

bringing the basement to...

a HIGHER level

Strasburg, PA



by **Eric Weaver**
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Remodeling a basement is not only adding value to your home but is a great family investment as well. Whether it's a kids' playroom, home theater or entertainment space for you and your friends, the only limit is your imagination. Basements don't have to be dark and dingy and only used for storing boxes. Develop the space to enhance the quality of family time and make it

an inviting place that will make your kids want to stay home and be the popular place to be for those teens who want to "hang out". Through vision and design, an underutilized basement is easily brought to life with new purpose and a place you'll be eager to spend time in.

Before getting started – go outside. Before any kind of finished work is done to a basement, make sure there are no water or drainage issues that could cause

future damage. For the interior, look for standing water on the floor or moisture on the walls that is wet to the touch. In most cases this is a result of the exterior drainage. An outside inspection of the exterior walls is a must. Make sure the ground is sloped away from the foundation walls and that the downspouts are connected and diverted at least 10' from the foundation.

Looking for some ideas for transforming your basement?

Here are a few of the more popular ones.

Bar Area – let's get this party started! Basement bars can make gatherings more enjoyable by eliminating the need to repeatedly go up and down the steps. The bar can be designed as a pub style or more family-friendly with a kitchenette feel. Super Bowl party, New Year's Eve gathering, birthday parties... think of the possibilities. Functionality is always important. Installing a sink or dishwasher is simple by adding a pump leading into your existing waste line and will make for easy clean-up after entertaining. A microwave is ideal for the quick popcorn snack. Building the microwave into the cabinet area tucks the microwave under the counter where it's out of sight and frees counter space. Small refrigerators are great inexpensive options for that quick drink to go with the movie popcorn. For a family that needs more seating or wants to incorporate a sitting bar, a great option would be to create a bar behind the main sofa /media area. This will give you an area to eat or entertain while still being able to catch all the action on the big screen. Bar areas can be creative and fun with colorful pendant lights,

unique patterned countertops and tile work. A good design/build contractor will help you think outside the box and make your bar area a conversation piece on its own.

Home Theater – a sound decision. For the movie enthusiast, the typical main floor family room and TV just doesn't cut it. To get the full effect of your favorite movie or TV series you desire a special place in the basement with the right components to provide the ultimate in surround sound and viewing experience. Basements are ideal for movie viewing as they're typically a darker area void of the glares from natural light. Purchasing a new television and unsure of what to do? Large flat screen TV or maybe a projector? Before you spend the money on a 65-inch flat panel HDTV you found on sale, make sure there's enough room in your basement design. There are guidelines for optimal viewing distances. Rule of thumb is the seating area not to be any closer than 3 times the height of the screen. It's wise to work with a professional when incorporating surround sound components and smart remotes, but you don't have to break the bank when it comes to this. Innovative technology allows you to get big sound in small packages. Your basement movie theater can enhance your movie watching experience and is something that can be enjoyed by all ages. Kids love watching cartoons and gaming on the big screen too. Today's video games involve actual physical activity, not just fiddling with a joystick, so be aware of space needed for optimal performance.

Kids' Play Area – go to your room! What's better than a room designated for play that doesn't affect your everyday living space? When you have unexpected company just close the basement door and save yourself the embarrassment. Today's technology allows cameras to easily be installed for checking on those children who are independent at play and can easily be monitored from a smartphone or TV device

