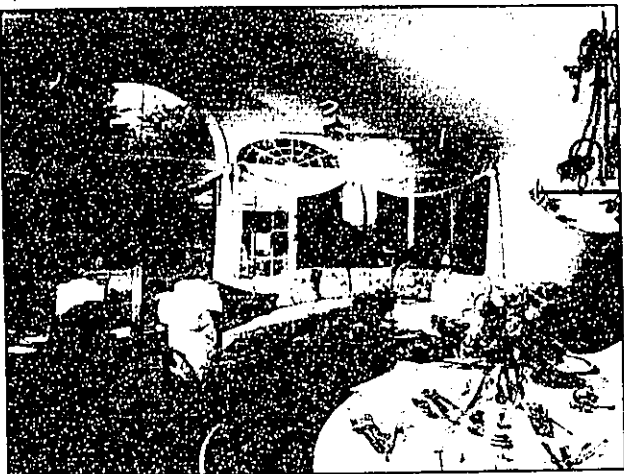


## LET'S REMODEL



GENE MEADOWS/NEWYER REMODELING

Careful planning: Working closely with a photographer will result in dramatic photos showing your remodeling to best effect.

# Simplicity is the key to good room photos

**Q:** My contractor just advised that he has arranged to submit pictures of our new kitchen/dining addition to a magazine for an awards. What are some things to keep in mind for the pictures when decorating? What should I expect?

**A:** There is no need to rush out and purchase additional decorations. In many instances, simplicity is really the key. It helps if the room is tidied up. During the actual shoot, the photographer may need to adjust or move furniture and accessories to achieve the desired look through the camera lens. Clutter makes that more difficult to accomplish.

First, the photographer will call and make an appointment to meet you and take a look at the kitchen. A professional stylist, who will bring flowers and props or decorations, may also attend if necessary. During this meeting the photographer will determine when is the best time to shoot and what type of equipment and accessories he will need to create a dramatic image.

Next, a date and time will be set up for the shoot. It is the responsibility of the photographer to coordinate between the homeowner, photographer, assistant and stylist. Once a date has been set, your cooperation in adhering to the schedule is appreciated. It can be difficult to rearrange all these schedules.

Finally, on the day or evening of the shoot, you don't need to dust or vacuum. However, be prepared for an invasion of a variety of lights, electrical cords, cameras, stands and equipment as well as the photographer, assistant,



stylist and perhaps your contractor. Each shot will take two to three hours to set up and shoot. Photographic equipment is expensive and the lights are very hot. It is best to keep small children and pets away from the area. During the shoot it may look like a war zone, but when finished, your kitchen will be cleaner than when the photographer first came in and you may be surprised by the striking photographic results!

Gene and Maureen Meadows, Meadows & Company, Birmingham, 810-435-0538.

If you have home improvement questions, call Gayle Walters at the Michigan Remodeling Association (MRA) at 810-335-3232 or send questions to "Let's Remodel," 2187 Orchard Lake Road, Suite 103, Sylvan Lake, MI 48320. Answers are provided by member of the MRA, the local chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI).

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