



Kitchen Magic: Making the Most of Your Renovation

By *Kristin Fletcher*

Today's kitchens are often called the heart of the home—cherished open spaces where many activities take place. Perhaps that's why, though GHI kitchens may be small, there is no shortage of imagination at work among our members in making them beautiful, functional, and efficient spaces even on a budget.

With the fall kitchen renovation contest, the Architecture Review Committee (ARC) opened up a treasure trove of photos from the 32 entries submitted. These are now online in a photo gallery at ghi.coop (About GHI tab) and on the new GHI **YouTube** channel.

Be sure to take a look if a kitchen renovation is in your future!



Contest winner's before & after pictures for masonry homes.

Just as each cook and each family is unique, so too are the needs for each kitchen. No two GHI kitchens are exactly alike, so each project has its own challenges. Designing a space that meets your needs also means designing the process for how it gets done. Doing this effectively helps ensure that your kitchen turns out to be what you envisioned. The process varies greatly depending on your budget, access to technical expertise

and timeframe, but here are some basic tips from contest winners that anyone planning a GHI kitchen renovation should keep in mind.

1. Have good communication with GHI's Technical Services Department. Whether you are doing the work yourself or hiring a contractor, permit and inspection requirements must be met. Always be sure everyone is on the same page.
2. If you hire a contractor, use one familiar with GHI, try to get at least 3 bids, be sure to get references and look at some of their previous work.
3. Ask friends, neighbors and others you may know to see their actual kitchens for ideas.
4. Do your research, take photos, and have lots of patience. Everything takes longer than you think.
5. Build "wiggle room" in your budget (at least 10%) for unanticipated expenses.

Professional designer Kelly Hoppen writes on the HuffPost lifestyle blog to consider aesthetics as well as functionality in the design. Careful planning is essential so that the most used room in the house is also where you want to spend most of your time. Lighting is especially important, as is making the space welcoming and relaxing. Although open kitchens remain the trend, some designers still prefer the privacy of galley kitchens, which also keep kitchen messes out of sight. The choice is yours.

Look for additional kitchen renovation stories from contest winners in upcoming editions of the GHI E-News.



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Running for a GHI Office – What’s In It For Me?

By Carol Griffith for the Nominations & Elections Committee

Are you thinking about running for a seat on the Board of Directors, Audit Committee or the Nominations and Elections Committee? We’ll be voting on new members for each at the GHI annual meeting on Thursday, May 15th.

Your contributions to one of these committees would benefit the cooperative as we plan for changes to our homes to ensure their sustainability, comfort, and value.

But have you ever thought that serving might benefit you personally or help you in your career? You might gain a better knowledge of financial matters. Maybe you’ll learn to run a meeting or hone your decision-making skills.

Our current officers agree that serving on a committee or the Board is rewarding. Pat Novinski is convinced that the Board activities are keeping her young. Audit Committee Chair Debbie Cooley says, “It’s fascinating to see the wide array of issues that GHI and the Board deal with” and how they handle them. Board Vice President Steve Skolnik says, “What amazes me is how much I am learning about our cooperative; there are many aspects of the organization about which I knew little, even after living here for 35 years.”

Serving as a Board or committee member is a large commitment, but the rewards are great.

- Board of Directors - Makes decisions and policies for GHI and participate in work sessions and special projects.
- Audit Committee - Independently oversees all aspects of the cooperative’s operations, including management of GHI and actions of the Board.
- Nominations and Elections (N&E) Committee - Identifies candidates for the Board and committees and conduct elections.

All the information you need for the election and how to run for office is available at the GHI office or online at www.ghi.coop (search for “Candidate packet”).

Member Announcements

Bathroom Renovation Contest Underway

The Architectural Review Committee is excited to host the second home renovation contest, this time for bathrooms. The two categories of bathrooms are original location or a bathroom created in another location. Entries will be judged on functionality, best use of space, attractiveness/eye appeal and innovative designs. Prizes are \$100, \$50, and \$25 gift certificates to the Co-Op Supermarket for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each of the two categories. A minimum of 10 entries per category is needed in order to award prizes. The contest deadline is March 31, 2014 and winners will be announced on April 15, 2014. Entry forms are available at the GHI Tech Services Department or online at: <http://ghi.coop/content/bathroom-renovation-contest>.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Unless otherwise noted, meetings are held at the GHI Administration Offices on Hamilton Place, and are open to all GHI members. Dates are subject to change.

March		
2	2:00 pm	Town Hall Meeting @ GB Fire Dept
5	6:00 pm	Investment Committee
5	7:30 pm	Finance Committee
8	11:00 am	Pre Purchase Orientation
10	7:00 pm	Member Outreach Committee
10	7:30 pm	Marketing Committee
11	8:30 am	Yardlines Committee
12	7:30 pm	Architectural Review Committee
13	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
14	--	OFFICE CLOSED*
18	7:30 pm	Companion Animal Committee
18	7:30 pm	Nominations and Elections
19	7:00 pm	Woodlands Committee
24	7:00 pm	Communications Committee
24	7:00 pm	Pre Purchase Orientation
26	7:00 pm	Buildings Committee
27	7:30 pm	Board Meeting
28	--	OFFICE CLOSED*

* Emergency maintenance service is available outside of normal hours or when GHI is closed. Call 301-474-6011.

Member Events in April



Ice Cream Social

The GHI Nominations & Elections Committee invites all members to a free Ice Cream Social on Sunday, April 6th from 2pm to 4pm in the GHI Board Room. Come and hang out with friends!

Spring Plant Swap

The Member Outreach Committee will host a plant swap on April 6th from 1:30-2:00 pm in front of the GHI Administration Building. Bring plants, tools, gardening books, etc. starting at 1:15 p.m. and the “swap” (actually a plant *grab*) will happen at 1:30 p.m. Please label all plants. If you have nothing to give away, come and grab something!



Town Hall Meeting

Sunday, March 2 • 2-4 pm • Greenbelt Fire Station

The meeting will focus on the status of the current Pilot Program and the future Homes Improvement Program as well as give members an opportunity to ask questions or give feedback on any matter of concern.