

ceilings

the forgotten surface

Cathedral ceiling with stained barn siding.



by **Jared Erb**
Designer
Custom Home Group, Inc.

The ceiling is often a forgotten surface in an addition or renovation. During the design process, clients tend to focus on items such as cabinetry, flooring, paint color and hardware, while paying little attention to the canvas above them. A ceiling has the potential to make a dramatic statement in any space. It can set the mood, provide natural light or offer a surprising visual to those entering the room. As your budget allows, take some time to consider these creative ways to accentuate your ceilings.

One simple, yet very effective element that draws attention and opens up a room is a Cathedral Ceiling. Cathedral ceilings are defined by a center peak that mirrors a main roof line and slopes

All Photos by Jeremy Hess Photographers/JH



1302 Lancaster Pike • Quarryville

717.284.4090

www.customhomegroup.com

Custom Home Group is a Design/Build company that is passionate about providing their clients with remarkable custom design and quality craftsmanship—regardless of their budget. By joining design and construction into one smooth process they are able to seamlessly transition from concept to structure. Custom Home Group has developed a reputation for satisfying their clients by treating each home as if it is their own.

down to the side walls. The overall height of the ceiling will depend on the height of your outside roof peak. Cathedral ceilings provide a great deal of height and volume to any room. They can allow for higher windows on the gable (end) wall or the option for a center fireplace with stone veneer or brick extending to the peak. Beams can also be incorporated about 4 or 6 feet from the peak to create a cozy visual appeal. Details such as

barn siding or tongue-and-groove wood can be utilized to add interest and texture. If you are adding a Great Room, Kitchen or Sunroom to the rear of your home, a cathedral ceiling might be an excellent choice.

Another possibility to consider is a Tray Ceiling. Tray ceilings have an outside border, typically anywhere from 12 to 24 inches wide, that wraps around the perimeter of

Tray ceiling with crown molding and rope lighting above.





Larry and Debbie Rigler
Jeremy Hess Photography/JH

"For years we discussed if we should move or build a new house, but in the end, we had a hand-crafted timber framed sitting room that we love and couldn't leave behind. It's where we entertain family and friends and it's one of the many places that we fell in love. Custom Home Group knew how to put our minds at ease. The plans for an addition that Custom Home Group presented to us had an amazing kitchen and living space built from the ground up around our favorite room. They took the time to work with us and carried our sense of style, along with design cues from the timber sitting room, throughout all of the new construction. Custom Home Group's professional expertise allowed them to be our designers, builders and now... our friends."



How did it all come together?

Visit www.customhomegroup.com/Rigler to learn the rest of their story

1302 Lancaster Pike Quarryville, PA 17566 717-284-4090
www.customhomegroup.com

the room. The center section is then raised 8 to 12 inches higher than the perimeter. The advantage of a tray ceiling is that it can be added to almost any existing room. They can also be easily accented with lighting. For example, in a bedroom, the addition of low voltage rope lighting provides the perfect mood—very pristine, very romantic.

Next, a Coffered Ceiling is a rectangular or square grid patterned soffit within the ceiling. If you are working with an existing ceiling you can frame down the soffit and cover it with drywall or millwork. With coffered ceilings there are endless possibilities for creativity using material and color inside and outside your chosen pattern. For instance, the recessed panels can be painted an accent color with a solid paint or a faux finish. Paint can easily be changed, so go ahead and try something bold. You can also try adding crown molding in the recessed areas for further elegance, smooth drywall to produce a cleaner look, or bead board for texture. Recessed lighting can be placed



Coffered ceiling with crown molding and faux finish and recessed lighting inside each panel.

Entryway with balcony and cathedral ceiling above.



Cathedral ceiling with stained rough-sawn wood beams and recessed lighting.



inside the panels to produce balanced lighting and symmetry.

Wall Coverings placed on the ceiling serve to intrigue and captivate guests as they enter a space. Bathrooms and laundry rooms are great places to add a splash of color or an elegant pattern. We recommend including some type of crown molding or trim detail around the edges where the walls and ceilings meet in order to create a clear transition. Crown molding is a simple trim detail that can make a statement in any room. You can use one simple piece of crown molding or be creative with several profiles of trim to create your own unique detail. If your budget does not allow for this feature during the initial construction, it can be simply and seamlessly added in the future. Painting your ceiling the same color as your walls will help the crown molding to stand out and clearly define the space.

Finally, Wood Beams can be used to contribute character to a room. They can be very rustic or sleek and modern. Beams are often stained to match hardwood flooring or used as an accent color piece. Natural materials like wood can provide warmth and a sense of permanence to any space.

As you consider your renovation or addition, don't forget about the ceiling! Make a statement that adds beauty and value to your home.