



Two-Level *Transformation*

After living in their Stillwater home for six years, Martin and Julie Chambers knew it was time to make some changes to the 15-year-old structure. “The original design of the home was not meeting their needs,” says Jason Fabio of Woodbury-based Ispiri. “We changed the layouts of the kitchen, main-floor master suite, and the lower level. We gutted the house and redesigned and rebuilt it with new mechanicals, plumbing, and electrical.”

Near the home’s front entrance, Ispiri converted an underused formal living room into a new master bathroom, transforming the existing bathroom into a large walk-in closet with a stackable washer and dryer. The remodeling firm preserved a large arch-topped window, against which they placed a stand-alone tub.

An abundant amount of cherry cabinetry surrounds two separate vanities, which are topped with Corian. In addition, a mosaic of turquoise and beige tile lines the bathroom mirrors and provides a distinctive accent to the fully tiled walk-in shower.

In the family room, Ispiri exchanged the cherry wood surfaces, trim, and a large entertainment unit with enameled woodwork (including four-foot-tall wainscoting) and hand-scraped walnut flooring. “The

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Once a formal living room, this space was converted into an elegant master bath. The stand-alone tub rests next to an expansive arched window, which Ispiri preserved during the remodel.

Luxe *Redux*

Three remodeling projects showcase the possibilities in luxury renovations.

BY HOLLY O'DELL

Rather than uprooting their families and starting over in a new house, many owners of luxury homes are choosing to stay put and instead remodel their existing spaces. Whether they’re updating a kitchen or renovating an entire floor, high-end remodeling firms and their clients are joining forces to create outstanding projects that will stand the test of time.

Take a look at three such remodels that boast the best in new products, materials, and design.

The centerpiece of this Ispiri-remodeled Stillwater home is the kitchen, which now lets in lots of natural light and is user-friendly. Distressed cabinetry, travertine flooring, and a granite-topped center island make the space shine.

ISPURI PHOTOS BY CRAIG BARES/STYLED BY LISA KELLER



Cherry cabinetry surrounds two Corian-topped vanities in the remodeled master bath by Ispiri. Turquoise and beige tiles accent the space.

Continued from previous page

previous arrangement of the room directed us away from the windows with outside views,” Julie Chambers explains. “We took some walls down to open the space up and added beams to the ceiling.”

As the home’s centerpiece, the kitchen lacked natural light and user-friendliness. Ispiri installed a wall of windows, as well as pendant, recessed, and undercabinet lighting to brighten the space. The distressed cabinetry is made of Lyptus, a wood harvested from fast-growing eucalyptus trees. Travertine flooring complements the large granite-topped island and elegant tile backsplash behind the cooktop. Meanwhile, a massive furniture-like cabinet rises to the ceiling, adjoining a butler pantry with two under-counter beverage refrigerators and storage for wine glasses.

Ispiri also borrowed space from the four-car garage to expand the mudroom, complete with a locker room for sports bags, coats, and backpacks from the Chambers’ two teenagers, along with a second laundry area. Another change to the first floor was the generous use of archways. “We had some very angular openings

between rooms before,” Chambers says. “Now the arches delineate rooms and soften them.”

The Chambers paid just as much attention to the lower level as they did to the main floor. The basement previously featured an oak-paneled office, unfinished sauna, 700 square feet of unfinished storage space, and an ill-placed wet bar. Ispiri converted the office into a guest bedroom that attaches to a bathroom and built a dedicated home theater where the storage space used to reside. Additionally, the design team created a locker system, exercise facilities, and laundry room off the backyard pool.

Perhaps the biggest highlight of the lower level is its revamped bar area, which is now more like a kitchen, thanks to its convection oven, dishwasher, honed-granite countertops, and knotty alder cabinetry. Not only is the basement designed to encourage gathering, but it serves as a second home of sorts for long-term guests who visit from the Chambers’ native England. “I feel like we’ve achieved everything and more,” Chambers says of the remodeling project. ■

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