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# UNIQUE KITCHEN TRANSFORMATION

fter living in their three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bathroom Colonial home for nearly 13 years, Taylor and Anne Josev were ready to make some changes. Built in the 1970s, the home's original kitchen had only undergone minor modifications such as painted cabinets and updated countertops. Now, with their two children getting older, the couple decided it was time to remodel the galley-style space into something better suited for entertaining—a place where they could gather together with friends and family.

The Josevs began receiving bids and plans from various contractors and kitchen designers, but nothing quite fit with their vision. "We had talked about remodeling the kitchen over the years," Anne said. "We even had several companies over, and they provided some drawings, which used the existing space. Nothing really stuck, so we hadn't moved forward with the remodeling process."

### FINDING THE RIGHT REMODELER

A chance meeting at a yoga class led to a discussion between Anne and Tony Pourhassan, owner of Highlight Home Restoration. The subject of Anne's kitchen was brought up in casual conversation.

"Anne's husband Taylor works in real estate, so we began talking about the industry," recalled Tony. "Once she learned that I was a builder who had a remodeling division, she mentioned that she wanted me to come by and see what I thought I could do about transforming her kitchen. After seeing the space. I asked Anne not only what she needed but also what her 'dream kitchen' would be. It was simple to design the space from there."

According to Anne, not only was Tony able to meet their vision with his original plans for their new kitchen, he was also able to take that vision to an entirely new level. "Tony came up with some plans that completely changed the structure of the existing space by adding square footage and incorporating a beautiful wraparound deck. We live on a golf course, and this completely changed the view and maximized the scenery."

### ADDING SQUARE FOOTAGE

Anne said that working within the existing galley-style kitchen was cramped, and the look was outdated. She wanted an area where she and her husband could comfortably entertain guests, as well as a space where their kids could 'hang out' with their friends. In addition to his 20 years of experience as a builder, remodeler, and land developer, Tony is an experienced architect and structural engineer. He developed a plan to help the Joseys make changes that could open up the area and add muchneeded space that would offer great views of the nearby golf course.

"It was critical for us to work with someone who brought both vision and patience to the project. We had never undertaken a renovation of this magnitude, and to say we were clueless would be an understatement," admitted Anne. "Tony did a wonderful job of working with us to find out what the best plans were."

Overwhelmed by the prospect of having to make so many design decisions, the Joseys handed the project's reins over to Tony. The builder remembered, "I told them I would create a space that would not only exceed their expectations, but would also fit their budget. It is great to have a client that believes in your abilities so much that they give you control of the creative process."

### ATTENTION TO DETAIL

The Joseys appreciated the fact that Tony went above and beyond to make sure the "old blended in with the new" to make the addition appear seamless. "I wanted to make sure they were satisfied with the craftsmanship and appearance of the end result." said Tony. "Any time we do an addition to an existing structure, I always try to complement the current finish and style so it doesn't look like something was just stuck on the house. I've done my job well when



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people say that it looks like the space has always been there and that they can't tell where the old stops and the new begins."

Anne was also pleased with Tony's attention to detail when it came to her sense of style and decor. "My house is very unique. I have an old-fashioned style, but have a lot of artwork throughout the home. Tony paid close attention to what I liked and made every effort to keep the style intact," Anne said.

### **SELECTING THE DESIGN ELEMENTS**

"Tony's expertise has been invaluable," Anne said. "He helped us select the granite countertops, paint colors, and five-inch rustic hardwood flooring." One of Anne's favorite elements of the new kitchen is its backsplash. Tony encouraged her to look online and find ones that she liked for the showcase space.

"When Anne showed me the mural she'd found and told me the story of the manufacturer of the hand-painted tile—the oldest tile company in Jerusalem—I could see that she loved that piece but was getting nervous about sticking to their budget," said Tony. "I knew that we had to get it for her because it was

something she would see every day, and it would leave a lasting impression on her. It served as Highlight Home Restoration's thank-you gift to the Joseys for selecting us to complete their project and for referring us to so many of their friends and neighbors."

### WITHIN BUDGET AND ON TIME

The Joseys have also been pleased with Tony's conscientiousness regarding cost controls and budget needs. The builder used his numerous connections to help Anne and Taylor secure high-end cherry cabinets and GE Monogram Series stainless steel appliances at a significant discount. By purchasing them from a model kitchen in a showroom that was downsizing, the Joseys were able to get beautiful cabinetry, as well as a cooktop, refrigerator, microwave, dishwasher, convection oven, and warming drawer for half the retail cost.

The couple was particularly impressed by the amount of time it took to complete their home renovation. "Tony's workers were extremely punctual, polite, and very orderly. A three- to four-month project only took about seven weeks with Tony, and his construction supervisor was

always on site to manage the parade of workers. Their expertise surpassed our expectations," recalls Anne. "We were amazed with the number of hours, including Saturdays and Sundays, that he and his team logged to make sure that every last detail was not overlooked."

When asked why he is so willing to go the extra mile for his clients, Tony answered, "I really love what I do for a living. It is wonderful to see the joy that we bring to people's lives. Nothing beats the feeling when a client says that we have made their dreams come true."

Anne says that she was pleased with the remodeling experience and could not be happier with the results. "Thanks to Tony and Highlight Home Restoration, our home has undergone a radical transformation. We now have a parade of friends coming through each day, and everyone always says the same thing: "Wow, this is the new party house!"

Article Source:
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