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## A Happier Christmas for Wilmington-Area Children

“I love playing Santa Claus,” says Dave Lovett, Branch Manager of Distinctive Remodeling’s Wilmington office and President of the Executive Council of the Cape Fear Remodelers Council.

Lovett is referring to how he recently helped the Cape Fear Remodelers Council bring toy boxes full of Christmas cheer to the children of seven Wilmington-area families. With help from the Salvation Army, who identified the families, and the Wilmington/Cape Fear Home Builders Association (HBA), who tapped their members for donations, the toy boxes were filled with clothing, toys, and items from the “wish lists” of all the boys and girls.

Distinctive Remodeling donated a beautiful toy box and \$100 toward the toy drive. Many other businesses pitched in to make this outreach a success. Because of the project’s affiliation with the HBA, all contributing companies are connected to homebuilding in some way; donors included mortgage companies, contractors, and homebuilders.

This is the second year that the Remodelers Council has sponsored the toy drive; deciding to do the 2003 toy drive was Lovett’s first official act as president. Lovett is thankful for the participation of companies like Distinctive Remodeling. “When we put out the call to all the HBA, people just started stepping up to the plate and donating items. Both years of doing this we have been able to deliver all the items listed on the kids’ wish lists.”



## A Season for Giving

This holiday season, we donated \$1,000 to Duke Children’s Hospital on

behalf of our customers. It’s our way of saying “thank you” to each and every one of you. From crayons to medical teaching tools, from colorful band-aids to state-of-the-art medical technologies, our gift will be used to help brighten the lives of Duke’s pediatric patients.



All of us at Distinctive Remodeling wish you and those close to you a new year of peace and happiness.

## You Can’t Take It With You...But You Can Remodel

Like many families that opt to remodel, the Lindsey family first looked into moving to a larger home that better suited their changing lifestyle. In short order, though, they realized what they loved so much about their current home: the large lot, the extensive landscaping they’d done over the years, and the neighborhood.

“Those aren’t things you can take with you,” says Beth Lindsey, “so we decided to make our house everything we wanted it to be. And we decided to do it all at once.” The extensive addition created nearly 2000 square feet of new living areas with beautifully designed landscapes and outdoor features.

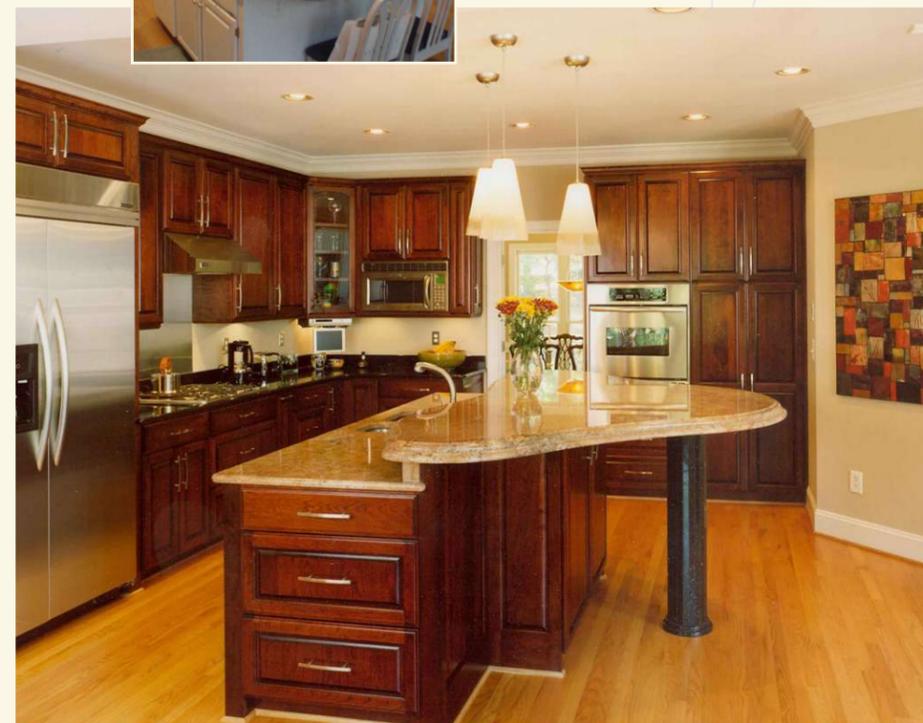
In designing the new floor plan, the open feeling of the home was maintained. In fact, that’s one of the reasons that, five months into the project, the Lindseys decided to re-do the kitchen as well, a project that had not been on their original plan. “Because of our open floor plan, you can see the kitchen even if you’re not in the kitchen,” says Beth. “Deciding to re-do the kitchen added about six weeks to the project. Everyone [at Distinctive Remodeling] was very accommodating and patient. They made all the necessary design changes and expedited the process to get it all done.”

The result: A stunning kitchen that serves as workspace, gathering place, and entertaining area. With custom cherry cabinets, granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, warm hardwood floors, and dramatic new lighting, the kitchen personifies a spectacular before-and-after story. “It was just an afterthought,” says Beth, laughing, “but it has turned out to be my favorite part of the remodel.”

