

BUILDER

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ANNUAL RENOVATION ISSUE

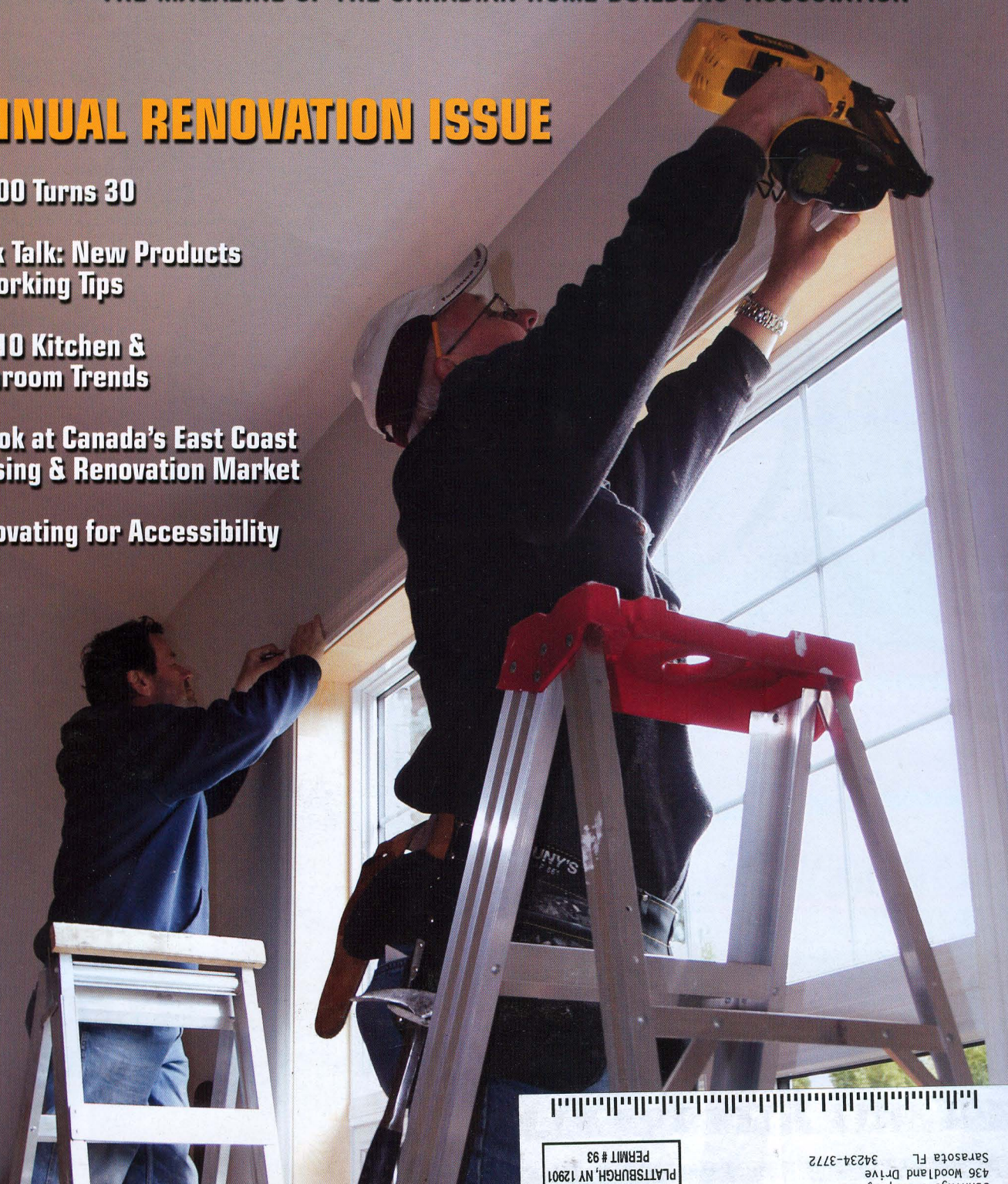
R2000 Turns 30

Deck Talk: New Products & Working Tips

Top 10 Kitchen & Bathroom Trends

A Look at Canada's East Coast Housing & Renovation Market

Renovating for Accessibility



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Hot or Not?

TOP 10 KITCHEN & BATH TRENDS



THINK GLASS

More than 350 National Kitchen & Bath Association member designers took part in the 2012 NKBA Design Trends Survey to cite the materials, product types, and styles they incorporated into their kitchen and bath designs over the final three months of 2011. While broad trends won't be evident in every local market, the following are 10 overall trends for kitchens and baths across the United States and Canada.

Glass Backsplashes

Natural stone tile and ceramic tile (including porcelain) remain the most popular material for backsplashes, although ceramic tile is on the decline. Glass, still a niche material for kitchen countertops, has been used recently by more than half of kitchen designers as a backsplash material. Other popular backsplash materials are granite and quartz; finishing off a granite or quartz countertop with a matching backsplash is quite common. The same doesn't hold true for solid surfaces; while these materials are very popular for countertops, they are seldom used for backsplashes. *Photo courtesy of Think Glass.*

Wood Wars

Cherry wood has consistently been the first or second most popular type of wood for kitchen cabinetry, jockeying for the top spot with maple each year, however, designers are slowly shifting away from both. No one other wood species is taking that market share as it

own. Instead, a number of lesser-used woods are being specified more often, including oak, walnut, alder, birch, and bamboo. *Photo courtesy of Wellborn Cabinet, Inc.*

Dark, White & Distressed

Natural kitchen cabinetry continues a steady move toward darker finishes. Among painted cabinetry, white continues to be the most popular option. Another trend to note is that distressed finishes are making a comeback. *Photo courtesy of Poggenpohl.*

LED Lighting

Energy-efficiency is clearly not a fad, but a real trend that can be seen taking hold in homes across the United States and Canada. Despite the higher initial cost, light-emitting diode, or LED, lighting is proof of this trend. However, largely due to the poor colour of the light they produce, and the mercury they contain, compact fluorescent lights (CFLs) aren't showing in this trend. *Photo courtesy of Lutron.*



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Medicine Cabinets

The tried-and-true medicine cabinet had been swept aside in bathroom remodels over the past several years, replaced by decorative wall mirrors. However, as homeowners look for more efficient use of space, most designers are now turning toward medicine cabinets as an effective way to gain additional storage without having to increase the footprint of a room, attenuating the need for separate shelving, cabinetry, or other storage options. *Photo courtesy of Nutone.*