



DIGIACOMO

HOMES & RENOVATION, INC.

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REBUILDING, EXPERIMENTING & GIVING THANKS IN NORTHFIELD



Almost one year ago, Thanksgiving eve of 2011, the Northfield home belonging to Reginaldo and Amy Marroquin went up in flames. Thankfully, the Marroquins, their three children and livestock survived unharmed. However, their home and all its contents, were a total loss. The Marroquin family have been friends for many years and this became our opportunity to give back by designing and re-building a modest farmhouse but with new, cutting-edge energy systems.

Reginaldo's passion for innovative farming practices made him the perfect candidate to test a passive form of geothermal - using low-cost, energy-saving heating, cooling and air handling technologies. The Marroquins will help document the home's energy performance - perhaps charting the way for highly efficient, simple and more durable heating/cooling systems appropriate for our Minnesota climate. Stay tuned for the results ...

HAPPY THANKSGIVING and, to the Marroquin family, *vien venido a casa!* (Welcome home!)

REMODELING: HOME THEATERS

CHASE AWAY WINTER WITH AN AFFORDABLE HOME THEATER



Winter is here ... and that means more time hibernating indoors. Spending time inside, however, amid inspired spaces such as the award-winning home theater above, can help fend off cabin fever.

The home theater concept isn't new, but homeowners often shy away from this perceived "luxury" when remodeling - anticipating budget-breaking expense, the need for significant additional square footage, and intimidating, unreliable technologies. True, the [million-dollar home theaters](#) often splashed across glossy magazine pages are not within everyone's reach. But a simple home theater system, when incorporated as part of a remodel, can be installed for less than \$7,000. Interested? Read on!

In the [multi-purpose family room](#) pictured above, we installed a discrete pull-down screen (hidden within the ceiling) and a high-definition projector. These simple, low-cost technologies allow almost any space to become an instant home theater as pictured below (no need for a large dedicated space but a minimum "throw" distance is required for the projector). Once installed, you can transform your library, family room or even a living room into a cozy home theater in less time than it takes to microwave popcorn simply by pulling down the screen and dimming the lights.

Taking the home theater one step further, home automation apps, such as [Elan's g!](#), allow an iPhone (or other smart phones) to simply and intuitively act as the system remote. Your theater screen can act as a portal to the world - for surfing the Internet, streaming the latest Hollywood blockbuster from Netflix or viewing content from your home computer. (Think photos from your last beach vacation - how's that for beating the winter blues?)

[Contact us](#) when you're ready to incorporate a home theater into your next remodel.



CONTACT US



DiGiacomo Homes & Renovation, Inc. is an award-winning, husband and wife firm that is honored to bring timeless beauty, value and sustainability to neighborhoods throughout the Twin Cities. For more than 20 years we have been invited by our clients to remodel existing homes and to build new in beloved neighborhoods such as Tyrol Hills, Linden Hills, Bell Oaks and many others.

Our **services include:** site analysis, architectural design, interior design, general contracting, and environmental planning. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Rocky and Gigi DiGiacomo
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