



Spring 2012

design contemplations

a word from the designers

We just recently completed a wonderful remodel-addition of a home in Aspen that is built into a steep hillside. Originally, the home had a very formal plan layout where the kitchen was its own room and was separated from the formal living and dining rooms.

Today's home owners want a more integrated living-dining-cooking experience than owners did even 15 years ago. It isn't always obvious, but older homes with more traditional floor plan arrangements often can be remodeled to create the dynamic great room spaces we have come

to enjoy in new homes. Often, these homes have what we Architects call "great bones." They just need a bit of attention and creativity to make them feel current and comfortable.

This was the case with this Aspen home and its Texan homeowners. They enjoy cooking and entertaining, but felt that when they were in the kitchen they were completely separated from the living area and from their guests. They wanted a kitchen that was part of the action.

By moving the kitchen, opening up an existing fireplace to become a two-sided fireplace and by adding a new casual seating area behind the fireplace adjacent to the kitchen, we were able to improve the livability of the home, enhance the enjoyment of the owners, and make the existing living and dining spaces feel larger by opening them up to the new kitchen.

Happy Spring! Enjoy the early use of our trails, paths and waterways (and hope for rain)!

Mike Bucchin AIA, Principal Architect

other happenings at TKGA

iPad and the Architect

In an effort to be both more responsible to our Clients' needs and to the environment, Mike, has committed to moving much of his daily work tasks to an iPad. This would include his project management responsibilities, client presentations, note taking, sketching, project scheduling and tracking and etc. He is looking for "can't live without" applications for designers (His kids have already shared the just "can't live without" for general use). Any recommendations would be greatly appreciated. He is also looking for recommendations on a stylus.

TKGA recommends . . .

Periwinkle Porte: Associates III blog

An interior design firm that we work with has recently started a new blog called Periwinkle Porte that focuses on design issues, environmental awareness related to the products we use in our buildings and inspiration for daily living. It is a thoughtful and purposeful, on-going piece which shares their insights as a firm, and individuals, in an approachable and tangible way. You can find anything from concrete information regarding the formaldehyde levels in kitchen cabinets, to a commentary on Dr. Suess's, the Lorax, to thoughtful photography, this is an easy, but contemplative read. You can enjoy this blog as well at periwinkleporte.com.

did you know?

Daylight Saving Time

Although credited to Benjamin Franklin, Daylight Saving Time was not taken seriously until it was advocated vigorously by a London builder: William Willett. Willett proposed advancing clocks 20 minutes on each of the four Sundays in April to help ease into the time change, and then retarding them again in September. His pamphlet "Waste of Daylight" convinced the Germans first. London adopted "Summer Time" a year later in 1916. Common misconception is that agricultural interests were strongly in favor of the time change, when in fact they were its biggest opponent.

code corner

2009 international energy conservation code

In a follow up to the Winter 2011 News Letter, we are continuing to discuss new code considerations in the 2009 International Codes. This time, we look at the 2009 International Energy Conservation Code, adopted by many of our local jurisdictions, including the City of Aspen.

Section 404.1 Lighting Equipment (Prescriptive), reads very simply, "A minimum of 50 percent of the lamps in permanently installed lighting fixtures shall be high-efficacy lamps." High efficacy is a term used to define a minimum level of lumens per watt and there are several types of lamps which can meet this requirement. For interior

applications in residences, however, there are really only two types of lamps that can comply, fluorescent and LED (Light Emitting Diode).

While there are many of these lamps on the market, very few of them offer the same the level of light quality, or quantity, as their incandescent and halogen predecessors. Compact fluorescent and LED manufacturers have made great strides in the last couple of years to make lamps with better color quality. Lamps with a color temperature at 2700K (K=Kelvin), produce a light color closest to the incandescent color most Americans are used to. The other issue, light

quantity, is advancing as well, but can still be a real issue in resolving successfully since it often takes more fixtures to reach the same light levels we have become accustomed to with incandescent lamps.

Finally, many of them also have special hardware requirements for dimming, for use in a lighting control system, or for use with traditional incandescent lamps on the same electrical circuit.



"great bones"
aspen, colorado (construction photos)

