

SPRING HOME & GARDEN

# Extreme addition

Tulsa doctor realizes his hoop dream in a big way

By **BILL HAISTEN**  
Tulsa World

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — It's not uncommon for a guy to add a room to the house, but what Dr. Lloyd Hudson did would qualify as the most extreme of home makeovers.

"It's pretty cool," Hudson says of his project — the expansion of his south Tulsa home to include a 7,500-square-foot basketball facility.

The extensively appointed gymnasium is not attached to the house. It's in the house, which now measures at 10,500 square feet.

To sustain a temperature of 70 degrees throughout

the home and gym, Hudson says his monthly utility bill has tripled.

"This is my dream house," said Hudson, a 44-year-old oral surgeon who played high school basketball in Richardson, Texas. "It's my dream as a kid come true. I did it for my kids."

Scott Aneshansley, owner of Structure Construction Services and the designer of the Hudson gym, recalls his first discussion with Hudson.

"I went back to the office and thought, 'I've got to talk him out of this. It doesn't make any financial sense,'" Aneshansley

(See ADDITION on 7)



AP Photo/The Tulsa World, Adam Wisneski

**IN THIS** Feb. 17 photo, Dr. Lloyd Hudson (left center) coaches his son's eighth-grade basketball team inside his home basketball arena, in Tulsa, Okla. It's

not uncommon for a guy to add a room to the house, but what Hudson did would qualify as the most extreme of home makeovers. "It's pretty cool," Hudson says

of his project — the expansion of his south Tulsa home to include a 7,500-square-foot basketball facility. The house is 10,500 square feet.

## Make sure the DIY project doesn't turn into a disaster

PERRYSBURG — As homeowners nationwide deal with economic woes, many are trying to save money by attacking home improvement projects themselves.

All too often, a DIY project can turn into a disaster with homeowners placing a call to a professional handyman to finish the job. In some cases, home improvement projects are just better left to paid professionals.

"You hear horror stories about DIY projects where homeowners end up in the

hospital or projects end up worse than they began," said David Zyski.

"Many times, homeowners are better off calling in a professional who has all the tools, experience and skills to get the job done quickly and efficiently."

Mr. Handyman of Central Lucas and Northern Wood Counties offers homeowners some tips to consider before tackling that DIY project:

- **Cost:** Come up with a budget and understand that most home improvement

projects will cost 20 percent more than planned due to changes, time delays and unexpected expenses. Get at least one estimate from a contractor to get a professional's point of view. This research will put the project into perspective, and may help you determine if the job is better left to a professional.

- **Skills:** Do you have the ability and knowledge to take on the project? Discuss it with other home improvement professionals, or take a trip to your local hardware store to get

their input. Just because you think you can undertake the project successfully, doesn't mean you should. Not having the expertise could lead to additional costs and work.

- **Safety:** Your health and safety should be the No. 1 concern and you shouldn't risk these just to save money. Familiarize yourself with all the necessary tools and read instructions and manuals carefully before operating them. Be aware that older homes may contain hazardous materials and that walls

and floors are hiding dangerous things like wires and pipes.

- **Tools:** Determine which tools you need to get the job done. If you do not have a majority of the tools you need, the investment on tools alone may be more than hiring a professional. Also, don't skimp on the necessary tools. This could also cost you more time in the long run.

- **Time and convenience:** DIY projects often take more time than you anti-

ci- pate, so set aside enough time for mistakes and mishaps. Also, consider your own time when measuring the cost of DIY against hiring a professional.

(Mr. Handyman is a network of independently owned and operated franchises with 300 locations nationwide that provides commercial and residential property maintenance and repair services. For more information contact Zyski, Mr. Handyman at (419) 807-8340 or david.zyski@mrhandyman.com.)

## Open up the drapes and let the light shine in

By **CAROLE FELDMAN**  
Associated Press Writer

The days when people swapped out heavy velvet drapes for lighter, more translucent ones come spring are gone — window treatments are too expensive for many of us to have multiple sets of draperies.

But there are other ways to use your windows to mark the change of season.

"The obvious thing is to open the treatments and let the light shine in," said Steven Schiff, owner of Dynamic Draperies, in Delaware.

Here are some other tips:

- **Clean.**

Wash your windows to remove winter's grime, said Meghan Carter, who runs the Web site AskTheDecorator.com. She prefers mild soap and water to the ammonia-based glass cleaners.

Clean windows on a cloudy day or when they're in the shade, starting from the top and using a damp squeegee blade to wipe off cleaner, Consumer Reports advised.

Clean the window coverings, too.

For curtains and drapes, use a soft brush or dusting attachment to a vacuum cleaner. "Set on reduced suction to prevent fabric from being drawn into the nozzle," the magazine

said.

Screens also should be cleaned. And consider choosing one of the newer screening materials that might give a clearer view.

- **Consider switching to lighter window treatments.**

Fabrics help determine the feel of a room. If you have storage space, heavy, dark drapes can be taken down for spring and summer and stored. Put them on a "nice round fat hanger," said Oma Ford, senior deputy editor for home design at Better Homes and Gardens.

While it can cost \$4,000 or more to outfit a house with custom-made window treatments, Ford said ready-made curtain panels

can be much less expensive for those who want to swap out drapes in the spring.

And she suggests thinking outside the window box.

"Consider using a lightweight bedspread or tablecloth," she said. They can be attached to a rod with clip rings. "You might be able to find some fun patterns," she said.

For kitchens and bathrooms, cloth napkin squares hung on a tension rod with clip rings can create "a fun, no commitment style statement," Ford said.

- **Or, if you want to keep your drapes up all year, consider:**

Layering window treatments is one way to make them work all year. Sheers, blinds or shades layered underneath those heavy drapes will let light in yet still provide privacy.

Ford likes the "tropical feel" of shades made from bamboo or woven natural material.

Fabrics in lighter colors will produce a "little more springy feeling," she said, because they reflect the light that comes into the room.

Carter recommends staying away from thick heavy fabrics in dark shades. A neutral color in a mid-range fabric "gives you a little coziness while still being kind of fresh," she said.

- **Think practical.** Function should be the first thing to consider when picking fabrics for window treatments, said Schiff, who has been in the fabric and window treatment business for more than 35 years. Is the drapery supposed to provide privacy? Cut down on bright sunlight?

"Each solution has its choice of fabrics," said Schiff, who lives in Newark, Del. "If all you need to do is diffuse rays

of sunlight, you can use almost anything."

Today's windows provide more insulation than in the past. And even if you live in an old house and haven't replaced the windows, storm windows provide some insulation. "There really isn't the need for the heavy, insulated, velvet draperies like grandma used to have," Schiff said. "From an energy point of view, draperies are a piece of the puzzle, but not a major piece."

- **Decorate around the windows.**

"Moving plants near windows gives more of a sense of bringing the outside inside," said Schiff. It doesn't matter whether the plants are in the house or outside, or whether they are real or artificial.

"It's a great way to freshen and put a spring uptick to a house," he said.

Mirrors also can add light to a room by reflecting the natural light from the windows. "I wouldn't recommend that people slap a mirror up just anywhere," Ford said. "If it feels like there's a window missing, that might be a good place to put a mirror."

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