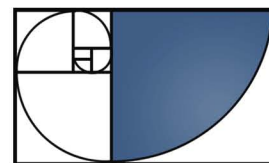




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WINTER 2008

Our best wishes to you all,

What a great year!

Taressa and her husband Nate were blessed with the birth of Olivia.

Lawrence Black joined our company.

We had many wonderful projects and clients, incorporating numerous sustainable and green products.

The Living Green Fair in May was another success for us and the many other exhibitors. It feels good to have so many people appreciating what we do.

We also included a new marketing experience this year.

We provided labor for the Solar Booth at the State Fair/

ECO Experience. It was amazing to meet so many people interested in incorporating alternative energy into their lives.

Our goals for the coming year:

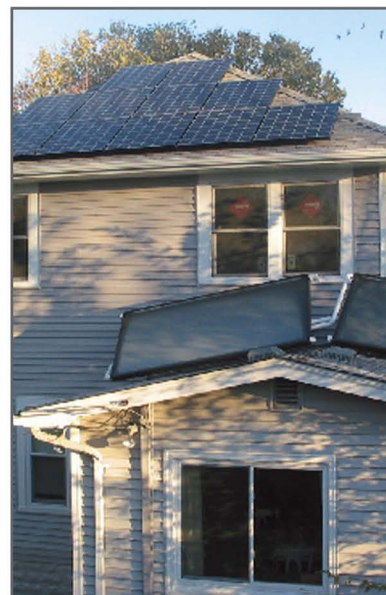
Continue to educate our selves and our clients about the choices available in the Green Building Process.

Research new building evaluation techniques and determine what fits for Whole Builders.

Maintain our company as a place that supports its workers on every level and produces high quality work for our clients.

Have a safe and healthy year!

Marcia and Mary Jane



This home in St. Paul includes solar thermal and electric systems, and many other sustainable/green materials. Check out a video clip from Kare 11 news on our website, [www.wholebuilders.com](http://www.wholebuilders.com). Also look for more information and final pictures of this project in our next newsletter.

# MINNEAPOLIS KITCHEN REMODELS



In this Minneapolis kitchen remodel, the homeowners wanted us to redesign their kitchen space and add a half bath on the first floor. We did manage to accommodate all of these functions, by making use of a previous addition done on the home. We opened up two rooms here to create a larger kitchen space. Three new windows facing the backyard bring the outdoors in and create a focal point for the room. Custom oak cabinets were designed for this space to coordinate with the style of the house.

A new half bath was also included in this design. Full height storage units frame the entry and hide the bathroom entry slightly from the kitchen space. The homeowners chose a dual flush toilet as an option for less water consumption.

Many green materials were also incorporated throughout this project. Linoleum flooring was installed throughout the kitchen space and Enviroglas countertops were used in one portion of the kitchen. Recycled glass knobs were used on all the cabinetry. LED strips were used for the undercabinet lighting here and fluorescent bulbs were used in all remaining fixtures.

The focus of this Minneapolis kitchen remodel was to take the existing kitchen for this family of three, and create a new functional space conducive to their busy schedule. This was accomplished by taking a close look at each individual and evaluating how they might use the new space.

The homeowners chose to use custom birch cabinetry in this new kitchen space and new maple wood flooring that spills from the kitchen into the back entry. A calming color palette of greens and blues was chosen for the corian countertops and tile backsplash. The overall aesthetic of the new kitchen compliments the original style of the home.



The goal of this Minneapolis kitchen remodel was to create a new space for these “empty nesters” to enjoy for years to come. As these homeowners love to cook and entertain, it was only appropriate to redesign their kitchen to better meet their needs.

They chose to stay within the existing floor plan of their home, and work with the space they already had. Within that space, we opened up an existing niche by removing an arch at the ceiling. This allowed us to carry the cabinetry the full length of the wall, expanding the workspace without putting an actual addition on the home.

