

upstate

LIVING
REAL
EASY

HOME

SUMMER 2007

AN ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT TO THE POST-STANDARD • WWW.SYRACUSE.COM

AT **HOME** IN
SKANEATELES

FAKING THE
HAMPTONS WITH
CNY
SHOPS

HOT BUYS FROM

CAZ
L'POOL
LAFAYETTE


PLUS:

- SUMMER SAMBA:
WHAT TO POUR
WHAT TO PLAY
- TOYS OF SUMMER:
YARD STUFF THAT
SIZZLES





PHOTOS COURTESY OF: HILLTOP REMODELING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

BY
TERESA MELNICK 

For all *Seasons*

Want to relax in a room with year-round views?
Think about it. Then get started.

Remodeled living areas make the most of wasted space, maximize natural views and offer a spot for rest and relaxation. That's a good investment in today's world.

Drive to work in heavy traffic. Eat lunch while answering e-mails. Rush the kids to soccer practice and ballet lessons. Answer your cell phone. Answer your text messages. Meetings, deadlines, drive-through dinners — modern life is lived at warp speed most of the time.

We are experts at "multi-tasking," which is just a euphemism for lives

that have become juggling acts: work, family, and, oh yeah, leisure time.

Our moments of peace and tranquility have become too rare and therefore are most treasured. That's why so many people are paying attention to the areas in their homes where they go to relax.

"I think that we all live such a hectic pace that time spent relaxing is precious," said Scott McClurg, president of McClurg Remodeling and Construction Services, a Marcellus-based firm that offers both interior and exterior design, remodeling and building services.

"People want those areas where they relax to be something really special." And what better place to relax than surrounded by nature?

According to McClurg, the most popular additions to people's homes are rooms that maximize natural views and create the feeling of being outdoors all year around. People also want to utilize wasted space on their properties.

"We see a lot of space that isn't efficiently used," said McClurg. "We help people turn those wasted areas into usable, functional spaces." ➤





PHOTOS COURTESY OF: MCCLURG REMODELING AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

"When people come over to our house, they're immediately drawn to this room; it's the first thing they notice."

JANINE BOTTY

Dr. and Mrs. Botty's home, on the Oswego River in Fulton, is a perfect example of what McClurg is talking about. The back of the house, facing the river, had a one-season porch. The Botty's wanted to take advantage of their beautiful view of the river all year round, as well as make the most of what was once wasted space for most of the year.

"We had a screened in porch that we could only use in the summer," said Janine Botty. "It was definitely just a porch. Now it's a real room, a part of the house, fully heated and air conditioned." McClurg added ample windows to the new room, affording

the Bottys a panoramic view of the water that the family can enjoy even in the dead of winter. "When people come over to our house, they're immediately drawn to this room; it's the first thing they notice. It's a beautiful room. We love it."

The Botty's new living area is connected to a deck system, with a trellised pergola and pool house, that leads to the swimming pool. According to Janine Botty, the old deck and pool house didn't fit well, stylistically, with the house. McClurg fixed that. "The whole back of the

house looks completely different now," said Janine. "Everything blends with the house."



Not everyone has extensive remodeling needs. But, cautions McClurg, whatever the nature of the project, it's important for people to be clear about their expectations and straightforward about their budget. Then, he says, it's imperative to sit down together: the clients, the builders, the architect, and the designers all need to be on the same page about budget and objectives.

How far in advance people should begin the planning process for construction or remodeling projects depends on a variety of factors. "Permitting alone can take two to three months," said McClurg.

Time of year and the builders' workload also figure into project length. So, if you decide you want a summer recreation area for the season, don't wait too much longer to get the ball rolling. ■

