

WHAT'S NEW @ D.R.S.

The Inside Scoop at DeHaan

Remodeling Specialists



Before



NEW FEATURES:

CABINETS: Great Northern (Deluxe Series), Maple Wood, Heirloom Stain, Door & Drawer Style/Shakertown II
COUNTER TOPS: LG Quartz, Color/Silver Lake
BACK SPLASH: Glass Tile
FLOORING: Armstrong Alterna Durango

Rethink. REMODEL.

CASE STUDY: THE KENT RESIDENCE

A recent remodeling project for Marge and Bob Kent on Kalamazoo's West Side provides an excellent snapshot of how DeHaan Remodeling Specialists works with clients to improve their homes.

"This house was built in 1941," says Marge Kent, "and we bought it in 1969, so we've lived here for 44 years." Marge always wanted a larger kitchen though, and the dining room, just off the kitchen, was undersized as well.

Opening up those two spaces required removing a wall and doorway, and a beam had to be added to the ceiling to support the roof structure. Marge says, "Bob DeHaan used his computer-aided design (CAD) program to design everything, and it really helped to be able to visualize everything before we started. He was able to move things around on the computer until we felt comfortable with the layout, and we could view everything from different angles."

WORK BEGINS.

As is true with all remodeling work, there were some disruptions that had to be tolerated. "There were times," Marge laughs, "that we said, 'what have we gotten ourselves into?'" The couple "lived in the family room" for a while and had to go outdoors to get to different areas in the house. But they understood the necessity of keeping the kitchen sealed off with plastic so dust and debris from the building process didn't migrate to other areas of the house.

Marge says, "Now that the job is finished we realize it wasn't really all that bad. And the crew worked hard to keep the inconvenience to a minimum. All the workers were very good about cleaning up after they were done, and one thing we really appreciated was how Bob stayed in touch with us all the time. He let us know what the schedule was going to be for each day, and everyone showed up right on time."

Continued on Back



After

Continued...

FIT, FINISHES, AND REUSABLES.

Marge and Bob selected cabinets that closely matched what was in the kitchen before. In fact, they even wound up reusing some of the older upper cabinets. Repainted to blend in with the wall, they hang adjacent to the kitchen and house Marge's extensive collection of Christmas dishes. "We used to store those dishes in tubs under beds," Marge says. "But I wanted them to be more accessible."

In order to create more floor space, Bob DeHaan had the idea of blocking off the interior of one of the base cabinets so it could be moved over the stairway going down into the basement. A cooktop sits on top of the cabinet, and there is just enough room inside to store a small stepladder – an item Marge says she uses frequently.

Marge's daughters convinced her to have a double wall oven installed, and although she hasn't used it much yet, she says she knows it will come in handy - especially during the holidays.

THE FINISHED PRODUCT.

Increasing the size of the kitchen and opening up space in what used to be the dining room has made the house more livable, Marge says. "What is nice is that when our kids are home with our grandkids, they always want to be in the kitchen. Before, if everyone wanted to be in here, with the size it was, it was tight.

Now, the son-in-laws can hang out sitting along the bar area, the kids can play around here, and there is enough room to accommodate more people."

Now all Marge has to do is get used to remembering where the phone is located. She says, "After 44 years in the house, whenever it rings I always go to where it used to be. Maybe in 44 more years I will have adapted to its new site!"



Before



Branden and Jorden DeHaan with their father, DRS founder, Robert DeHaan

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Bob DeHaan is a Certified Graduate Remodeler and a Certified Aging-In Place Specialist. Designated by the National Home Builders Association.

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