FEATURE



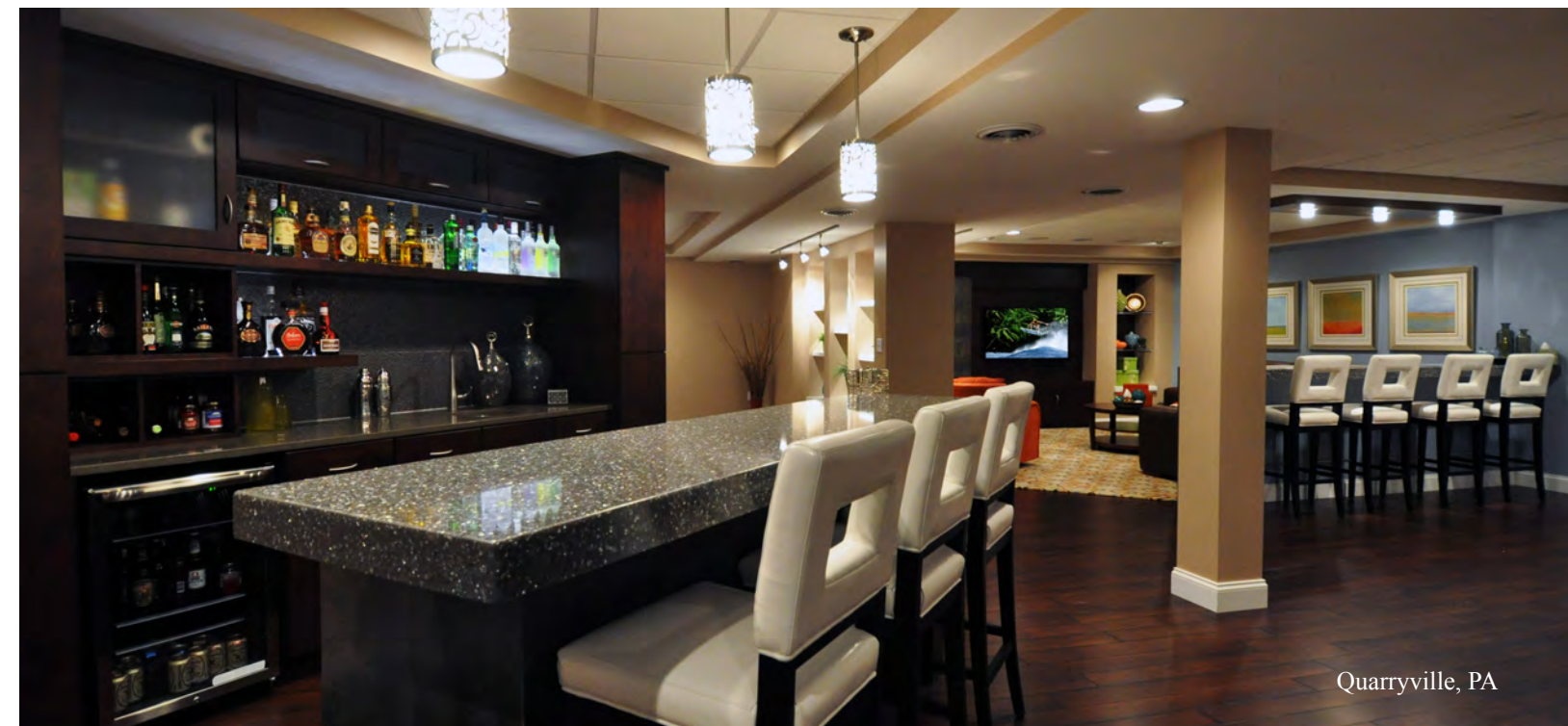
Pinnacle Building & Design Inc has been providing high quality remodeling projects for over 15 years. Family owned and operated, Pinnacle has been a reputable leader in the industry early-on. We're both honored and humbled by the many awards we've won as a company, including the BIA Remodeling Awards of Excellence and voted among the Best of Lancaster County by Lancaster County Magazine. We are proud of our accomplishments, but it is our repeat customers and the word of mouth referred customers who speak volumes about our services.

Our focus on space planning with innovative design is what sets Pinnacle apart from others. Our free 3D designs allow customers to practically step into their project before a hammer is lifted. Our designers are with you from concept to completion and often aid in the selections process. We hold our subcontractors and material suppliers to a level of quality we would expect in our own home.

Pinnacle believes in the importance of family and realize a home remodel will be a reflection of your family's personality and values, so it is with great commitment we put our efforts in developing a space that is comfortable and meets your needs. Visit our website www.Pinnaclepro.biz and like us on Facebook. Contact us at 295-9626 to schedule a free consultation and estimate.



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on another level of the home. When entertaining on the main level of your home, you have the option to send the children to the basement giving them their own space to be active without interrupting the party.

Spare Bedroom – will they ever leave? Do you often have family visiting from out of town or have friends that want to stay the night? Having a spare bedroom located in the basement is ideal, creating privacy and a home away from home. A Jack and Jill style bathroom will give your guest an area to freshen up and still have privacy. The only problem will be getting them to leave. If you incorporate a bedroom into your plan, township regulations require the room to be on an outside wall in order to accommodate an egress (escape) window providing a way out in case of an emergency. There are many options available, skip the corrugated metal and go for a more appealing faux-stone material. Grates or plastic covers top the well so that people can't fall in, but can be easily removed by a young child to ensure emergency egress.



Basement Home Office – get to work! The basement might be the best place for your home office. This area is mostly secluded and quiet; think of all the work you will get done! Not for you? Create homework stations for the students in your family that can also double as arts and crafts areas. Individual desks and work stations with all the proper equipment organized at one spot will give no reason that their homework isn't getting done. It is vital to create a bright work space. Proper lighting is the key to staying productive. Also plan on extra outlets. With all the modern electronics in our lives these days comes the need for more electrical outlets and charging stations. Networking is another area to think about before you cover the walls with drywall. Most items now days are Wi-Fi but if you want to hard wire a network cable now is the time to do so.



