of the quality of work and the time frame involved.

"Unlike (some) other general contractors, we do the work from start to finish," he says. "We do the framing, drywall, cabinetry, we have tile setters ... we do hardwood floors or install flooring and do everything else from start to finish ... with the exception of electric and plumbing."

All the work is done on-site or in the Creative shop in Tigard by Shanafelt and his team of 10 to 12 employees.



"We wanted to thank your team for the beautiful job they did on our kitchen and bathroom cabinets. I can't wait to load them to see how much more space I have. Your design and attention to detail are a step above!"

- Joyce and Gerry Haxton

And that gives him the ability to control the schedule, the quality of the work, and also cleanliness.

"Cleanliness is a big priority. We make a real effort with plastic, cardboard etc., to make sure the work site is clean," he says.



#### Designers and builders of fine cabinetry

Shanafelt, with the depth of experience that nearly 40 years in the business gives him, learned cabinet making from his uncle. He can seamlessly replicate just about any designs whether it's from a photo in a magazine or an actual built-in.



One of his most popular kitchen features are his islands on wheels that are integrated with other kitchen counter spaces. "The islands are shaped so that they integrate and transform the space," he says. "And they're on wheels but you can't tell that. They look fixed."

Kitchen remodels are only a small part of Creative Home Remodeling. They do home additions and offices, home theatres, bathrooms, decks and even new home building. His reputation is golden and word-of-mouth advertising means he does projects for lots of return customers. "In the last few years, about half of our projects are from previous customers," he says. "And we've done a lot of design and building of second homes for people as well."



#### Making the dream a reality

Shanafelt offers free initial consultations. "I talk to people ... listen to their needs and wants ... and little bit of their dreams ... their potential budget," he says. "Then I take photos, measurements and then sketch it out."



His sketches are quite often done on site simultaneously with the initial consultation. Then they determine whether to proceed with preliminary CAD designs and plans. In most cases, there is no charge to the client.

Typically, it takes one to two weeks for a second appointment to review all plans and preliminary costs.



"In most cases, we are able to give our customers a range of costs relative to what they'd like to achieve," he says. "We generally go back to people with three to four designs. We do the designs without any expectations of a commitment. Although we don't give them the design work."

Shanafelt says he thoroughly enjoys the process — and bringing ideas from concept to reality for very happy customers.

The Creative Home Remodeling showroom is located at 7350 S.W. Landmark Lane in Tigard. You can reach them by phone at 503.639.2411. They're open Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and weekends and evenings by appointment.

Check out their website <http://www.creativehomeremodeling.com/designservices.asp> for photos and more details of their work.

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