

Renovators share tips

By Bill Harless
bharless@nashvillecitypaper.com

Remodeling a house is a lot different from building a home from the ground up, a point that's important to remember when you hire a professional to undertake the job.

A residential designer, an interior designer, and a licensed contractor gathered at the East Branch Library recently to give advice about beginning a home renovation and additions.

Here are some of their recommendations:

Lynn Taylor is a residential designer whose business Taylor Made Plans specializes in renovation design and designing new in-fill homes so they fit attractively into historic neighborhoods. Taylor makes the designs and assists with contractor selection and construction administration. She advises:

- Make sure the architect or residential designer you hire is experienced in renovation.
- Before beginning a project, talk clearly with the architect or residential designer about his or her payment structure: does he charge by the hour or does he charge a flat fee? Make sure he's very specific, so that you're not caught at the end with a charge much higher than you expected.
- Ask the architect or residential designer if you need a landscape designer or a structural engineer, who would review framing work. For a major redesign, it's usually imperative to hire a structural engineer. Taylor told about a client who undermined the footings of his house when



New cabinets, countertops, a glass kitchen counter and cleverly designed display shelves give this remodeled kitchen a one-of-a-kind look.

Lynn Taylor, Beth Haley and Greg Davis will make a longer presentation at 1 p.m. Sept. 11 at the Travelers Flat Restoration Fair. For more information, call 622-8157 or visit www.travelersflatplantation.org.

he dig a basement. The repairs cost him more than \$4,000. Hiring a structural engineer for around \$400 could have prevented this.

- Hire a land surveyor if the work will be done very close to your property boundary. In East Nashville, a survey costs about \$500.
- Consider hiring someone — perhaps your architect or residential designer — to check in on the job site when workers are there.
- If your project is big and re-

quires moving walls, you'll probably need the architect or residential designer to draw blueprints. You may not need blueprints if you're redesigning a bathroom or kitchen and aren't moving a wall or if you're only moving a small wall.

• A good contractor will ask for a blueprint if he feels your plan is "too vague," because he knows problems could appear down the road without them.

Beth Haley's urban interior design firm, Beth Haley Designs, assists clients with all phases of renovation, remodeling, new construction and décor. She specializes in designing older homes to fit individual needs and style preferences. Her advice:

CONTINUED ON D&D 11 >

Washington Mutual Home Loans in Tennessee
has now become...



AMERICAN HOME MORTGAGE

Same
Great
Locations

Same
Superior
Service

Same
Friendly
People

We are better than ever with larger product selection, faster approvals & closings, and still proud to be here for the communities of Nashville and surrounding areas. Give us a call today!

615.221.4260



American Home Mortgage is licensed on the NYS under the symbol AHM. Ranked 2nd on Fortune's 100 annual list of "America's 100 Fastest Growing Companies." American Home Mortgage is the 19th largest retail mortgage lender in the United States. Licensed Mortgage Banker or Authorized Lender in the 45 States and The District of Columbia.

NEED HELP fast?

Advertise it in the City Marketplace and find the right person!

To place an ad call, 298-9833.

The City Paper
www.thecitypaper.com