

*Space invaders***Remodeling the home renovation process**

By Deanna Larson

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The plumber is late. And the cabinet guy can't fit until the pipes are done. But the plumber can't work until the drywall guy has finished — and so it goes during a typical home remodel.

Working homeowners don't have time to supervise streams of contractors and decorators. A project manager can scout out elusive materials and wrangle fickle day workers and temperamental decorators while keeping jobs on track and budget whether the renovation lasts a month or a year.

"Remodeling is a risky business," said Lynn Taylor, owner of Taylor Made Plans. "I try to make the process as easy and painless as possible."

Taylor, an award-winning residential designer who won the Oxygen Network's "Oh Get the Money" contest in 2004, guides homeowners through a range of projects from adding a porch or remodeling a kitchen or attic to a completely new "infill" house that complements a historic neighborhood.

She warns renovators about the "unforeseens" that can blow budgets and tempers and coaches clients through the entire process.

That budget-minded practicality also drives

Teresa Truitt Weidner of *Changing Spaces*. Her re-design firm offers project management for a range of renovation projects, from redoing a family room to remodeling and selling properties for profit.

Weidner suggests starting with an inspection before making any plans. After homeowners get the go-ahead, Weidner works by the hour or day to supervise every stage of the process, from hiring dependable sub-contractors to picking paint colors.

"If I can't do it," said the versatile Weidner, "I know someone who can."

Since she has extensive remodeling and decorating experience, Weidner also keeps a lid on costs by doing many of the jobs herself, including nipping out drywall and painting faux finishes. She also purchases materials and appliances with her trade discount and passes on all savings to the client, which "doesn't make



A well-designed attic renovation can add valuable square footage and cozy nooks for escaping the busy activities of a family home.

me a favorite of others in the business," she said.

Taylor will speak on building out attic spaces June 14 at the Second Tuesday Speaker Series at the East Branch Library. ☐

GETTING THERE

What: "Creating Your Cool," the first of five home renovation workshops in the Second Tuesday Speaker Series, will feature HVAC specialist Don Seymour and master plumber Andy Ward
When: 6:30 p.m. tonight
Where: East Branch Library, 206 Gallatin Road
Cost: Free
Info: Nashville Public Library, 862-5860; Taylor Made Plans, 650-8956, www.taylormadepans.com; Changing Spaces, 391-3806, changingospace.net