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Chicago
magazine

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CHICAGO'S BEST

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contractors, lighting stores, and more

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CHICAGO RENOVATION & DEVELOPMENT
This spacious kitchen/family room was created from space that was formerly a small kitchen, bedroom, and enclosed rear porch. The floors are new oak with a honey stain; the backsplash is a custom pattern using Durango tile with granite inserts. The kitchen island doors open to reveal a television (viewable from the family room) on slide-out tracks.



Contractors

The firms listed here are among the most respected in the area—experienced, able to solve complex problems, and aesthetically aware. They aren't the contractors who will tack an incongruous flat box onto your Tudor and tell you to like it. They're much more apt to point out details on your house that you might not have noticed and suggest ways to continue those in the new space. And they're masters at solving the practical problems standing between you and your dream home.

Airloom 8825 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, (847) 967-7666; www.airloom.com. Keeping construction on time and within budget is crucial at Airloom, a large design/build firm that does everything from whole-house to kitchen renovations. For a recent addition, the company matched all the detailing on a landmark Winnetka home, including the gingerbread trim. Founded in 1958, Airloom has a mortgage brokerage division and can provide financing.

Benvenuti & Stein 2001 Greenleaf St., Evanston, (847) 866-8868; www.benvenutiandstein.com. This 27-year-old design/build firm does it all, but it is best known for its kitchen and bath designs and custom cabinetry. "The key to a good kitchen is a good layout," says Geno Benvenuti, the firm's president and owner. Focus is on design flexibility and making the transformation process painless for homeowners.

Canada & Klein 1028 Cherry St., Winnetka, (847) 501-4884; www.canada-klein.com. This firm, which has a 17-year track record of focusing on sophisticated home construction and renovations, will take on whole-home renovations or remodels of kitchens, bathrooms, and dining rooms. When a Highland Park client wanted to view his Japanese moss garden from his shower, Canada & Klein installed a special film—from a surgical-goggles manufacturer—on the window to prevent fogging. The company also handles environmentally friendly building projects.

Chicago Renovation & Development 1020 Edgebrook Ln., Glencoe, (847) 786-4902; www.chicagorenovation.com. Medium- to high-end kitchens, additions, and whole-house remodels, including historical renovations, are among the specialties of this design/build firm. It

recently completed a restoration of a 1957 home in Glencoe as well as a traditionally styled kitchen in Highland Park, an endeavor that involved intricate millwork, hand-painted tiles, and pecan floors. The firm also does work in the city.

Chris Carey & Co. 1131 N. Winchester Ave., (773) 363-2624. Turn-of-the-century Victorian homes and vintage condos are among the structures that benefit from the deft handwork of these multitiered builders, historical renovators, and remodelers. A recent project is the complete interior renovation of a Hyde Park residence listed on the National Register of Historic Homes. Using the original architectural drawings, Carey and his crew upgraded the space with a new kitchen, master bedroom suite, and bathrooms. They also restored two of the home's original fireplaces.

Design Construction Concepts 425 Huak Rd., Northbrook, (847) 498-1678; www.dccid.com. At this 13-year-old firm, which won the Chrysalis Award for Illinois State Remodeler of the Year in 2003 and 2004 as well as the 2004 Better Business Bureau Torch Award, everyone on the professional staff has a background in architecture. Recently, the firm overhauled a 2,500-square-foot master suite on the second floor of a home, while not disturbing anything on the first or third floor.

DNA General Contracting 7216 W. Madison St., Forest Park, (708) 364-7663. When Bulls and Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf needed a whole-home remodel, he called these experts, known for their ability to blend new and existing structures impeccably. Recently, the firm collaborated with a New York architect in the construction of a contemporary home in Bucktown. Most renovations are in the \$2 million range.

