

WHAT'S NEW @ D.R.S.

The Inside Scoop at DeHaan

Remodeling Specialists

SPRING EDITION 2018

MAKING THE CLIENTS DESIGN A REALITY.

Bob Struber couldn't find a designer to come up with the perfect plan for remodeling the kitchen in his 30-year-old home; so he designed it himself.

The Struber Remodel

But he didn't have any problem coming up with the right company to implement his design: after all, DeHaan Remodeling Specialists, Inc. had been doing projects for the Struber family for the past 18 years.

Through those years the DeHaans have remodeled a bathroom and a bedroom, built an office, added a barn and a greenhouse (which subsequently turned into a man cave), and built a huge deck for Struber and his wife, Barb. So when it was time to remodel the kitchen in their home in Kalamazoo's Springwood Hills neighborhood, of course they contacted Bob DeHaan.

Struber and DeHaan had been talking for years about remodeling the kitchen. Struber, who is a retired financial advisor with a degree in biochemistry ("That makes me very qualified to do design work," he laughs), did research on the internet to get ideas about layout and products. Then he took his ideas to DeHaan and told him what he wanted. It was DeHaan's job to make those ideas work.





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The Struber Remodel

Struber's plans called for touches such as high-tech, LED lighting, recessed in the ceiling; a bay window over the kitchen sink, with granite (leather-finish, not shiny) flowing from counter to sill; and a cook top which vents through the basement. To accomplish all of this and more, "They had to shuffle all the wires around," says Struber, as well as doing a fair amount of replumbing and plastering.

And, as projects often do, this one grew, flowing into the adjacent family room, so that the new hickory flooring installed in the kitchen could continue. And, while they were working there, the wood-burning fireplace was converted to gas, the TV was moved and the lighting was replaced.

All in all, it was a huge project in the Struber's 3,000-square-foot home. Work started in July 2017 and ended on October 1. As it had on every previous project, the DeHaans' work through those months met and exceeded expectations. It's a plus, says Struber, that many of the same subcontractors "have worked with me on project after project. That way I don't have to explain what I want." And the DeHaans' daily clean-up and neatness won praise once again from Struber.

Another important point for Struber: "They don't leave you hanging. Lots of times builders get started on your job and then don't come back." He explains that other builders frequently juggle many jobs, leaving your project while they work on others, returning at their convenience, not yours. DeHaan Remodeling Specialists don't do this to you, says Struber.

The finished project has more than met both the Strubers' expectations. Struber calls it "phenomenal," and adds, "My wife is very happy with the outcome." If she weren't, he says, "I would know about it."

For now the Strubers don't have future home projects in mind. "Right now I'm resting." But he adds, "Sooner or later something will come up." And when it does, he's sure it's DeHaan Remodeling he'll be calling.



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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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