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Contractors & Remodelers

Okay. Here is the list that is worth a thousand times the price you paid for this book: the best contractors and remodelers in the city. If you are in the market for a new addition, a complete re-do, or even a small project, start reading now. This list does not include some of our favorite builders, those who primarily build houses and take on very large remodeling jobs. (See *D Home's* 2005 Best Builders at www.dhomeandgarden.com/builders.) These are boutique businesses overall, with impeccable references.

CAROL GANTT CONSTRUCTION CONSULTING AND DESIGN

214-327-7854, 214-228-0139

Carol Gantt is the self-described Will Rogers of houses in that she never met a house she didn't like. Having a background in both contracting, design, and investing has landed her in a position to guide homeowners through the process of finding the most practical solution when a house just isn't working. A big-picture person, she consults with clients about their neighborhood, their house, and how remodeling would affect the resale value. She also is candid when it is better to tear down and start over—or even move. "It's an emotional investment, too," she says. "People want their home to meet their needs and still be beautiful; I think there is sort of a psychological component to your surroundings being both logical and beautiful."