

# HOME & DESIGN SOURCEBOOK

WASHINGTON • MARYLAND • VIRGINIA

*The Ultimate Resource  
Guide for Luxury Design  
and Fine Interiors*



\$6.95US \$7.95CAN

9 1 >



DISPLAY UNTIL JANUARY 12, 2009

# At a Glance

For Carol & John McDonnell, selecting reclaimed wood flooring for their rustic carriage house-inspired guest home designed by GTM Architects was an obvious choice.

“We chose salvaged flooring to give it a feeling of authenticity and to evoke a sense of history,” says Carol McDonnell. These particular planks, supplied by Vintage Lumber, came from old barns with beams that were skip-planed to give them a rough-hewn appearance. The couple was pleased to discover their flooring selection was not only full of character, but was durable as well. The aged wood’s tighter grain allows it to withstand the rigors of everyday life, even for families with kids and pets. The couple installed similar planks throughout their main home, too. However, they opted for a lighter stain for a more elegant look.

“We chose to use reclaimed wood flooring because it is more environmentally friendly than using newly harvested wood floors,” adds McDonnell. —Kelli Rosen



## TIPS for Selecting Reclaimed Planks

- Know the terminology: Planks may be labeled salvaged, reclaimed, recycled or antique.
- Materials are available in various grades of wear.
- Maintenance is low; McDonnell uses a microfiber broom or a mop with just a tad of Murphy’s Oil Soap to clean her floors.
- Locally salvaged wood is less expensive and better for the environment because of lower transportation costs and energy.
- Planks tend to be irregularly sized and wide.
- Look at heartwood content, or the amount of vertical grain. Tightness translates to durability, so eight to 15 growth rings per square inch is ideal.
- Evaluate knots, nail holes and cracks to ensure stability.
- Experiment with different stains for various looks.
- If you prefer new wood but are still concerned about the environment, look for Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification to ensure that the flooring meets environmentally friendly standards.





PHOTOS © KENNETH M. WYNER

# At a Glance

Organization is key for a Great Falls homeowner who needed space dedicated to keeping her busy family of five in order.

So when it came to time for SGT Architects to remodel her home, she insisted on a well-planned mudroom with plenty of nooks and crannies to keep her family clear of chaos. “I wanted a space where everyone could easily find and put away everything they needed when heading out of or into the house,” she says. “The mudroom is probably the hardest-working room in our home.”

Including such a space in your home will keep the kitchen table free of jackets, backpacks and newspapers, and if you are a stickler for creating a place for everything, then even your youngest kids can contribute to family orderliness. As this homeowner says, “I credit the mudroom with keeping us organized, helping my children be independent, and saving us lots of time and tears in the morning.”

—Kelli Rosen



## TIPS for Organizing a Mudroom

- Install open lockers with hooks for coats and backpacks. Make them wide enough to accommodate sports equipment.
- Include slots above each locker for hats, gloves and scarves.
- Place pull-out baskets below for shoes.
- Arrange a mail-sorting center for bills and newspapers.
- Don't forget an area for recycling junk mail.
- Build a desk with a basket on top for keys and a caddy to charge electronics.
- Hang a bulletin board for invitations and school memos.
- Include a space for pet beds, toys and a nook for food and water bowls.
- Consider a bench or window seat so kids can sit to put on or take off shoes and boots.
- Install durable flooring, like slate, for this high-traffic area.



