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The NARI Home Improvement Show provides inspiration and guidance to homeowners

By **Jill Sell**

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"I'll tell you what drives me bananas," said John Hall, owner of Hall Design Group in Beachwood. "You know those little 3-inch by 6-inch subway tiles? They are meant to go on a wall horizontally, not vertically. Vertically ruins the integrity of the design. You see it sometimes and it's just someone who wants to be different. Originality is good, but not at the cost of good design."

(Rectangular subway tiles were inspired by the ceramic tiles used on the walls of the New York City Subway System that opened in 1904.)

Hall, a 30-year veteran of the design industry, has a reputation for being true to the good bones of design, and it shows in the kitchens, bathrooms, basements and other areas he creates. An educator at heart, Hall is conducting several presentations on the Interior Design Stage at the 2016 NARI (National Association of the Remodeling Industry) Home Improvement Show today and tomorrow. His topics include: 25 Design Tips to a Perfect Kitchen; Living in Luxury – Today's Baths and Spas; and Where Do I Begin.

"I want people to relax, to take a deep breath and to know there are tools out there to help them. Remodeling doesn't have to be an overwhelming process," said Hall, who offers practical help, including a pricing tool to help homeowners stay on budget and classes for homeowners that are a real bargain.

Hall believes many consumers underestimate the time, price and complexity of a remodeling project. And that can cause serious problems. As a professional designer, he wants his clients to make good decisions and have the remodel they want. And that means, even though he personally favors "a true European contemporary kitchen," that he can help homeowners create the Arts and Crafts or French country kitchen that they want.

"Europeans are ahead of Americans in terms of storage and technical options," said Hall. "Their philosophy is elegance through simplicity. There isn't a lot of color on European kitchen walls. They let beautiful cabinetry tell the story."

(Sarah Binder, president of NARI Greater Cleveland, reports that kitchens are still the number one remodeling project with bathrooms a close second.)

Another local company, Designs by DesAnn, is also sharing the show's Interior Design Stage and will present Decorating on A Dime.

Main Stage seminars include: Getting the Best Value for Your Remodeling Project (presented by Hurst Design-Build-Remodeling), Suburban Beekeeping (Greater Cleveland Beekeepers Association); 10 Things You Can Do to Make Your Home Look Professionally Landscaped (Land Creations Landscaping); Cleveland's Urban Farming by Ohio City Farm; Constructing a Home Garden; and Fun and Flashy Dog Obedience Tips and Tricks (Sit Means Sit).

Other show highlights include:

Chip Wade, star of HGTV's Elbow Room, makes an appearance today. Wade is the host, designer and executive producer of the television series, which shows viewers how to customize spaces.

The Outdoor Urban Living feature spotlights three outdoor living areas that include a cooking area, complementary plants and decorative outdoor cedar elements that define the space. The feature serves as a gateway to the Urban Farming Pavilion. There, show-goers will learn about a number of ways to turn a back yard into an urban farm.

"She sheds" are small backyard retreats designed with women in mind. They can look like ordinary potting sheds or storage buildings on the exterior, but be luxurious spaces inside. A number of she sheds will be on display at the show, provided by Land Creations Landscaping, Paradise Renovation & Repair, Storage Buildings Unlimited and Absolute Roofing and Construction.

High school students in the construction trades at Polaris Career Center have created 17 custom made birdhouses that will be exhibited. The birdhouses will be raffled off with proceeds earmarked for the Cleveland Animal Protective League.

The project is sponsored by NARI Greater Cleveland's Mentorship Program.

Admission to The National Pool and Spa Show at the I-X Center is included. Above ground pools, spas, hot tubs and saunas are featured.

The 35th Annual NARI Home Improvement Show

When:

10 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturday, January 23

10 a.m.—5 p.m., Sunday January 24

Where: I-X Center, 6200 Riverside Dr.

Admission: \$14 adults; free 16 and under; seniors 62 and over and all military receive half-price admission Thursday only; women receive half price Friday until 2 p.m.

Discounts: \$3 discount tickets available at www.narihomeshow.com, Drug Mart and Sherwin-Williams stores

"Remodeling doesn't have to be an overwhelming process." – John Hall, owner, Hall Design Group

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