home plan H2

Farmhouse charm: What's old is new again. improve it H4

Time to get your house ready for winter.

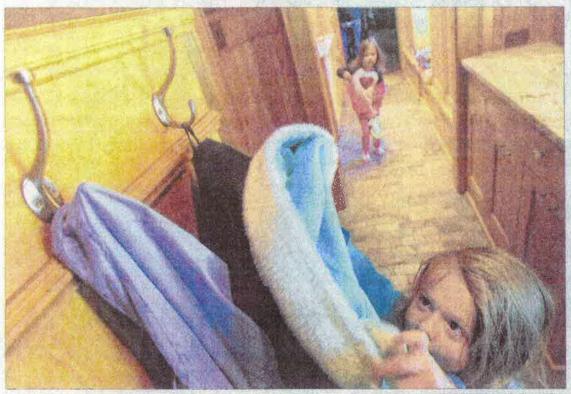
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COURTNEY PERRY - Special to the Star Tribune

Sisters Sara, right, and Julia Rosenman hang their jackets in their new mudroom inspired by the style of the early 1900s Craftsman Minneapolis home

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 Thoughtfully designed, hardworking mudrooms make life easier and more organized.

By EVNN UNDERWOOD innderwood@spertribune.com

he once lowly mudroom has earned a place among the big three of remodeling projects.

A space to ease the transition from outside to inside, to organize boots, mittens and scar ves, and to keep grunge at bay is the most requested home improvement, after kitchens and bathrooms, say Twin Cities designers and contractors.

"Our clients tell us they love their home and neighborhood but they can't stand the mess of coars and backpacks and want help," said Ron Sonnek of Sicora Home Design in St. Louis Park.

But modern mudrooms are much more

than a couple of coat hooks and a storage calinet. To be efficient, organized spaces, mudrooms are getting bigger and offering multiple functions a factor zene" for keys and groceries, storage for coats, boots and ground equipment; built-in benches to make taking shoes on and off exister, even stations or charge electronics. Many have heated floors and are designed to match the sechi-tectural style of the house.

Michael Rosennau recently put in a lightly detailed. Arts and Crafts inspired mudroom in his Minneapolis frome. While he appreciates the loop of the room, it all about the function.

"No matter how you design the look and finishes," he said, "Think of how you use it every day — that's what matters."





Sara, left, and Julia Rosenman stow their hats and mittens in built-in cabinets accented by an Arts and Crafts etyle stained glass window.

INITSPLACE



Photos by CONTRIBLY PREST - Special to the Star Priorine

Owners Michael and Karls Resentian converted a long hallway and hotter's pantry into a multifunctional modiform outlifted with amenities such as a nested floor, but it is mains true to the Craftsman character of the home. Julia and Saza Rosenman know exactly where to hang their coats and backpacks



STAYING IN CHARACTER

Starting points Owners Michael and Raria Rosenman had extensively remodeled their Craftsmin-style home, taking cues from its early 1900s architecture. But the couple and their young daughters still didn't have a place to take off their shoes and hang coats. Besides, said Michael, "we really wanted a heated floor

Design/build team: Nathan Shanklin, Next Level Designers and Builders, Receision www.nextlevelbuilders.com, and David Heide, David Heide Design Studio,

www.dhdstudio.com.

What they dide theide converted a butler's pantry inside a galley-style hallway into a mudroom. The space is outfitted with a large coat closer, shoe cubbles, kid-height drawers. for mittens and bats and floor-to-celling storage cabinets. There's a drop zone, where the girls dump their backpacks and the family

charges their smartphones. Pull-out drawers hold the recycling For antertaining. Heide designed a bar with a sink, wine cooler and dishwisher. "We always come in the back entrance and drop it all here," said Michael. This room keeps everything organized."

Not so obvious: "It's besically an invisible modroom that is concealed within the but-ler's parary and back infloway," said Heide. "The cost closet is turded under the stair. The charming window sear is also a place to put on your boots.

Nod to Arts and Crafts: The mudroom echoes the home's period style with looky elements such as brick-pattern slate floor, geometric stained glass window and red birch

Home sweet home: "When we feel the heated floor, we know we're home," said Mi-

NEAT AND CLEAN

Starting point: Greg and Trucy Brink meyer tore down a small home and built a new one in St. Louis Park. "A modroom in Minnesons is a must-have," said Greg. "it was a big part of the new home design."

Design/build team: Hon Sonnek, Sicora Design Build, St. Louis Park, www.sicora.com

What they did: Somek designed a cost-efficient mudroom by the back door, which is equipped with open coat lockers and storage bins for sinces and gloves. There's also an enclosed closes for storing seasonal outerwest. The floor is made of durable, easy-to-clean vinyl composite tile. "The mudroom's clean lined style matches the transitional look of the rest of the bouse," said Somoek

Bench smart: Sonnak extended the cont lockers out a few feet to create a

Mini-office: On another wall (not pictured), Sonnek built a desk with drawers and cabinets to organize paperwork as well as a spot to toss mail. "It's just 2 feet by 2 feet," he said, "but it's the best money you'll spend on two (set in your house." Bright idea: The couple covered part of the wall with magnetic chalkboard

paint and framed it with wood.

Color coded: The cabinets are painted a charcoal gray, which repeats the col-or of the kitchen Island. "We also want ed the gray in there because it's a mudroom and gray duesn't show the dirt. Goog said



Storage lockers and a magnetic challe board help keep the family organized