



# From the Workbench

35 Years of Dedicated Service  Kitchens Additions Baths • Custom Cabinetry



## Remodeling In Today's Housing Market

Embarking on a remodeling project can be overwhelming. Remodeling in an unpredictable economic landscape can be even more daunting. With the housing market in turmoil, you may be wondering what to do with those dreams of transforming your outdated first floor into a truly great room, or adding that family room for your growing family. Here are some things to consider:

### Location, location, location

If your neighborhood is an established community and you love where you live; stay put and make the most of what you've got. Consider your schools, neighbors, amenities, and whether your home is average or below cost for the neighborhood. If you're comfortable with all these factors, remodeling may be the best solution—allowing you to enjoy the things you love while improving on your home's limitations. By bringing your home up to slightly above neighborhood standards, it's a safe bet it will retain or increase in value.

### Become Energy Efficient:

With heating costs on the rise, it's a good time to consider energy efficient upgrades. Adding new appliances, as well as heating and cooling systems, can give you peace of mind that your home is as efficient as possible. There are also a number of new, affordable "green" options that will add to your home's efficiency.

Replacing old windows helps keep the lid on your home's expenses, while dressing up its appearance. If you decide to move some day, the upgrades will be a strong selling point with potential buyers.

### Kitchens, baths and beyond:

Many older homes have sorely outdated kitchens and baths. Once a place to simply "heat and serve" the evening meal, today's kitchen is a gathering spot, often the center of a family's daily routine. According to Ed Pell, manager of market research for the NKBA, "People are spending more time at home. The interior of the house is evolving, with the kitchen

taking over dining rooms and living rooms. The kitchen is the family room." Updating your kitchen is an asset that will surely stand the test of time.

Bathrooms have also evolved. Once a basic necessity, the bathroom has grown to become a "retreat/spa," or "chaos central" for two working adults getting ready each morning. Hectic lifestyles are not likely to change, so any upgrade to your bathroom facilities will be a long-term, practical investment. (And may vastly improve your temperament.)

Additions or expansions are other remodeling ventures with a pay off. Many baby boomers are considering in-law spaces. Instead of spending on a remote assisted living space, bringing their parents into their household may be the best financial solution. Besides the savings from consolidating households, it adds to the resale value.

Your home is an long-term investment and a reflection of your lifestyle. If you love where you live, but need more workable space, remodeling may be the right option for you. The Transformed Tree brings 35 years of expertise. Look to us for your home's transformation, and steady guidance in these unsteady times. 



Mel Salmi and Peter Hagen are co-owners of the Transformed Tree.



We are proud members of:

2239 Carter Avenue  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55108



## PROJECT PORTFOLIO: Additions/Renovations/Whole House



Before



Before

### St. Paul Third Story/Attic Renovation:

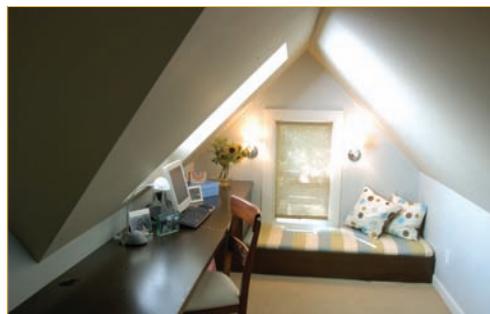
This family of four loved their stately St. Paul home, but with a fifth member soon to arrive, they needed more space. Their budget didn't allow for building an addition, so we looked to their attic for answers, turning an eerie, grossly neglected space into a bright family room, office space, and master bedroom/bathroom suite.

Strict attention to space use and traffic patterns led to design solutions that maximized the most limited resource—headroom. Maximum headroom in the center of the attic was utilized in passageways and in the core of the main rooms. The perimeter was used for seating, sleeping, storage, and office space. Four skylights and 11 new windows brought natural light into the space, and the stairway was rebuilt and left open to the second floor. This project added 700 square feet of highly functional space to this home.

Unique features such as the strategically placed skylights maximized headroom, sunlight and functionality; a custom window seat cleverly concealing wiring and mechanicals; and built-in wall units for storage of everything from paperwork, to toiletries, to an entertainment center — offer stylish furnishings and maximize the space. A special “Hobbit” door with a unique fold-down top was created to address the need for a full-sized closet entrance, where dormers prohibited use of a standard-sized door.

“Wow! This really works. We are ecstatic!” The homeowners' elation says it all. With imagination, innovation, thoughtful planning, and keen attention to detail, we provided beautifully custom-crafted solutions and handsome furnishings all within their budget and timeline. What was once an uninhabitable, unusable attic became a light and airy third-story retreat that will serve this family for many years to come. 

For more photos on this project and others, visit our website: [www.transformedtree.com](http://www.transformedtree.com)



## Meet Viktor Kebernik

In 1989 Viktor Kebernik, his wife Lybov, and their children embarked on a truly international journey from Ukraine, to Italy, to Minnesota. Fortunately for The Transformed Tree, (and with the generous support of a sponsor) his quest for a new life brought him to the Twin Cities, and ultimately to our office in pursuit of a carpentry career.



For more than 15 years, Viktor has brought his expertise, international outlook, and steady hand to his work. As the son of a carpenter, Viktor learned by doing. Electrical work, plumbing, woodworking, and other construction skills were all part of his on-the-job training in Ukraine. Once settled in our metro area, Viktor attended St. Paul Technical College, gained a good grasp of the English language, and went to work. With résumé in hand, and years of experience under his tool belt, he joined our crew.

When asked what he likes about working with The Transformed Tree, he's quick to respond, “The people. I've met some very nice people.” “And,” he eagerly continues, “fixing problems.” Viktor explains that he likes being in charge of the whole project, from beginning to end, and to have the opportunity to work on multiple projects with repeat clients. Those clients often find his calm demeanor and good nature are welcome traits during the remodeling process.

A carpenter “as long as I remember myself,” Viktor now has the luxury of access to any tool that's needed. He will still, on occasion, make a specialty tool for a custom project. Many of our clients have benefited from Viktor's amazing ingenuity.

Viktor's worldly perspective and travels have brought new ideas on building efficiencies, techniques and design, and “green practices,” to our clients. An upcoming 25th anniversary trip with his wife to Egypt, Jerusalem, and Ukraine, will offer another chance to explore the world with a “carpenter's eye.”

A genuinely “global” family, six of Viktor and Lybov's children were born in the United States, one in Italy, and three in Ukraine. Their busy, multi-lingual home in Hugo features Viktor's carpentry skills including elegant in-laid wood floors and other custom features.

From Ukraine to St. Anthony Park, Viktor Kebernik's journey has been nearly 20 years in the making. We are delighted his travels brought him to The Transformed Tree, letting us share his skills and talents with you. 