

Our Long-Term Plan—A Winning Strategy

Many families want to renovate several areas of their homes, but often don't want all the work completed at once. We encourage such clients to create a long-term plan for their remodel. This way, projects are not accomplished piece-meal, and they retain a contiguous, integrated flow once all the work is finished.

Three years ago we were able to provide such a plan to Al and Laurie Mannino of North Potomac, MD. We began by updating three bathrooms in their 1970s home, dry-walling a brick dining room wall, and installing a new mantel, fireplace surround, and custom bookcases. In addition, we updated an old screened-in porch. "The porch was dark and dirty," Laurie says. "DG Liu closed it in for us, painted it, and installed a better floor. Now we use that space so much more." She laughs. "And I'm not afraid to go out there anymore."

This year, the couple was ready to remodel other areas, including a kitchen Laurie describes as "...just awful. It was too small

and outdated. We have growing grandchildren and we entertain a lot. So we needed more space." We gutted the kitchen, and moved a double window to accommodate new cabinets. Granite countertops were put in, along with new lights, backsplash tiles, flooring, appliances, and a new window and island. Laurie remembers the emotional day when she began to see the results. "The first day I came back home and saw they had the cabinets in, I started crying," she says.

To provide a more luxurious master bedroom suite, we expanded the existing office space over the dining room, and constructed a large walk-in closet with attic access. The extension allowed for a large bath to be built on the back of the house, which featured all new tile flooring, windows, granite countertops, fixtures, and lighting. During the process, we swapped out original plans for a linen closet to

add more room to the shower. The result is a walk-in, tile shower with a unique glass brick window and mosaic trim inside. Its creation turned out to be a favorite for Laurie. "I get claustrophobic," she says, "but not in this huge shower I have now. My two-year-old grandson thought it was a whole extra room."

Satisfied with their plan's completion, the Manninos have graciously recommended our company to others. In fact, we just finished a job for some close friends of theirs. Need a plan for your home? Call us!

The results are, Laurie says, "Unbelievable. It's so beautiful, it's pretentious. We figure we'll be in this house another 20, 30 years. And now we have a home that's absolutely gorgeous."



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New Sunroom Adds Life to Old Home

"It was like a little cave," Carole Lee says of the dark living room in her 1950s, split-level home in Rockville. Both Carol and her husband Chuck are photographers, so the lack of light impacted not only their enjoyment of their house, but their very livelihood. "We're very aware of light and like to do indoor photography," Carol explains. "Also, I love plants, and had no place for them inside. We wanted a place to relax and read, and just enjoy the outdoors."

We began by opening up the back of the Lee's house and replacing three existing walls with glass, to bring in as much light as possible. Since their deck was old and rarely used, we built a smaller, more efficient deck to better suit the couple's needs.

During the renovation, the Lees decided they might as well upgrade several areas of their home. "We'd been in the house for 30 years and had not made many real improvements on it," Chuck said. "We decided we needed other catch-up work too."

First, we tackled the garage's moldy ceiling, which needed to be torn out and reconstructed. We then updated the kitchen with new granite countertops and replaced the

original linoleum floor with hardwood. In their cluttered photography room, we added custom, built-in cabinets to organize albums and pictures that had been stored in piles and stacks. Wall-to-wall carpeting on the main level was removed, and the wood floors underneath were refinished to match the new room's hardwoods.

"The living room is now a sunroom," Chuck says, "giving us the light we wanted, and exposure into our backyard, where there are azaleas and other flowering plants we enjoy looking at." He is also quite satisfied with the addition of

gutter guards to his roof. "That solved a major problem I'd had," he says. "Our neighborhood has mature trees, and the leaves are quite a challenge in the fall. Now I don't have to climb ladders every year."

"We have been very pleased with the outcome," Chuck says. "It has given us a new lease on life. And we've recommended DG Liu to several people now."

"It is a gorgeous room. It's made me really enjoy my house, where before I was just sort of living in it."



The pictures provided for this article were taken by the Lees, who are both actively involved in charitable organizations. They have provided photography services through their church, photographing Habitat for Humanity mission trips throughout the country and abroad.

STAFF PROFILE



Meet Joe Hines

Two months in as our new Senior Design Consultant, Joe Hines may be the newest addition at DG Liu Contractor, but he's no newcomer to the business. Joe received his architectural technology degree from Florida Tech University. For the past 25 years, he's worked as an architectural consultant for a number of companies, designing custom homes and large additions. He picked up three design awards along the way—one Frederick County Builder's award, and two from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. Lucky for us, he learned of our reputation in the business, and thought our crew "would be great to work with." A self-described "weekend pilot," Joe also loves art and playing guitar. The best part of his job? "Designing," he says. "And solving people's problems."

A Screened Porch

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