

WHAT'S NEW @ D.R.S.

The Inside Scoop at DeHaan Remodeling Specialists



THE UPSIDE OF DOWNSIZING

The DeJongs remodel to make a forever home.

Rem and Susan DeJong had a lot of experience in having their homes remodeled. A close friend who was a contract remodeler had overseen their house projects in Marquette, Alpena and Escanaba.

Then last fall the DeJongs moved to Kalamazoo to be closer to family. They found a house off 8th Street that they liked, but they knew it would need some remodeling. Their contractor/friend was in the Upper Peninsula, and they didn't know anyone in this area to turn to. So Susan started looking at ads and checking out the internet. That's where she found DeHaan Remodeling.

Now, still in the midst of a major remodel that just keeps growing ("One thing leads to another," says Rem), the DeJongs are very happy with their decision to call DeHaan Remodeling.

The DeJongs had chosen a house with about 1,260 square feet (remodeled footage will be closer to 1,750), built in 1990. They liked its size and its location, on a cul-de-sac and backing up to a woods where Rem can walk his two big hunting dogs. Retired, Rem and Susan were ready to downsize and wanted a home they could stay in forever. This house met those needs, but it would take months and a long relationship with Bob DeHaan and his team to make the house itself perfect. And, through the construction, the couple would continue to live in the house.

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Years?*





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"Susan's scheduled for knee replacement surgery," says Rem, "and Bob took that into consideration with the construction schedule, to be sure we're all on one level after the operation."

Rem says that Bob did a great job of planning to meet their challenges. To deal with mobility issues, the plan included walk-in showers and first-floor laundry room. The crew would start by constructing a new bathroom in the basement, so there would be a functioning bathroom when the upstairs work started. But before that could happen: The steps to the basement were dangerously steep and narrow, so the staircase had to be redesigned and rebuilt so that the basement work could begin . . . and so it went.

Work started shortly after the holidays 2015-16, and continued throughout the winter and spring. After the basement, the crew moved upstairs where an existing bedroom was converted into a bathroom and laundry, the bedroom itself was reconfigured, with triple the closet space, floors were replaced, an unwanted Jacuzzi tub was taken out, and a dog door was even added. During the project, the DeJongs decided that the kitchen also needed to be redone, so that was added to the list.



Spending half a year or so with a crew of workers in your home almost every day is never going to be easy. But, say the DeJongs, DeHaan Remodeling and their subcontractors are all friendly and respectful. "They're discreet and they stay out of your way as much as possible," says Rem.



Rem appreciated another thing about Bob DeHaan, Bob's sons Branden, Jorden and Austen, and the subcontractors: "We're meeting the second generation," he says. "Like Bob's kids are taking over their business, some of the subs' kids are also part of the team."

DeHaan arranged for interior decorator Carol Kenaga to offer advice and support when it came time to choose flooring, tile, granite and lighting, says Susan. "Carol spent a lot of time talking with us and figuring out what we liked and didn't like."

Then she escorted Susan to the stores and helped her make decisions.

Their internet search worked out well. The DeJongs say they would definitely recommend DeHaan Remodeling to others, and they give a hearty thank-you to Bob and his entire team for helping them to live in their house while it's being transformed into their dream.



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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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