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ADDITIONAL
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[National Assoc. of the Remodeling Industry \(NARI\)](#)

[NARI Green Remodeling](#)

[U.S. Green Building Council](#)

[ReGreen Program](#)

[PATH Guide to Green Homes](#)

RDB's 20th Anniversary Celebration

Our History

What began in 1989 as a one-man show has grown into a full service design-build company, with 20 years of experience, an impressive body of award winning work, and a strong 'family of clients'. Gary Rochman envisioned a company that would combine the design and construction for residential remodeling projects. This team of carpenters, architects, cabinetmakers, project managers, and an office manager is under the roof of Rochman Design-Build, which now has nine people. Gary says, "We are very proud of what we have created over the past 20 years. We have a strong business and strong relationships with our clients. Our customers feel confident referring their friends and neighbors to us."



Join the Interactive Scavenger Hunt

RDB has created a fun and interactive 20th anniversary celebration game that anyone can play, and there is no cost to enter. Download a game form at www.RochmanDesignBuild.com or stop by our office and pick one up. Gary has enlisted his past clients to place special event Rochman Design-Build signs in front of their homes. These special event signs are found on most of the homes RDB has worked on during the past 20 years. When you find a sign, locate the number on the top of the sign. Copy the number from the top of the sign and write it on the game form next to the street name. The player with the most correctly identified signs will win an [iPod Touch!](#) In addition, one randomly selected entry will be awarded a \$25 iTunes Gift Card. The contest ends September 30. Full game rules are on our [web site](#).

What's New at RDB

By staying current with the ever-changing remodeling world, RDB is committed to providing excellent customer service. RDB informs its customers regarding the newest efficient and sustainable materials, practices and techniques. With its increased staff, RDB has also grown to be able to handle the complexities of larger projects, while at the same time being able to efficiently perform smaller projects and various maintenance issues. Their award winning designs still lead the way.



Here's a photo of the first award RDB received back in 1992.



Introduction To Green Remodeling

At RDB as part of our design-build process we have always taken sustainability and environmental impact into consideration, and we have kept current with new materials and practices, especially with the recent "green revolution" in our industry. Gary has recently completed a three month green remodeling course with National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI). This green remodeling course encompassed topics such as green construction techniques, new and alternative products, energy efficiency and alternative energy resources. Gary will be taking his exam soon, after which he will be granted the title GCP, Green Certified Professional.



NARI has taken the approach that it is too complex to create a fair green rating system for residential remodeling. It is critically important that the design/remodeler is well educated on green practices, so that he can decide what materials or techniques are best applied to each project to



help that particular home save energy and be sustainable. The LEED system is improving its system to standardize green remodeling, but it can be a costly and cumbersome process for a homeowner who wants to simply be mindful of

the environment while doing home improvements and gently steer in a new direction.

Green Remodeling as encompassing three main categories, using energy wisely, improving indoor air quality and conserving natural resources.

On future projects, some of our new implementations relate to helping our client's reduce energy usage in their homes

- Energy audits on your home that include blower door testing and infrared imaging for thermal loss.
- Analyzing a home's utility bills before and after a renovation project.
- Advise on home sealing against air infiltration, improving the thermal envelope with insulation and addressing vapor transmissions in crawl spaces and attics.



Educating our team to nurture our own evolution is just one of the ways that we strive to provide our clients with the best information and quality of work.

Here is a very informative link and an introductory article:

[Fundamentals of Green](#)

Employee Spotlight: Ryan Goold

Ryan Goold has come full circle in the Rochman Design-Build family. Six years ago his parents, Susan and Michael Goold, hired us to remodel their Ann Arbor Woods home. From June to December 2003 we built an addition and remodeled their kitchen, dining room, mudroom, and half bath. At that time, Ryan was 13 years old and, typical of a young man, he didn't speak too much to the designers or carpenters. He laid low and quietly watched.



The addition to the back of the Goold Residence, 2003



Ryan Goold working at RDB, with tool belt on, 2009

Last summer after he graduated from Pioneer High School, Ryan applied for a job with RDB and worked with us as a laborer. He then began college at University of Michigan where he is majoring in architecture. During this summer, he has been working as a laborer and an apprentice carpenter. Ryan is leaving us this week to return to school. It has been a pleasure having him on site this summer, we'll miss him, and we wish Ryan well in his studies. We are proud to see another future architect learning how things are really built!

Feature Project: Queen Remodel



We were pleased to have showcased a recent large project on the 2009 Spring Tour of Remodeled Homes. These are a few photos and a brief description of the project. The local chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry, [NARI](#), organized the Tour.

Our project involved a 1939 Colonial on the West side of Ann Arbor (Ardmoor Ave.). Our clients wanted to stay in their home long term, but needed more space and a better floor plan layout. After a detailed architectural design process, we arrived at a wonderful floor plan that reconfigured the plan and built additions on two sides of the house. On one side, we added a two-car garage and a new master suite over it; this was in place of the one car garage on that side. On the back, we added a one-story addition to house the new gourmet kitchen, pantry area and a spacious and practical mudroom. We created a secondary hallway on the first floor with needed storage space so the house flows from both the front entry as well as the entry through the mudroom. You can see many photos as well as before and after floor plans here: [e-TOUR](#). For photos of the project during construction, take a look here: [RDB blog](#).

These clients are typical with regard to their mudroom requests. People enter their homes through their garage or side door 90-95% of the time



and as a result want closet areas, storage space and cubbies for children and the entire family. Though these spaces do not need to be fancy, we designed them as their main entry and gave it the space and planning it deserved. We have had people say, "It is impossible for a mudroom to be TOO big."



The reconfigured floor plan now makes sense, is useful and provides an open floor plan desired by this family. The homeowners wanted the main plan to be wide open and colorful for a friendly family life and a stellar space to entertain. The before and after photos show how we opened up the living room to the dining room and the new kitchen beyond. Wide open living with bold and beautiful colors.

While in the design phase, we suggested the best energy improvements. A new furnace was added and the ductwork was altered to zone the entire second floor (old & new) on the new system. This made both furnaces more efficient and with the addition of Icynene spray foam insulation in the entire attic and all new walls, the enlarged home now has lower utility bills than before! An added bonus of the insulation is how much more quiet the home is- inside noise as well as outside noise!



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

Maintenance Tips

Gutters

We remind everyone to clean out their gutters in the fall and the spring. Often leaves, twigs, branches, and seedlings collect there over the winter, and clog the gutters when heavy spring and summer rains come. Though there are many 'tools' to clear out gutters, the best method is to be on a ladder and clean them out with your hands. This will prevent damage from metal or plastic tools, and being up at eye level will let you be certain they are clear and to see damage. After dumping the debris on the ground and throwing it away, rinse them out with a hose. Make sure to direct the water away from your



foundations. Ninety percent of foundation and basement water problems are due to gutter and downspout problems so diverting water away from your home is critical maintenance to avoid costly problems.

Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors are the silent watchers over our safety. Though we may not always acknowledge their presence, it's good to know they keep us safe. The best units to have are hardwired into your homes electricity and have battery back-up (this meets the current Michigan Building Code).



These units need to have their batteries changed once a year, try to time this with a daylight savings time change. If you have older units that are just battery powered, changing the batteries is the same timing and procedures. All smoke detectors have 9-volt batteries, the rectangular kind. Remember there should be a detector in every bedroom and in the hallway outside of bedroom areas, and a minimum of one on every floor of your home. Give us a call if you need help relocating the existing units or installing the new ones.



Rochman
DESIGN-BUILD

2294 S. Industrial Hwy Ann Arbor, MI 48104

734.761.6936