As for the Lindsey kids, their favorite new room is the home theatre. Wired for surround sound and featuring a projection T.V., built-in bar, and mini-refrigerator, the home theatre is perfect for gatherings large and small—from relaxing with the family to throwing an ACC tournament party, which the Lindseys did just 24 hours after the entire remodeling project was completed.

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**2004 Remodeled Home Tour:  
A Huge Success**

On the weekend of November 13-14, two of Distinctive Remodeling's remodeled homes were showcased as part of this year's Remodeled Home Tour. In all, the doors to 12 Wake county homes were opened to the public who, for a \$5.00 entry fee, could wander through the homes, collecting ideas and inspiration. The turnout was excellent; one house in Raleigh had approximately 400 people go through it in one day!

The home featured on the cover of this newsletter was one of the homes included in the tour. Visitors could see, first-hand, the custom home theatre, beautiful new kitchen, and spaces for outdoor entertaining. Also on the tour: Distinctive Remodeling's renovation of a mid-70's vintage split level. The addition to this home was inspired by the homeowner's desire to update the appearance of the house and add a luxurious master suite.

Sponsored by the Homebuilders Association of Raleigh/Wake County, the Remodeled Home Tour will donate a portion of the proceeds to Building Together Ministries. Building Together is a collaboration of Christians working together among Raleigh's low-resourced neighbors emphasizing education, social action, and reconciliation to promote the well being of individuals, families, and neighborhoods.

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Other new rooms added during the seven-month-long project include a fitness room, a home office,



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a wine service area, an expanded master bedroom with tray ceiling and exterior balcony, a large laundry and storage room, a new two-car garage, a multi-functional sunroom and screened-in porch, and a large "outdoor room" comprised of a beautiful stone patio, outdoor fireplace, and stairs with stone treads and wrought iron railings.

The entire project went very well, according to Beth, who says: "We had several companies look at the job and all the bids were in line, but we chose Distinctive Remodeling because we liked Eddie [Casanave] personally. He was always professional and stood behind his work. He always did what was right."

If you like the before-and-after pictures shown here, visit our web site for more makeover magic. [www.DistinctiveRemodeling.com/page/beforeafter](http://www.DistinctiveRemodeling.com/page/beforeafter)



before

**Team Members Attend International Builders' Show**



At Distinctive Remodeling, we're constantly looking for ways to stay ahead of the curve, whether that means using innovative technologies, creating cutting-edge designs, or educating clients about options they hadn't even considered. How do we do it? In part, by networking with other professionals and by attending various seminars and conferences.

Four members of our team had the opportunity to do just that in January when they went to Orlando, Florida for the 61st Annual Convention and Exposition for the National Association of Home Builders, called the International Builders' Show (IBS). "We brought back some great new ideas from the convention," says Eddie Casanave, Owner and General Manager of Distinctive Remodeling.

Attending the conference with Casanave was Production Manager Joe Gupton, Senior CAD Draftsman/Estimator Jamie Nicholson, and CAD Draftsman Jason Dodd. The Distinctive Remodeling representatives were joined by more than 90,000 other professionals from 95 countries worldwide.

The IBS featured approximately 1,600 exhibitors displaying the latest in home and building products and more than 200 educational programs covering issues ranging from housing and the economy and home financing to the latest design trends and ground-breaking technologies. Leading experts in the housing industry also were available to answer questions in daily news conferences.

The conference was held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando from January 13-16.

**New Products Added to Our Tool Kit**



Distinctive Remodeling is proud to announce that we are now an authorized dealer and certified installer of Durarail and Duradek.

Durarail, a "see-through" aluminum fence and rail system, is a unique and maintenance-free option for enclosing balconies and decks. Ideal for surrounding an area without obscuring the view, Durarail is also useful for keeping small children and pets safe when more traditional railings might not provide enough security.



Duradek is a new vinyl sheeting product for wooden decks and concrete surfaces. With wooden decking, we have found Duradek to be ideal on a two-tiered balcony, where the top level is an exposed wooden deck and the bottom level is a covered porch. By coating the top level with Duradek, the bottom level is given a waterproof "ceiling." The waterproofing capacity of Duradek is so great that porch furniture on the lower-level porch doesn't get wet when it rains.

With concrete surfaces, Duradek can be a real money-saver if concrete is damaged, cracked, or falling apart. For instance, rather than ripping up and replacing cracked concrete of a pool surround, we can fill in the damaged area, then cover with Duradek, effectively resurfacing the concrete. The resurfacing power of Duradek holds true for damaged concrete driveways, garage floors, and patios as well.

If you have any questions about how this exciting line of products can be used at your home, please contact our office by calling 919-772-3335 or visit [www.duradek.com](http://www.duradek.com).

**New Customers**

- Howard & Margaret Barnes
- Paul & Gayle Brustofski
- Allen & Vandinh Carriker
- Bruce & Jenny Elwell
- Steve & Anne Lloyd
- Jon & Sherry Shavor
- Joe & Suzette Sheets
- Kevin Campbell & Deborah Fisher
- Robert & Carroll Craven
- Bob & Kristen Greczyn
- Dwight & Janet Lewis
- Martin & Pat Bass
- Anthony & Beth Blackman
- Donna Byrd

**Repeat Customers**

- George & Karen Bednarz
- Joe & Sharon Colson
- Lee & Donna Jobe
- Andy & Susan Mullins
- Ralph & Gizelda Willard
- Michael & Becky Pezzoni