

Today's CUSTOM HOME

ATLANTA'S COMPLETE GUIDE TO BUILDING OR REMODELING YOUR CUSTOM HOME • OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2007



On the cover

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Rebuilding the Past

Designed for Today

Frank Betz Associates, Inc.

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Making dreams a reality, Distinctive Remodeling Solutions transformed an outdated breakfast nook into this custom bar – creating an ideal space for entertaining.

Power Play

Remodeling Firm Scores Major Points With Clients

By Brittany Duque • Photography courtesy of Barbara Brown

Close your eyes and picture it. It's your dream home. Are you one room away from achieving it – or a whole house away? Have you purchased the almost perfect home with the intention of making it the one? It's dreams like these that come true with renovation specialists Distinctive Remodeling Solutions, Inc., who have proven that building a custom home isn't always necessarily from the ground up.

Founded in 2001, Distinctive Remodeling Solutions is a design/build remodeling firm, managing projects from concept to completion while honoring their values of superb craftsmanship, trust, respect and professionalism. Mark Buelow, president and CEO, explains why Distinctive has earned such a well-respected reputation in its field, "Our customers appreciate our meticulous attention to their job, our detailed project scheduling, our integrity and the reliable service we provide." ▶



This sleek and urban kitchen, complete with custom cabinetry, etched glass and simple lines is a far cry from its humble beginnings.

That's what drew hockey legend and Atlanta Thrashers' goalie, Kari Lehtonen, to Distinctive after purchasing a 17-year-old Brookhaven home. Realizing the potential it had, Kari bought the house in 2006 and began the design process the day of the closing. Jill Weber, Distinctive's kitchen designer and NARI Certified Remodeler explains, "The home didn't know what it wanted to be. It was a mix between a Cape Cod cottage and a contemporary. The inside was very early 80's and needed updating to make this house the home Lehtonen wanted it to be."

With a vision in mind, Weber and the team at Distinctive set out to create an ultra chic, urban home with European influences. Each room in the 3,000-square-foot home was renovated, customizing the lighting, fixtures, tile and layout to Lehtonen's background and lifestyle. He became more involved in the design and renovation as time went on, adding his taste and touch to each room as Distinctive encourages clients to do.

It is the kitchen, however, that now holds Lehtonen's supreme attention. Buelow and his team replaced the traditional breakfast nook with a custom glass-top bar, installed marble tile in a 1x1 checkerboard pattern on the kitchen backsplash and back of the bar, replaced basic windows with modern etched glass and updated the kitchen with custom dark-wood Poggenpohl cabinetry, brushed aluminum fixtures and featured lighting that revolves colors. ▶