



# Shavings

A NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED BY R. CRAIG LORD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 3

FALL 2012

## Smart Remodeling and the Art of Repurposing

by Craig Lord

Why does the most common solution to a remodeling need always involve additional square footage? We'd like a new Family Room, let's build an addition. We need a bigger Kitchen, let's build an addition. In today's world of higher costs and tighter regulations an addition to your house is an expensive undertaking. I suggest before you go down that road that you do a simple exercise. Take an inventory of your existing rooms and think about how you use them.

Look at the Living Room. Besides Christmas morning is that room being used? Most formal Living Rooms are fairly large, over 200 square feet. Could this space be used for a different use? I have a friend who has a large extended Family and needed a good size Dining Room for holidays and family dinners. The rest of the time there was only two people in the house. So they switched, now the old Living Room is the new Dining Room and the old Dining Room is a cozy Den. How is your Living Room being used? Could it become an In-law Suite, a first floor Master Suite?

The Kitchen is an area where a couple of additional square feet can really make a difference. Many of the beautiful Kitchens pictured at [rcraiglord.com](http://rcraiglord.com) were the result of combining two rooms. Be your own general manager; trade the Kitchen for the Dining Room, the Dining Room to the Living Room and the Living Room for an addition to be named later.



Cost wise, this kind of thinking makes a lot of sense. Interior work is less expensive because foundations, framing, roofing and siding are not required. Even if moving interior walls requires some structural work, the costs are still lower than the work of an addition.

Sometimes an addition makes sense and, as a willing provider of such I am not against them per se. With over thirty years in the business, I have seen repurposing overlooked too many times. Remember it all begins with a great design and ends with a quality finish. Call us. Let's get started.

R.Craig Lord



## News in the Neighborhood

Fall is a busy time. First, we have to finish the jobs started over the summer and then we start the projects that people have postponed until their vacations are over and school has started. Nicole and Paul Guerin are enjoying their brand new Screened Porch, eating every meal there at publication. Bill and Paola Shore will soon be enjoying their new addition space with expanded Bedrooms, Family Room and a new Study. Sabine and Charles Cranmer are just getting started on their new Master Bedroom Suite. Once their kitchen cabinets arrive, Beau and Claudia Adams will have a completely remodeled Basement and First Floor to enjoy.



1237 North Church Street  
Moorestown, NJ 08057

Phone: (856) 235-4237  
Visit us at: [www.rcraiglord.com](http://www.rcraiglord.com)



R. Craig Lord is a 2011 GuildQuality Master with Highest Distinction award winner, dedicated to delivering an exceptional customer experience.

Printed on recycled paper. 

## Ask A Carpenter

What is your favorite tool and why?

Answers:

My favorite tool is the screw gun. It is a versatile tool, it screws and drills all with the power of one finger. I use it every day. - Mike Payne

The multi-function tool is my favorite. With a small vibrating blade it can do the job other tools cannot do. - Gary Wuchter

I like the Saw Zall. It has a powerful motor and a fast blade that can be changed to cut anything. It is the perfect tool for demolition work. - Dave Wills

I also like the multi-function tool. Depending on the task you are performing, the multi-function tool has replaced several other tools. Not only speeding up the process but resulting in a better finished product. - Alberto Torres

