

WHAT'S NEW @ D.R.S.

The Inside Scoop at DeHaan Remodeling Specialists

HAPPY WITH THEIR KITCHEN REMODEL - THE MOZINA FAMILY KINDLY ASKED US BACK TO UPDATE THREE MORE ROOMS IN THEIR HISTORIC HOME.

Breathing New Life Into a Historic Home.



Like their kitchen project, Andy says, the recent job went well and, like with the kitchen, the family has been very happy with the results. “It’s absolutely worked like we wanted,” says Andy Mozina.

When he accepted a job teaching at Kalamazoo College in 1999, Andy Mozina and his family wanted to live close to the campus. The house they chose was just a 10-minute walk from Andy’s office, but, having been built in 1921, it not only required some remodeling to meet the family’s needs, but some of those changes would need special approval since the house is in a historic district. When it came time to tackle those issues, neighbors highly recommended DeHaan Remodeling Specialists, so Andy and his wife, Lorraine Alberts, gave Bob DeHaan a call.

The first project, says Andy, was a pretty straightforward kitchen update. That was back in 2013, and, like their neighbors, Andy and Lorraine were happy with the results. By 2015 they were ready to take on the next big project—this one a little more complicated, especially given the nature of all older houses.

This time, the homeowners wanted to move Lorraine’s home office upstairs, freeing up space for a room where their teenaged daughter Madeleine and her friends could hang out and the family could watch TV together. They also wanted to turn a tiny first floor powder room into a full bath. In addition to those changes, which they knew they wanted, Bob DeHaan was able to add another item to the list: a coat cubbie with a bench and storage, just inside the back door.

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“They would gladly recommend DeHaan to others.”



Breathing New Life Into a Historic Home.

◀ *Continued on front*

Like their kitchen project, Andy says, the recent job went well and, like with the kitchen, the family has been very happy with the results. “It’s absolutely worked like we wanted,” says Andy. They furnished their new TV room with a big sectional, where Madeleine and her friends like to sprawl (a sectional, says Andy, is teens’ native habitat). The new bathroom makes the house “so much more livable.” As for the cubby: “We never planned for it, but it’s been a real boon.” An extra advantage comes when the family looks far into the future: With the changes they’ve made, Andy says, they can see that aging in place—continuing to live in this home as they age—is a real possibility.

Some surprises always come with remodeling homes that have been around for almost a century. Andy says their latest remodel was certainly “not a cookie cutter project,” but he found Bob DeHaan and his crew very comfortable with problem solving. Discovering, for example, a steam radiator pipe in the footprint of an old closet, the crew was able to move it without compromising the project or the time frame.

The family appreciated deHaan’s subcontractors, many of whom worked on both projects. “They’re all long-time pros and they know each other,” says Andy. And, best of all, “they show up when they’re supposed to.”

Andy says their home still has a few things they want to change (such as repairing sun porch damage caused by some out-of-control pet rabbits), but, for the time being, they plan to take a little breather and just enjoy the home. “We’ve been doing a lot for the past three years,” he says. (In addition to living through multiple home projects, Andy’s had three books published since 2007.) “Now we’re focusing on living.” He says that, when they do need to choose a remodeling pro in the future, they would certainly call DeHaan Remodeling again. And, like their neighbors did a decade or so ago, they would gladly recommend DeHaan to others.

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

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