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[PATH Guide to Green  
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**Welcome to our e-newsletter.** Our goal with this new format is to provide you useful tips and interesting information on home care and remodeling, and to share our latest news from Rochman Design-Build.

Please forward this email on to friends and colleagues that might be interested. Thanks for reading on!

Gary Rochman

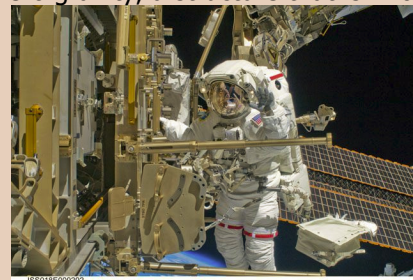


## Remodeling in Space

Recently were able to watch an amazing remodeling project take place at the International Space Station (ISS). The logistics for construction up in Space put the complexities we have here on Earth to shame.



The ISS has been slowly built over the past 10 years. The recent project provided additional living space, so that the permanent crew could grow from three to six astronauts. The design called for adding two new bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen, and an exercise room. It sounds like one of our projects, until you learn about the details and the working conditions. The bedrooms are high-tech floating compartments, and the bathroom has a recycling system that processes fluids back into drinking water. In late November, the space shuttle Endeavor launched on mission STS-126 carrying all the building materials and construction crew (no quick runs to Fingerle were allowed). The crew assembled the new multi-million dollar units onto the station, in remarkable working conditions: zero gravity, a structure that is 220 miles in space and moving at 17,000 miles per hour, and temperatures ranging from -250 to +250 degrees. The crew worked 'outdoors' with no tables to put tools on and in six hour work shifts without a break (or a bathroom). We watched with awe, humility, and no small amount of envy at how astronauts build in Space.



The ISS can actually be seen from Earth with a naked eye. For sighting information click here: [Sighting Opportunities](#)

To view a gallery of photo images from the mission:  
[Image Gallery STS-126](#)

To view animations of the mission procedures:  
[Mission Animations](#)

## Finding Value in a Tough Economy



The troubling economic news facing Michigan and our country has certainly given us pause professionally and personally, but we continue to believe in the power of positive thinking and making change happen. While new home construction in our area has fallen drastically in recent years, remodeling of homes has just slowed down slightly. Many homeowners are improving their homes instead of moving, and many are finding comfort with investing their money where they can live in and enjoy the results.

At RDB our focus has always been to improve peoples lives, and our niche has been working with families who plan on staying in their homes long term and want to improve one of their investment. Since we help clients transform and personalize their space, our work continues to be in demand and of great value. We are grateful that our business remains steady and strong and that our clients know that the sooner their home renovations are complete, the longer they have to enjoy it.

## New Small Project Division

Due to increased interest from both past and new clients, we have opened a new Small Projects division. Though we are known for our larger and more complex projects, we continue to receive requests for smaller and simpler ones. This new division will follow our KISS method of Keeping It Small and Simple. These projects need limited design work- one design is presented and quoted, with minor refinements that follow. A simpler construction method is used to keep costs competitive and value high for the homeowner. These Small Projects will benefit from a faster and more streamlined process, while not needing the more in-depth methods that many of our large projects need to uncover the best design option and to stay on schedule and avoid surprises during construction.



Please call on us for your next Small Project, and see how we can provide great value on this work with standard RDB professionalism and reliability.

## New Addition to Our Staff

We are delighted to welcome and introduce the newest member of the RDB team. Nick Bell has joined Rochman Design-Build as a junior architect and is already deep in project designs with Gary. Nick is a native of Hemlock, Michigan and has 4 brothers and sisters. He recently graduated from Lawrence Technological University with a Master's degree in Architecture. Nick brings exciting skills and design talent and a fresh perspective. He won the Hobson Memorial Scholarship Contest and was a finalist for the Wayne State Fine Art Center Competition. He is an avid follower of both football and hockey, enjoys video games of all types, and has a deep love of reading.



Nick recently moved to Ann Arbor with his wife Michelle, team member extraordinaire at Whole Foods Market. Please join us in welcoming Nick to the RDB community. We are very excited to have him on board.



**Rochman**  
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