

"a powerful presence." Partners are featured in the ads, and there are hotlinks to their own Web sites from www.neilkelly.com.

■ Results. Co-op ads drive traffic to Neil Kelly's three show-rooms, remind clients to ask for partners' products, and engender loyalty from Neil Kelly staff. "Design salespeople and project managers make a specific point of working with those suppliers," Kerr says. The benefit is mutual. "The more business we do with them, the more willing they are to do things to our standards."

TV was "a giant leap" for Neil Kelly, but the medium has paid off tremendously, Kerr notes. Leads increased 21% during last fall's TV blitz, to 850 potential new clients. December sales rose 16%, and January sales soared 71%.

Dial a Deal

hen a client abruptly postponed a major project earlier this year, Greg Antonioli did something most remodelers despise but marketing experts advise. "I just started calling old leads." says the owner of Out of the Woods Construction, Arlington, Mass. "I turned up a ton of stuff."

Take the lead who had a minor porch job a few years ago. Antonioli's call prompted him to do a \$90,000 attic conversion. Another call reached a lead who had just finalized drawings with an architect and was looking for a remodeler.

Antonioli's dislike of cold calling is part of his pitch. "I say, 'I never do this ... but we just had a large project bumped," he explains. "I have you in my database, and for some reason I had put you on hold. Did you ever do the project?" The time apart can work to his advantage, he says. Many leads "are ready to jump on our bandwagon because of a bad experience with another company."

