

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

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A Californian Bohemian Rhapsody

Charlotte's
Contemporary
ART SCENE

When your KITCHEN needs a FACELIFT

In this economy, as more homeowners make the decision to stay in their homes and remodel, real estate professionals advise them to start in the kitchen, where the average return on investment for a kitchen remodel is between 80 and 95 percent.

Today's average kitchen remodel costs between \$40,000 and \$50,000, but there is a way to have quality and affordability. If you are happy with your kitchen's basic layout, and the cabinets themselves are still in good condition, cabinet re-facing could give you a high-end look for less.

"Re-facing the cabinets with top quality wood adds value to the home, whether you are staying or selling," says Paul Brese, owner of American Wood Reface in Charlotte. He explains that cabinet re-facing involves replacing cabinet doors, drawer fronts, and all moldings. All the end panels, bottom of cabinets and frames are covered with quarter-inch furniture grade plywood. The Amish-made doors are attached with a European hidden adjustable hinge. Every door gets a soft close feature.

"We can build custom cabinetry, or add glass doors," says Paul. "The customer can also select upgrades, like adding a Lazy Susan, trash bin, or wine rack."

While many re-facing companies use a thin veneer, American Wood Reface utilizes only the finest select grade woods and superior quarter-inch solid wood facing. Their solid wood products are guaranteed for the lifetime of your kitchen, as long as you own your home.

Once the project is decided upon, it takes 30 days to fashion the materials in the company's facility. When the materials arrive, installation takes two to three days; the

kitchen isn't ever out of commission during the process. At the end of the day, everything is cleaned up and out of the way.

American Wood Reface's quality craftsmanship made the difference to Becky Betts and her husband Jim, a real estate agent in Charlotte, who recently used Paul's company to re-face their kitchen cabinets.

"Other companies use thin, almost plastic-like doors," says Becky. "American Wood Reface's doors are solid wood and the hinge they use is much superior."

Becky said the process of cabinet re-facing with American Wood Reface was quick and easy. "We didn't change the layout, but we did enhance it – it's light years better now," she says.

Becky and Jim's kitchen re-face included new countertops and appliances. Paul built a custom bookcase that he added to the back of their existing island, giving Becky room for her cookbooks. Their new custom kitchen took a total of five days including countertop and appliance installation, but Becky says she was only without her kitchen for two days.

"Paul is a true artist," she says. "I come from a family of masons; my father was a stone cutter and my mother specialized in furniture restoration, so I know good quality when I see it. If something didn't look exactly right to Paul, he made it right; I didn't have to ask him. It was nice to work with someone who goes the extra mile." ❖

For information or a free in-home consultation, call American Wood Reface at 704-577-2948. Visit them online at woodreface.com.

