

homeimprovement

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Smart home improvement starts here.

See our fabulous
Makeover of the
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Incorporate green products and design into your home

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Official Green Remodeling Magazine of NARI

SUSTAINABLE SURROUNDINGS

Local projects featuring green products and design ▶

By Amy Meadows

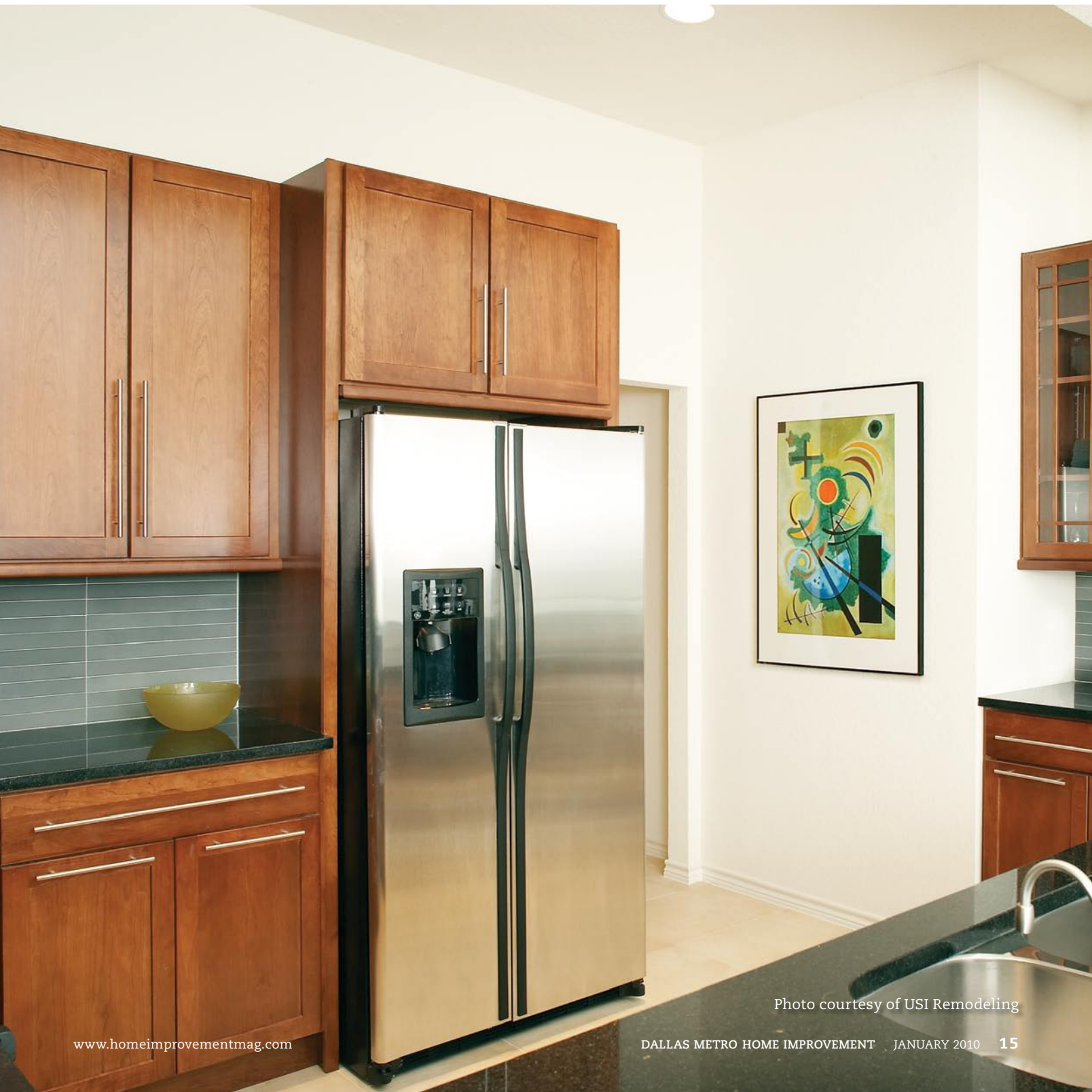


Photo courtesy of USI Remodeling



GET TO KNOW SOLAR

Due to new utility rebates and federal tax credits, the cost to install a photovoltaic solar-energy system on your home has been cut in half. For most homes that have a large, south-facing, unshaded section of roof, a solar-energy system can be designed that will reduce your electric bill by 50 percent or more.

—Mike Bell, owner, EnergyShop, Carrollton



Photos courtesy of USI Remodeling

GREEN-LIVING PROJECTS

USE WHAT YOU HAVE

Renovation by USI Remodeling, Grand Prairie

According to the experts at USI Remodeling, going eco-friendly doesn't always mean you have to replace every feature in a particular space. They prove their point with this kitchen remodel, which is as green as it is elegant. When the homeowners talked to the firm about replacing the backsplash to give the room a fresh new look, the USI Remodeling team knew there was more potential there for a complete transformation. However, new kitchen cabinets simply were not needed, as the ones in the kitchen were still in very good shape. That simple decision to use what the homeowners already had was the first step in this eco-friendly remodel. Next, the renovation team used Sherwin-Williams' Duration, a low-VOC and low-odor paint that boasts the GreenSure designation for environmentally preferred products, on the cabinetry, using multiple colors to tie into the colorful ceramic-tile backsplash that has become the centerpiece of the room. What's more, with this nearly 4-week project being labor intensive, USI kept the green theme going by using local crews from within a 25-mile radius to complete the work. In the end, the homeowners got more than they ever expected and still managed to have a smaller impact on the environment. 🌱



Green by Design

Instead of turning on lamps during the day to illuminate your home's interior, take advantage of natural light—open the shades and let the sun shine in through the windows.

—Bruce Graf, owner, Graf Developments, Grand Prairie

Photos courtesy of USI Remodeling

MATERIALS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Remodel by USI Remodeling, Grand Prairie

Although this homeowner called in USI Remodeling to tackle functionality issues in his kitchen, the space provided an excellent opportunity to also go green with the redesign. In addition to moving a hall door to the kitchen to improve traffic flow and shifting the sink bar in 18 inches to provide more space around the dining-room table, a variety of green materials were incorporated into the remodeling plans. The USI Remodeling experts used green-certified Merillat modular cabinetry, which feature recycled materials in their box construction. The full-overlay door styles were a great fit and actually come with a reasonable price tag. In addition, because the homeowner requested flooring with a very low shade variation, American Tile came in with porcelain tiles that are not only attractive, but also sustainable and very low maintenance. To complete the update to the kitchen, an Energy Star-rated dishwasher and other energy-efficient GE appliances were purchased from and installed by Capital Appliances. The result is a contemporary kitchen that meets all of the homeowner's—and Mother Earth's—needs. ▶