

The Story of a Second Story: Topping Off a Ranch Style House



BEFORE

Kathy Soisson already knew of our reputation for great service and a job well done. But it wasn't until the decision to renovate her own home was made that she really understood what she was getting for her dollar.

Built in 1981, the ranch house in Hyattstown was much too small for a family with four children under the age of eight. We took off the roof and built a second story, giving the family the extra bedroom space they needed, plus a new bathroom and laundry room.

Although the original plans called for a one-car garage, a kitchen extension, finished basement, and front porch, money was an issue. Dale Kramer, our Design/Estimator, worked with the family to scale back the project and stay within their budget. By putting off the basement and porch for now, simplifying the renovation, installing toilets back-to-back, and using some great suggestions from Framing/Crew Leader Matt Shirk, we were able to save the family thousands of dollars.



Once the new plans were squared away, says Kathy, the project itself was relatively

painless. "I anticipated a lot more problems than I actually had," she says. "Even the problems that did come up were usually solved without me having to get involved. If I had a problem, I'd call Matt and ask what to do. Usually he'd say he had already taken care of it."

Although a large renovation like this one can be daunting, the Soissons not only adapted well, but even enjoyed much of the process. "The kids memorized whose truck is whose," Kathy says. "They'd look out the window, then run in and scream, 'They're here!' The crew

would joke around with them, and even gave my youngest a tool to let him pretend like he was working."

Kathy says her decision to use our company, even on her limited budget, was definitely the right one. "I went into this knowing I was going to pay more, but I was willing to do that for the customer service and satisfaction that I got," she says. "It's been a great experience."

Worried About Renovating Your Home In a Dreary Economy?

Don't be. *Remodeling* magazine's latest annual report proves that maintaining and upgrading your home still pays off, even in today's market. Especially kitchens & bathrooms. Check out: http://www.realtor.org/rmohome_and_design/articles/2008/0812_costvsvalue_2008

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Jack and Jill...and Julian?"

A custom designed bathroom for 3

With only three bedrooms and two bathrooms for six people, the Soisson family was more than a little cramped. "We were all on top of each other," says Kathy Soisson. "Right now the kids are small enough to not really notice. But one day I knew they'd all be banging on the door trying to share a bathroom."

The second-story addition we recently built gave the family three new bedrooms and an additional bathroom upstairs. But since this single bath still had to be shared by three kids, Kathy asked that it be uniquely created to accommodate all of them at once. She worked with Dale Kramer, our Design/Estimator, to figure out how to create a unique and functional design. "Now it's perfect," Kathy says. "The toilet is in one room, the bath and shower are in another room, and you walk into an area with a double sink." We also renovated the downstairs portion of the house as well, adding a closet for more storage space, and dressed up the carport for better curb appeal.

Not only is Kathy satisfied with what we've done, but her neighbors seem pleased



as well. "I came home the day they put the second floor on, and the guys were laughing about how it was like a show stopper," Kathy says. "Every neighbor who went by stopped and got out of their car to watch. I tell all of them how wonderful these guys are, and that the contractors are just as great as the crew. I trust them all and I feel completely comfortable with them."

Future renovation plans include a finished basement, which would add another 1200 square feet of living space, a garage, and a front porch. And D. G. Liu will be there to build it.

Need more space of your own, uncertain how to design it, worried about the budget? Call the estimators at D.G. Liu. It's what we do. 1-866-99DGLIU



STAFF PROFILE

Meet HandyMan Jim Shafer

Jim Shafer joined D.G. Liu Contractor Inc. in 2006 as a trim carpenter. Now our resident handyman, his 25 years of experience enable him to relieve homeowners of their repair and maintenance problems. "Construction has its ups and downs, but for the most part it's enjoyable," he says. "I take pride in finish work, and being able to stand back and see that something was accomplished and that it looks nice. Even if I have a problem with something, I enjoy that I was able to fix it to my satisfaction." For leaks, ceiling and wall damage, rotted siding and trim, just about any repair or small job in your home—

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