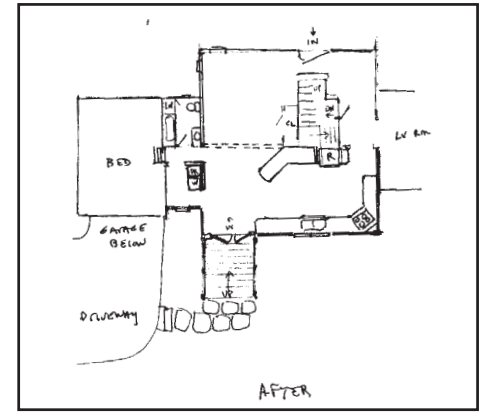


Kitchen Accessibility



AFTER PHOTOS BY JULES CONSTANTINE

Constantine Builders creates an open living space from a dated floor plan

BY JULES CONSTANTINE

Enjoying your work is one of life's most sought after attributes. Builder and remodeler Joe Constantine certainly experienced the benefits of this job perk on this project.

Blending an Old World design with useful and inviting open spaces and — a more pressing concern — better access to the house were the goals of the remodel. The front door was the only real first-floor entry, which brought all traffic through the house, unless the basement entry was used. The dining room, study and kitchen were distinctly separated, devoid of flow and were difficult rooms to navigate. Having worked with Constantine Builders on a previous home gave the homeowners confidence that the builder was up to the task of producing the more livable space they needed.

Major construction was required to make the homeowners' dream come true. Walls had to be moved and the second floor reinforced with heavy beams. Ductwork, electrical wiring and plumbing all had to be rerouted to the floor above. New windows and a new large doorway were added. And, of course, there were the

obligatory five layers of flooring one finds in many old homes that had to be removed before the dream could begin to take shape.

A peninsula and overhead beams now exist where there was a wall separating the kitchen and study. The peninsula creates delineation without division between kitchen and dining



space. This key architectural unit is a focal point, and is crowned with Shivichashy Light granite from India. The angle of the peninsula points you to a colonnaded foyer that flows into a laundry/mud room and revamped bathroom.

The foyer area is highlighted by the new back entrance to the home, Pella French Patio Doors, which along with the new casement windows above the sink, overlook the backyard. The changes have added natural light and created a pleasant view from the room. Maple cabinetry by Diamond Reflections is finished with a coffee glaze and sets the Old World theme. Sandstone Formica countertops and natural oak hardwood floors continue neutral color tones. A rustic tumbled marble tile back splash softens the smooth hard finishes of the cabinetry and countertops.

The homeowners now have a kitchen in which they can entertain and work easily with appliances cleverly hidden behind wood panels. But best of all, it now is a very accessible kitchen!

For additional information: Constantine Builders at (518) 842-9820.

PROJECT RESOURCES

- BEST TILE, back splash tile
- Capital Stone, granite countertops
- CRAWFORD DOOR AND WINDOW SALES, windows/doors
- DB Flooring, hardwood floors
- Daigle Drywall, drywall materials
- HOMECREST KITCHENS, Formica countertops
- Lowe's, cabinets

Note: Vendors in caps are CRB advertisers.