



Host a Soiree at Home

Create a space conducive to entertaining with these party essentials.

Many of our homeowners explain to us that they're looking to create spaces that accommodate their love of entertaining, so we've compiled a brief list of design elements we thought were important for successful events.

Libations

A beverage center, or wet bar, is the perfect addition to your entertaining space. Whether you use it as an extra prep area or a cocktail-mixing station, you can customize it to your style and needs. Include an extra sink. Outfit your wet bar with a beverage refrigerator. Add wine and stemware storage. The options are endless!

Room to Move

It's fun to focus on the small details, but you should also consider the room's layout. An open concept is helpful for hosting family and friends. When the various entertaining spaces, indoor and outdoor, are open and connected to one another, you're still able to engage guests while cooking or mixing drinks. People can also move about freely.

(Kitchen) Island Fun



People tend to congregate in the kitchen, so an island is often essential if you plan to entertain. It can provide more workspace, so multiple chefs can concoct culinary masterpieces at one time. It's a place to lean against, sit by, or set your drink on, and it allows the cook to socialize with guests while he or she works. It can also serve as your party's buffet.





Mood Lighting

Pay attention to the lighting in your kitchen (and other entertaining spaces). Include task lighting, such as under-cabinet lighting, for food preparation. Pendants over the island and recessed lighting provide task and ambient lighting. It's also a "bright idea" to put your fixtures on dimmers to create a softer glow when guests arrive.

A Place (or two) to Sit

Seating - by the island, at a table, as a built-in, or in an adjacent room - is important to consider. Although people will walk around mingling, most will eventually like to take a load off of their feet and relax. Each type of seating has pros and cons (i.e. a banquette can maximize space), so we suggest having multiple options if they make sense for the room.

Tunes

Music can set the mood for your gathering. Many systems let you listen to tunes throughout your home and outdoors, allowing you to change the volume in each space or control the entire system with the touch of a screen anywhere. You even have the option to listen to different songs in different rooms - jazz in the kitchen and rock in the lower level - or the same song in every room.

Storage

If you entertain regularly, you've probably started quite the collection of platters, linens, glasses, vases, and beyond. Make sure you have a place for everything. Consider cabinetry that extends to the ceiling, drawers in the island, a butler's pantry, drawer and cabinet organizers, such as Rev-A-Shelf systems, and other organizational options.



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Bartelt is your remodeling resource online, too!



Project Spotlight



Before

Our clients' 1800s Victorian lake home had been turned into a four-family residence. They originally owned it as rental property, but enjoyed its proximity to the downtown area and lake and decided to move in.

They wanted to restore their home back to a single-family residence and reintroduce its original charm while accommodating a modern lifestyle and entertaining.

After

To restore the home back to a single-family residence, the first and second floors were completely gutted and reconfigured to accommodate their lifestyle while keeping the scale and feel of the original home.

The foyer size was reduced to take advantage of unused space for a first floor powder room and maximize the dining and bathroom to take advantage of southern light, lake views, and the lake porch.

We reintroduced the home's historic charm with cohesive design elements:

1. Custom millwork, cabinetry, doors, and foyer newel post
2. Fireplace restorations
3. Tin ceiling in the kitchen
4. New light fixtures and hardware
5. Douglas Fir flooring and bead board in the lake porch

See more photos of this whole house remodel on [Houzz!](#)





Upcoming Events

Milwaukee/NARI Fall Home & Remodeling Show

Sept. 20-22, 2013

The 23rd annual Milwaukee/NARI Fall Home & Remodeling Show will be held at the Wisconsin Exposition Center at State Fair Park.

This year's show, "Destination: Renovation," will feature chef demonstrations, educational seminars, and more than 300 booths with home improvement and remodeling products and services.

Stop by our booth (436, 438, 537, and 539)! We look forward to seeing you.

Show Hours:

Friday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

What's Cooking in the Kitchen?

Pizza Pinwheels

Ingredients

- 1 (13.8 oz) can of Pillsbury refrigerated classic pizza crust
- 1/2 tsp. garlic salt
- 1 tsp. dried basil
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 cup sliced pepperoni, chopped
- 1 cup marinara or pizza sauce

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees. Press the pizza dough into a large rectangle.
2. Sprinkle the dough with garlic salt, basil, cheeses, and pepperoni. Starting at the short end, roll the dough up tightly to form a log. Slice into one inch pieces.
3. Place the rolls on a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake for 10 minutes or until browned on top. Serve with warm marinara sauce for dipping.

*From Tablespoon.com

