

ISLAND
of



TRANQUILITY



Homeowner Hal Galvin built the center island using mahogany with black ebony accents and olive ash wood for the drawers. The hutch was custom-built to match Galvin's island. Asian-influenced details reflect the owners' taste and pull together the interior design.

A couple's family room remodeling project expanded to include the kitchen. And their sweat equity brought even more joy to the project.

BY SUE CAMPBELL

PHOTOS BY ANDREA RUGG

A photograph of a modern kitchen interior. In the foreground, a large, thick wooden island with a dark wood base and black bar stools is visible. On the island sits a wooden bowl filled with various fruits, including green grapes, red grapes, an orange, and pears. The background shows white cabinetry, a stainless steel refrigerator, and a pendant light hanging from the ceiling. A framed picture of a bird is on the wall in the background.

When homeowner Hal Galvin told Dave Amundson he wanted to build a center island for his remodeled kitchen, Amundson had a knee-jerk reaction.

"I thought, 'Sure. Right. When's this gonna get done? Five years from now?'" says the president and owner of TreHus. He knew woodworking was one of Galvin's hobbies, and he knew Hal had made other pieces for the home, including a beautifully crafted dining room table.

Still: "Out of my experience, I know these things tend to not get done," Amundson says.

To his surprise, the island was finished at the same time as the remodeling project — which had another, not-so-good surprise to offer over the course of the job.

Initially, the Galvins wanted to redo the old, narrow family room





Removing a wall between the family room and kitchen, and bumping out another wall, provided much-needed space and flow.



BEFORE PHOTOS COURTESY OF TREHUS

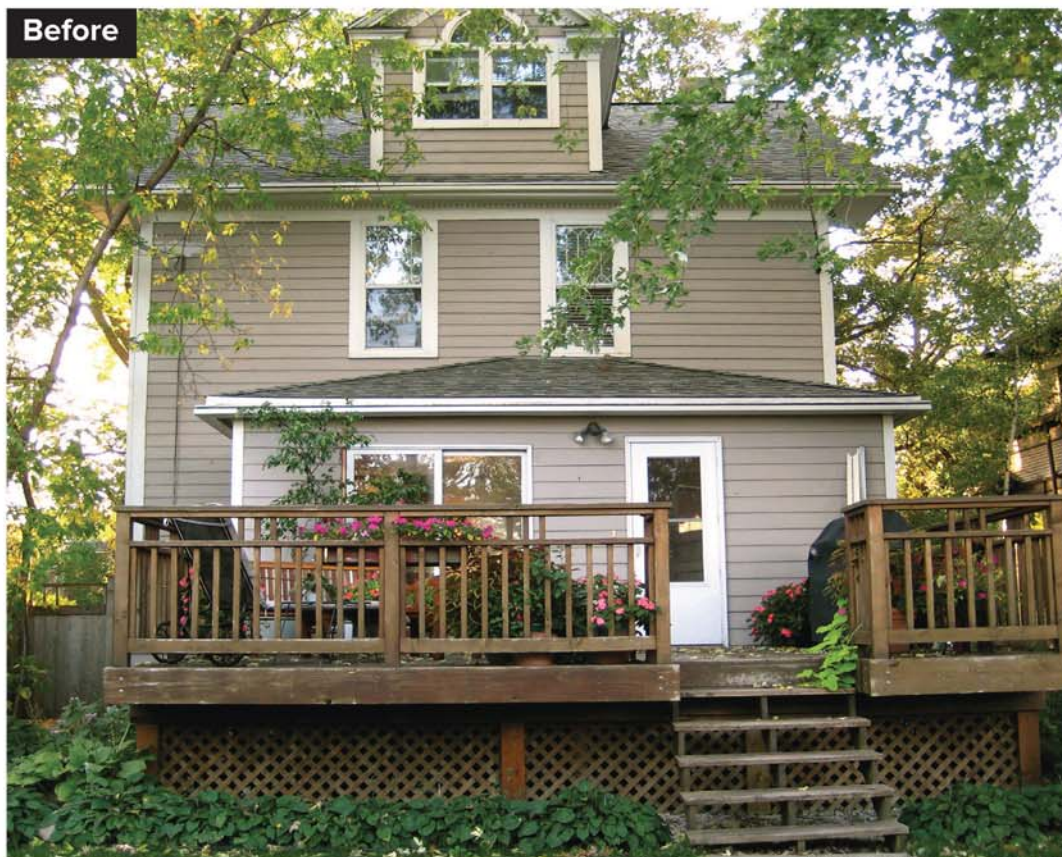


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of their 19th-century 2½-story house. It had been an addition and didn't fit with the rest of the house. Their back entryway and deck needed updating, too.

As Amundson recalls, Hal Galvin was focused on the money. His wife, Peggy, was focused on the house, particularly its functionality. For instance, she was tired of not having a covered entryway in the back. On rainy days, she wanted to be able to set down groceries, unlock the door and enter the home without getting drenched.

When Amundson pointed out that the cramped kitchen didn't work, especially for a gregarious couple who love to entertain, Peggy agreed with him. She, too, wanted improved flow from dining room to kitchen to family room and out to the back yard.

But adding the kitchen to the overall plan would obviously add expense.

Peggy went to work on her husband, and soon both agreed the cost would be worth a kitchen that worked and matched the rest of the house.

Hal, too, got something he particularly want-

ed — the basement of the addition would be made into a 360-square-foot wood shop.

But as workers began to dig, they uncovered the bad surprise. The house, which had been moved in 1908 from downtown Minneapolis to the Kenwood neighborhood, had a crumbling limestone foundation. At some point, someone had put up a concrete wall that concealed the original foundation and the rot. Workers had to uncover the bearings and use temporary supports to hold up the house while the foundation was rebuilt.

Fortunately, according to project manager Dave Carson, the additional work of taking out the old limestone and replacing it with steel beams added only a couple of weeks to the overall project. It also ended up adding space to Hal's workshop.

"The old limestone walls were two or three feet thick. We replaced them with a thinner wall, so he gained about 90 square feet," Carson says.

Once that mammoth job was done, the new addition began to take shape. Two exterior walls were moved, creating more structural



PHOTO COURTESY OF TREHUS

Trehus provided a much-desired covered back entryway and mudroom to the home, added French doors to the family room to let in light and updated the deck. By matching details like arches and dentil moldings, the home's exterior was made to feel cohesive.

challenges that Carson solved with a "complicated assembly of beams."

The result was additional feet of open space. The wall between kitchen and family room was removed. New French doors in the family room let in light and provided a connection to the fresh deck and back yard. And a mudroom was added with a covered entry. No more rain-soaked grocery bags — or homeowner.

Trehus' professional cabinetmaker and Hal Galvin worked together to match Hal's island to the china hutch, using the same woods (mahogany, black ebony and olive ash on the drawer insets).

Hal's decision to make the island himself was budget-driven. Peggy chipped in, too, doing all the interior painting. "Their sweat equity saved them from \$10,000 to \$15,000," Carson guesses. "It's hard to cut down on design,

once you have the elements you want. So these homeowners were fortunate that they had the talents to put into the house — and it looks fantastic."

The flow and function work, the interior space seems open and calm, and the new blends with the old. The project has won four awards (most in the "additions over \$200,000" category). The Galvins were so pleased with the results, they provided a testimonial on the Trehus website (see it at trehus.biz).

"When we do our job well," says Amundson, "we make people's lives happier for them. The Galvins love their house now. Before, their kitchen was unworkable and hard. Now, it's workable, it functions, and it's beautiful. It brings joy to them." ■

Sue Campbell is a Senior Editor at the Pioneer Press.