The cabinets used in this space were stock oak cabinets with a craftsman style door, a nice compliment to the original style of the home. Although the stock cabinets do not offer the same options as custom cabinets do, they are a great alternative when budget is a concern. As for other materials in the space, the existing hardwood floors were patched and refinished with water-based polyurethane. A natural color palette of green and beige tones coordinates well with the other rooms in the house. Oil-rubbed bronze cabinet hardware and light fixtures tie in with the original buffet in the dining room, again a nice compliment to the original style of the home.



## LED LIGHTING

It took a while for the compact fluorescents to be manufactured in a variety of shapes and sizes, so that they could be installed in standard fixtures. But now, most of you have probably been using compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) to save energy. There is another lighting option out there that is even more energy efficient than the fluorescents. Recently, we have been recommending and experimenting with LED's as an option for undercabinet and general lighting. Several of our clients have or will be installing LED's in their homes. LED's will be the next evolution/revolution in lighting that will produce even more energy savings. Natural Home Magazine has a helpful comparison chart. A 75watt incandescent can be replaced with an 18 watt CFL or a 7 watt LED. Not only will the 7 watt LED use 1/3 rd the electricity of the CFL, it will last 50,000 hours vs. 6-10,000 for the CFL. Even though the LED bulb costs around \$80, rather than \$3-9 for the CFL, it will save \$350 of electricity over its life span, vs. \$30 for the CFL.

The challenge with many of the LED fixtures is accommodating the transformer. For many of the undercabinet lights, each light location requires a separate transformer. On recent projects we have installed a switched outlet at the top of our cabinets, and routed the cords inside a corner of the cabinet to the transformer on the top shelf.

Now LED bulbs with built in transformers are being produced that can be installed in a standard light socket. This will allow you to replace bulbs over time. LED bulbs are also available in both warm and cool colors, giving you the option to choose the kind of light that is appropriate for your space.

We have found several websites that carry bulbs and/or fixtures that incorporate LED's.

[www.ccrane.com](http://www.ccrane.com)  
[www.theledlight.com](http://www.theledlight.com)  
[www.ledtronics.com](http://www.ledtronics.com)  
[www.ecoleds.com](http://www.ecoleds.com)  
[www.permlight.com](http://www.permlight.com)  
[www.litetronics.com](http://www.litetronics.com)  
[www.1000bulbs.com](http://www.1000bulbs.com)  
[www.americanfluroscnt.com](http://www.americanfluroscnt.com)

Please explore these sites, and let us know what you think. We would love to hear about any other information you may have discovered.

## WB NEWS



On Aug.22, Taressa and her husband Nate welcomed a new baby girl, Olivia Marie Krueger. She was born five weeks early at 4lbs, 12oz., but seems to be catching up as she weighs around 14 lbs now! Taressa just started back at Whole Builders full time and is very excited to get back into design. With a new

baby comes a new schedule, but she will still be working on design full time. For those of you working directly with Taressa during this time, thank-you for all of your wonderful thoughts and prayers.



In other Whole Builders news, Lawrence Black began work as a new employee in October of 2007. A former restaurant owner and entrepreneur, Lawrence has an interest in the construction industry, or more specifically green building. As Weldon's new field assistant, his

time is spent on carpentry work with a focus on material conservation. He resides in the Linden Hills area with wife Molly and son Kadin, age 2. Molly has a business of her own that also focuses on conservation, repurposing used clothing into new. Take a look at her website if you have an interest:

[www.sassyknitwear.com](http://www.sassyknitwear.com)

We are so happy to have Lawrence as the latest addition to the Whole Builders team!

## GREEN PRODUCTS

IceStone is a new composite material that can be used in both kitchen and bath applications. It is made with 100% recycled glass and a cement matrix binder, and is VOC free. It has similar qualities to a natural stone, as it requires a sealer once a year to maintain it's quality. With the proper sealer, it is a stain resistant product. There are 24 standard colors available, but it is also a product that can be customized. From a sustainable point of view, this product has received Cradle to Cradle certification. This certification claims that the product manufactured must be returned to the manufacturer after it's useful life for re-use. If you would like to find out more about IceStone, take a look at their website for more information:

[www.icestone.biz](http://www.icestone.biz)



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