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Your ONE-STOP Solution for Distinctive Home Interiors

Family Matters

Late this summer our daughter Tellie and youngest grandson, Grant, escorted our oldest grandson (Andrew) to Iowa while the middle grandson, Zachary, was on a church mission with their dad to New York City.

Future ESPN Sportscaster?

Andrew was attending a week-long sports writing camp at the University of Iowa, in Iowa City, chasing his dream of being a sportscaster or writer.

One of the final assignments for the group was to write an article about a specific University of Iowa athlete. Andrew's article, about a current University of Iowa wrestler was chosen by the instructor to be published in the local newspaper that week.

Boy were Nana and Papa proud!

Cousin Grant was a Big Hit!

While Andrew was at sports writing camp, our daughter Tellie and youngest grandson Grant were able to see friends and relatives in Iowa. Grant was a big hit with his younger cousins, as you can see from these pictures.



Grant helping Molli & Maddyn color.



Molli & Grant on a Camel at the Zoo.

Zachary's Mission to New York City

We've been heartened by our daughter and son-in-law raising our grandsons in a Christian environment.

The recent outreach mission to NYC done by our middle grandson Zachary and his father in conjunction with their church was an eye-opening experience for Zachary.

As he told my husband, "It definitely took me out of my comfort zone."



Betty Jones

Until Next Month,

Molli & Maddyn's Memo

We sure had fun at the farm with Grandpa Gene and Grandma (Mommy's parents).

We got to pick crops, pet the farm animals and ride on a tractor.

We're not sure if we could do any of that in Arizona with Nana & Papa.

**Molli & Maddyn
Nana's granddaughters**

What Our Clients Are Saying

We were so glad we found Interior Expressions to help us organize and manage our remodel. They helped us to refine our design ideas and make them a reality. They're wide ranging knowledge, access to products and connections to proven contractors was a real time saver. We highly recommend their services. Cheri and Brian Baird

Remember Our REFER-A-FRIEND REWARDS Program \$250 Visa Card to You and \$250 Visa Card to Them

Not All Cabinets Are Created Equal

We've been doing cabinets since the day we opened our first brick & mortar store in 2004. Until 2013 all the cabinets we sold were made by local woodworkers.

An Unusual Bunch

Based on our experience, woodworkers must have saw dust on the brain. While they may be great artisans with what they do with wood, we've found them to be not too good of business people.

There is not enough space in this newsletter and the next 3 issues to tell you about all the horror stories we experienced with various wood workers over the years.

Factory Cabinets or Bust

Once we found our current Custom Woodworker we quickly realized if we gave him a good sized order, like a kitchen, it would consume his capacity for a month or more. Putting our other 'built-in' projects far off. This didn't work for us or our clients.

So, the solution was to find a factory built cabinet line who could do the 'big' jobs, like kitchens, and let our local cabinet maker do the smaller jobs like built-ins, dining tables & chairs, cocktail tables, bookcases and such.

This combination has worked out great.

Expanded Showroom

When we committed to expanding our showroom in 2013 it was expressly to be able to display factory cabinets and counter, flooring and backsplash options offered. That expansion, and the associated product we can display, has taken our business to a new level.

What We've Learned (in no particular order)

- ◆ Factory finishes are superior to custom woodworker finishes. (see adjacent page image)
- ◆ Soft-Close hinges and Soft-Close undermount full-extension drawer glides are a must.
- ◆ Wood is still wood. It WILL expand and contract.
- ◆ Hardwood dovetailed drawers are the only way to go. Everything else you'll be disappointed with.
- ◆ Plywood, or mostly plywood boxes are preferred, but today's furniture board can work for certain parts of the cabinet.
- ◆ Installation is key. A poor installation will ruin a great cabinet or design. Yes, just about anyone *can* install cabinets. But it takes an expert to do it right.
- ◆ There are many great organizing devices (see page 4)



Doors and drawers can either Overlay the face frame or be Inset inside the face frame. Inset style is much tougher to install to avoid inconsistent gaps between the door/drawer and the face frame.

