

2004 WBA Remodeling Awards

Project Category:
Finished Basements (any value)

"Family Connections"

DEGNAN

DESIGN BUILDERS

INC.



Award Winning Entry

BEFORE: The unfinished basement was an unorganized space with no shelving,

The clients had a partially-finished home office in the basement which was no longer going to be used professionally. The original homebuilder had created a wasteful hallway leading to the office and an unfinished bathroom. Meanwhile, due to lack of organized storage, the remaining basement was full of clutter and boxes. The clients desired to create an open and inviting family room and home theatre environment, finish a bathroom for guest use, turn a modest walk-in closet into the computer area and create inexpensive but organized storage. They also desired a greater connection to the main level of the house, as the dark U-shaped stairway has ceilings heights that just meet code and a door at the top.



We were able to remove several walls in order to open the spaces to each other and create a family room with space for a big-screen TV, future game table and gas stove. To create an inviting entry, the stairway door was removed and one side wall was opened to the living room of the home, now bringing natural light to the stairway from above and below. A railing to match others in the house was installed at the new stairway wall opening.



The gas stove is now the highlight of the space.

A decorative nook under the stairway and well-balanced lighting create an attractive and welcoming space.

Certain details use the budget wisely, while bold color choices in tile and paint create warmth not found in every home. (The walls are actually painted a mustard yellow color.) A freestanding gas stove is placed in an alcove with an arched soffit and surrounded by skillfully placed tile. These details were well planned: note how the fireplace thimble was placed at the same angle as the tile, and the tile was chosen to match the size of the thimble, while the tile layout matches perfectly to the thimble and is cut to the arched ceiling.



The lower level of the home is now connected and inviting from the main level, with an open stairway which receives light from above and below, with the level of acoustical connection that the clients desired. Although there is a big-screen TV in the new room, sound was not an issue.

Tile in the bathroom matches the accent tile used at the hearth.

The bathroom rough-in was remodeled and finished with a neo-angle shower to accommodate guests who may use a pull-out sofa bed in the basement. A long, narrow space adjacent to the stairway has over 120 lineal feet of storage available, using simple and inexpensive components from a home store.



Walls once made the area into broken spaces with no connectivity and wasted hall space. The new open plan provides three connected yet distinct spaces thanks to the furniture placement and ceiling soffits; oak disguises a support column.

French doors were installed into the space that now serves as a computer room.



From inside the computer room, you remain visually connected to the rest of the room. This can be especially important for family protection in today's world of internet concerns.



The open space yet feels divided into three distinct areas and the oak-wrapped column serves to differentiate the long main space in halves.



Details make the difference: the arched soffit, tile set on angle and an angled accent tile under-

Final Assessment & Results:

The relationships formed by good business practices and quality construction have proven to pay off once again: The husband is now an investment advisor to one of our company owners, and the wife serves as the independent real estate agent representing our company, with real life experience attesting to the quality of our products and services!

Specifications of Note:

Gas Stove:

Jotul Allagash in
Blue/Black finish

Neo-Angle Shower:

Acker, with
Basco shower door

Faucets:

Moen, in Chrome



When returning to the main level, you are immediately connected to the surroundings, making the space feel separated by only a half level rather than a full level.

*2004 WBA Remodeling Awards:
A Cut Above The Rest*

Presented to

*Degnan Design Builders Inc.
Finished Basement*

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