

CL

CELEBRATED LIVING

THE STYLE ISSUE

SUIT YOURSELF
The Essential
Menswear Guide

THE GREAT OUTDOORS
What To Pack
And Where To Go

\$500 Or \$500,000?
Deciphering A
Watch's Worth

A SLICE OF PARADISE
How To Buy A
Vacation Home

CATHERINE ZETA-JONES
Picture Perfect

Contents

FALL 2005



24



64

© MICHAEL O'NEILL

8 FROM THE CEO

10 EDITOR'S NOTE

12 CL RECOMMENDS

From unique TVs to the latest restaurant trends, an executive summary of all things hot.

64 PICTURE PERFECT

Catherine Zeta-Jones talks about her personal style, her love of Bermuda, and her penchant for collecting. **By Mark Seal**

Departments

24 REAL ESTATE A SLICE OF PARADISE

With these options, a second — or third or fourth — home may be in your future. **By Elaine Glusac**

30 HOTELS BEHIND THE SCENES
AT THE BEL-AIR

Shadow the managing director of one of the most famous hotels in the world. **By Mark Seal**

40 TRAVEL 20/20

Twenty happenings in 20 hot spots around the world, including new hotels, cool cultural exhibits, hip nightclubs, and more. **By Laura Vogel**

48 GOLF FORE! FANTASY

It's time to plan that trip to Scotland and Ireland. **By Bruce Selcraig**

56 HOME LUXE REDUX

Loving where you live may be just a remodel away. **By John Carroll and Tracy Staton**



12



30



40



56

Luxe Redux

The biggest growth in the remodeling industry is high-end home renovation. Here's a look at what's driving the boom and how you can improve your own abode with the latest luxury amenities. BY JOHN CARROLL AND TRACY STATON

For geology professor Bill Carlson and his wife, Susan, it all started with the kitchen countertops. Looking for some ideas on how they could upgrade, they ended up chatting with Austin architect Stewart Davis. By the end of their conversation, they had sketched out a brand-new kitchen.

Out went the original cabinets, along with the ceramic countertops, wallpaper and a "nice" island in the

center. In went stone walls, a "spectacular" center work island, a slab of iridescent granite countertops, art glass, and a wall of floor-to-ceiling windows.

Then they branched out into surrounding living areas, redoing the cabinetry and adding stone to the walls and on the floors. A small bathroom was refitted and even the patio got a new look and new name: the "grilling center." ▶



The National Association of the Remodeling Industry named this extensive Austin update one of the **top** remodeling projects in the country when it was completed.



before



after

Modern materials and high-end products, such as custom cabinetry and designer lighting, factor into most home renovations like these projects by New York-based Suk Design Group.



before



after

When The University of Texas at Austin educator was done, most of the bottom floor of the home they had lived in since it was built a housing generation ago was completely new. And it was all so dramatically improved that the National Association of the Remodeling Industry would bless the work as one of the top redos in the country for 2004 (how much the job cost, though, Carlson wouldn't say).

Over the last 10 years, Americans signed off on more than 500 million remodeling projects, spending a whopping \$233 billion in 2003 alone for a mother lode of home improvement projects that range from room additions to kitchen makeovers and stately bathrooms. And the numbers have been swelling right along with the ranks of the well-heeled.

"There's a lot of income growth in upper-income households," says Kermit Baker, senior researcher at Harvard University's Joint Center for Housing Studies, which tracks industry trends. At the same time the "haves" are earning more money, their homes have been shooting up in value. And the homes driving 90 percent of the growth in home remodeling in the United States, says Baker, are valued at \$400,000 or more. It's those affluent households doing the \$50,000, \$75,000, or \$100,000 bath and kitchen remodeling projects "that really generate the dollars that drive that market."

But there's more than just new money driving the remodeling boom.

Residences that had been the modest, 1,400-square-foot American dream homes of the post-World War II