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**PHILADELPHIA MAGAZINE'S
GUIDE TO
HOME RENOVATIONS**



With the unsteady real estate market, people are opting to invest more time, money and energy to improve their homes. In a recent report from the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University, in 2009, \$113.2 billion has already been spent on home improvements nationwide.

For inspiration, and specifically for Philadelphians, we've compiled an all-local home renovation guide, featuring the region's most experienced architects, designers and experts. Browse these before-and-after makeovers, read inside advice from those in the know, and check out some of the coolest local accessories to complete your space.

ON THE COVER

sunroom *interior*

*By Archer & Buchanan Architecture, LTD
125 West Miner Street, West Chester
610-692-9112, archerbuchanan.com*

From dreary to bold, this circa-1980 A-frame Gladwyne deck house has been transformed, thanks to the labors of West Chester-based Archer & Buchanan. When the homeowner hired Peter Archer (along with interior designer Vincent Smith-Durham and Cherokee Construction contracting company), he wanted to liven the place up. The most dramatic of the team's innovations was the addition of this school-bus yellow aviary (with 26-foot-high ceiling), which provides a perfect, screened-in hangout for taking in the land's natural breeze and soaking up warm summer nights. Several sitting areas make the space perfect for conversation and entertaining, and the addition of space heaters has allowed the homeowners to use it from April-November.

sunroom

From Colorless Deck

House to Bold New Home

By *Archer & Buchanan Architecture, LTD*
 125 West Miner Street, West Chester
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The yellow-orange shade of the new aviary structure works masterfully with this home's teal-colored exterior, red-shaded underside of the roof, and the surrounding green and brown of the property's natural flora. The timber-framed addition was made to complement the home's existing structure, and successfully fills the once-bare deck. The renovation team chose materials that would endure exposure to the elements with high-longevity and little maintenance, such as bronze screens and ceramic tile floors. Even if you aren't inside this lovely porch, you can still peek into it from the master bedroom window.



Archer & Buchanan Architecture, LTD

The restoration and renovation of this 1950's Villanova house included a makeover of the home's front entrance and foyer. Archer & Buchanan restored the original staircase and embellished it with sophisticated chair rails and a new, dramatic ironwork railing, fabricated by Chestnut Hill's Filippi Brothers Ironworks. The ironwork in the railing features curves, leaves and flowers to create an organic flow and accent the home's mostly French furnishings, which pop against the pale walls and floor.

See pages 104 or 120 for contact information.