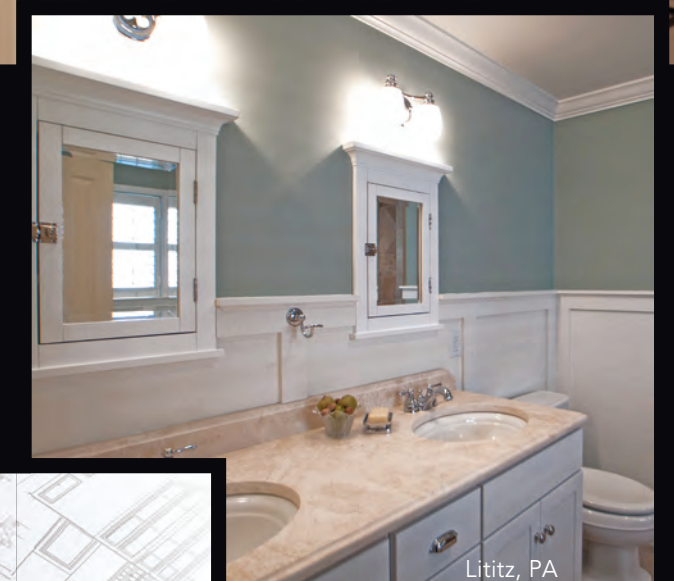
Bathroom – the necessary room? Basement bathrooms can add comfort and convenience to a home. Efficient and trouble-free sewage ejection systems are the answer to installing a complete bathroom, laundry room or shower in your basement. Is the necessary room necessary? If your basement will serve as a space for entertaining, you may only need a powder room instead of a full bathroom; however, if your basement will include a bedroom, a full bath is a good idea. Just because a bathroom is in the basement doesn't mean the bath can't be as luxurious as one upstairs. A walk-in shower with jets and a custom cabinet with granite tops will make anyone feel like they're in a penthouse suite, not the basement.

Game Room –cue it up! Countless hours of fun can happen with friends and family in your basement game room. It's the part of the house where you can encourage crazy high-energy fun without risking breakables or being too loud. Always have a master plan when designing this area. Make sure you leave enough space to have a functional game room. Billiards, air hockey, foosball, and ping pong

Kitchens & Baths



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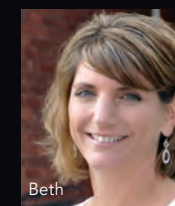
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Eric



Beth



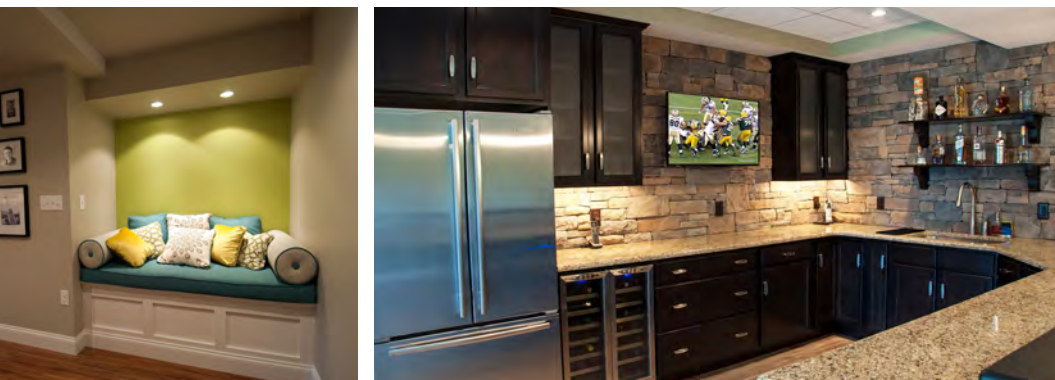
Jason

What you can expect from us

- We will listen
- We will guide you with selections
- We will personally manage your project
- We will be on site

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are all great family fun and there are some guidelines to consider if you wish to have them in your basement. For instance, when you have an 8' pool table you want to have a minimum area of 12' x 16' depending on the cue stick size.

Exercise Area – work it out. Most people who cancel their gym memberships do so simply because they just don't get there. With a home gym there's no excuse. When developing a gym design in the basement it's all about creating an open space you want to be in. Most homeowners don't want to be confined to a closed room to work out. Let's face it, it's hard enough to maintain a workout routine, let alone feel claustrophobic while doing it. Even if you're only going to have a treadmill and a couple of free-weights, it's nice to be able to view other parts of the basement. Ideally a TV in the area will help keep your mind distracted from the countdown clock on the treadmill. Decide how much space you need to meet your fitness needs and choose the workout gear and machinery before you remodel your space. This will answer if you need a separate room or just a designated corner. Flooring is important. You can utilize carpet used in the rest of the basement, but if space allows, a commercial grade carpet in that area would be more durable. Rubber mats or rubber flooring is a great application in this space. To replicate the local gym, keep the room bright, incorporate fans, and apply mirrors to walls. Now go work up a sweat!

The lowest floor of your home probably has loads of potential to incorporate one or more of the above ideas. Treat it just as you would any of the rooms above ground and it might just become the most popular spot in the house—for a lot less cash than adding on. Consider bringing that basement to a higher level of living.

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