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NARI Home Tour

Rochman Design-Build will be showcasing a recently completed project on the upcoming NARI Tour of Remodeled Homes, on Saturday and Sunday May 15th & 16th, 2010.

The Tour is organized by NARI of Southeast Michigan, a local chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI).

This 7th annual event is a spring tradition for Washtenaw County homeowners, and is expected to draw a large crowd to the 11 professionally remodeled homes that will be on display this year.

Come visit us during the Tour at House #9, 2245 Belmont Road in Ann Arbor. Our project involves modern styling and a complete remodel of all the main living spaces (see the next article for details).

Details about the Tour and a map to all the homes are available online at www.narisemich.org. Tickets are \$10 for adults, can be used both days at all homes, and are available for purchase online as well as at all the homes during the Tour. We look forward to seeing you there!



Join Our Mailing List!

If you wish to forward this e-newsletter to a friend or colleague, please click [here](#).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[RDB Website](#)

Featured Project: Meija Ham Remodel

Can a plain and staid brick ranch be transformed into modern and inspiring spaces? That question was posed to us for this project and we believe the result is a resounding "yes". Our clients, the Meija Ham family, recently bought a 1957 brick ranch on a beautiful lot in Ann Arbor Hills and wanted to transform the spaces for function, for modern aesthetics, and for their growing family.

The 'before' floor plan was disjointed with spaces separated by a massive fireplace (*photo at right*) and a poorly located staircase. The kitchen/dining area was small and had no views to the backyard and the first floor lacked a mudroom, a laundry room, and any sense of style.



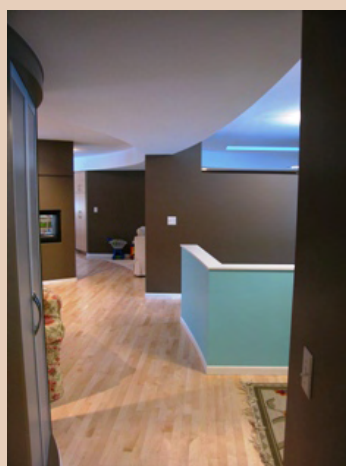
We made three big muscle movements to reorganize the floor plan. We removed the masonry fireplace and its 2-story chimney completely, we relocated the basement stairs, and we removed a 40 foot long bearing wall- opening up to an under-utilized porch that we finished out to create more living space. Our early design options that didn't involve these big movements ended up requiring a big addition or having a poor layout and traffic flow, so these big items were cost effective when you can attain the best floor plan, the best day light, and no need for an addition.

The spaces were moved like puzzle pieces from front to the back of the house, from the basement to the 1st floor, and from back to front. The heart of the



home is now the light-filled kitchen and dining areas which both face the backyard. (*left*) Maple cabinetry, white Zodiaq quartz countertops, sparkling glass tiles, Maple flooring, and rich colored walls define this clean modern aesthetic. Wall cabinets are minimal to allow for huge windows and a more open space. A new mudroom with copious cubbies and

laundry area was created next to the garage. And a unique divider was created between the kitchen and living room - a 3' thick curved 'monolith' wall (*right*) housing a see-through contemporary fireplace by [Spark](#).



The final floor plan has spaces that are the right size and in the right locations, with curved walls and curved soffits creating long interesting sight lines.(photo) For more pictures, visit our project [blog](#).

Bright colored walls create a Caribbean flair- aqua, coral pink, orange, green, and deep brown, and add to the modern styling that our clients wanted.

Come and tour this home next weekend and find your favorite detail!

Spring Home Maintenance Tips

- A/C Condenser. Doing this before the heat of summer arrives will save your air conditioner from working so hard, and your utility bill as well. Cut and trim away all tree limbs, bushes, etc that restrict air movement around the condenser and above it. Clean the outside face of the condenser with a hose and remove all debris and lint on the surfaces.



- Clean gutters & downspouts. Get the hose out and test the gutters to make sure they flow properly and drain. Make sure your downspouts are diverted far away from your house with splash blocks or leaders. This helps prevent water from leaking into your basement
- Inspect the roof- this is ideally done when you are cleaning the gutters and up on a ladder. Visually check for damaged roof shingles, check flashings around chimney and vent pipes, and make sure the attic venting is clear of obstructions. Call a roofer as needed for repairs.
- Shut down humidifier. Nearly all furnaces have a humidifier mounted on the unit for winter heating. Turn off the water valve for the humidifier, allow the humidifier to dry out for a number of days, and clean out the wicking pad. This will prevent mold from growing on the unit and blowing into your home
- Replace furnace/air conditioner filter. This was likely in your furnace all winter and is full of dust and ready to be changed.



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