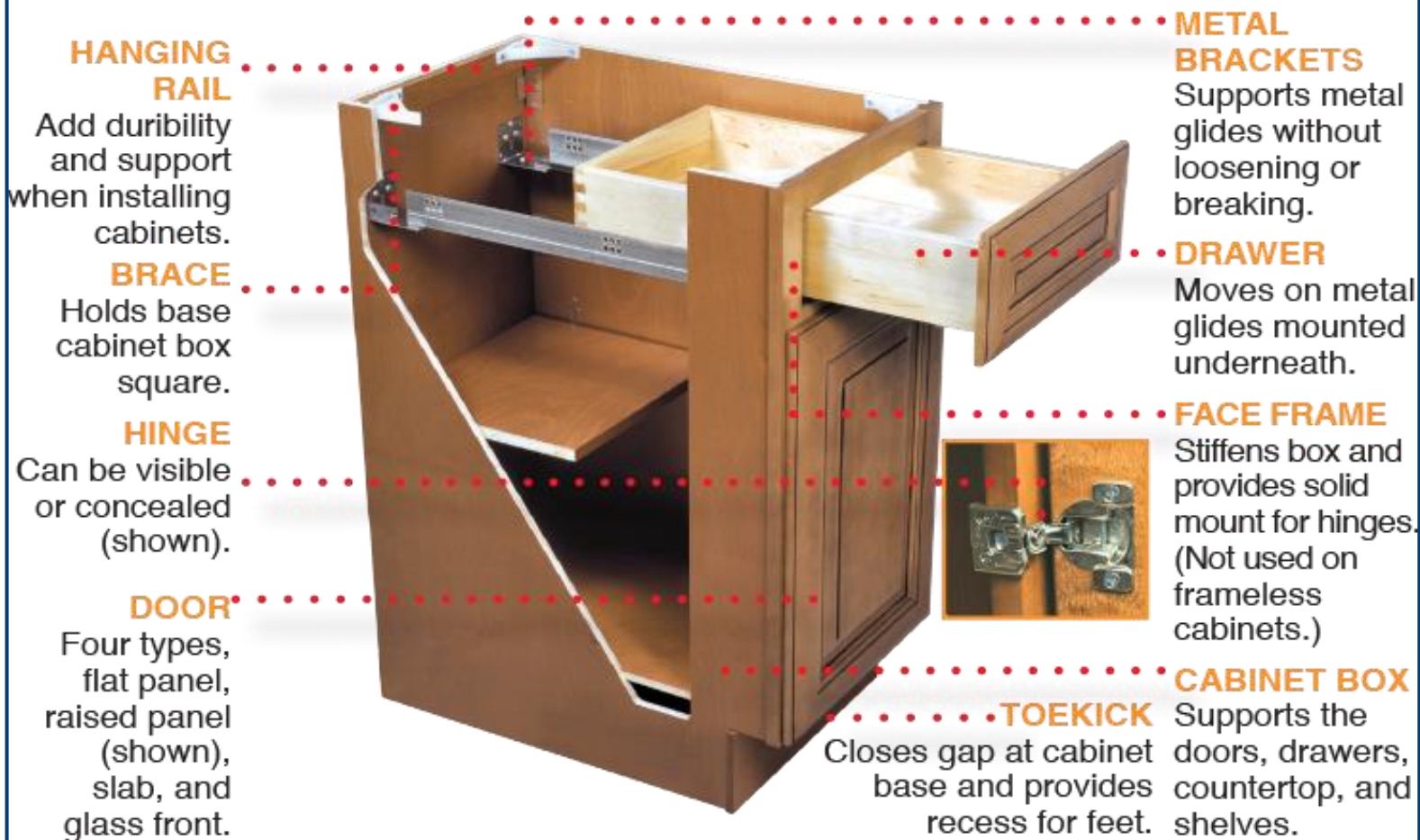
Inset cabinets also have less depth for storage because the door & drawer take up 3/4" of the inside depth. This is an issue for storing larger platters or baking/cooking items. It costs extra to get a deeper cabinet for the same storage space.



The Devil is in the Details

A successful kitchen or bath remodel involves many details to be considered and decided. Things most homeowners wouldn't even think about until it's too late.

Example: Is there anything you can't store in your kitchen which you wish you could? Like a mixer or some other appliance?



BASIC CABINET CONSTRUCTION

PRO TIP: Don't forget to think about shelf depth. Half to 2/3 depth is often standard. You'll pay a bit more if you want full depth shelves.

First, make sure your cabinets have a finish that will last.

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO KNOW



A very durable finish is an oven-cured catalyzed conversion varnish top coat. It provides a clear, non-yellowing, chemically-resistant finish. The finish is smooth and has a pleasing sheen.



The least durable top coats are lacquer and catalyzed lacquer. Just a few years after lacquer-finished cabinets are installed, the area around the pulls and knobs develop a tacky, dark color. That is the lacquer wearing down from everyday handling and exposure to water (sink), detergents, chemicals, and steam (coffee maker and dishwasher). Lacquers also yellow over time. This does not happen with a catalyzed conversion varnish.

The Variables of Wood

Each wood specie has marked differences in grain pattern and color. Even in wood milled from one tree, you will see differences in grain pattern and color from piece to piece.

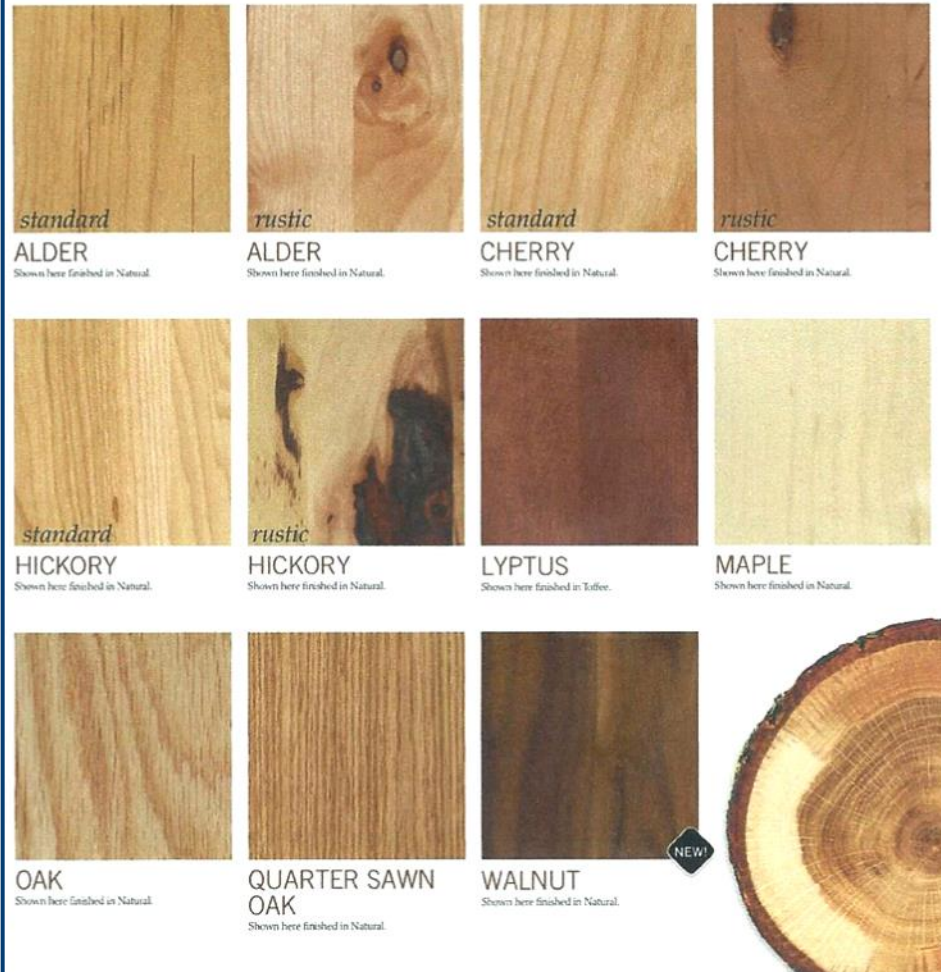
This is one reason people love wood cabinets, the variation of nature.

Artisans hand apply each finish, which naturally gives rise to variation. Each door profile accepts stains and glazes in its own way too.

Pro Tip

Make sure to request a door sample of your final selection, versus relying on just a chip sample.

It's worth the few weeks wait to be sure the door style, finish, glazing and/or distressing you *think* you want is really what will help create your dream kitchen, bath, office or whatever.



Many cabinet organizers can be added to existing cabinets.

Give us a call if you want to explore options for your kitchen.

There are literally hundreds of cabinet organizing devices and systems, depending on your needs.

