

homesunday

WEDNESDAY

In Home + Garden: Now that baseball season's in full swing, we visit a few super fans who live their favorite sport all year long.

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Photos provided by STREETER RENOVATION & DESIGN

Above: The new floor plan by Jeff Lindgren of Streeter Renovation & Design connects the gourmet kitchen to a comfortable family space, but dispenses with formal living and dining rooms.
Below: With the help of the homeowners, Lindgren made dramatic changes in the bathroom and kitchen without adding space.

- A Twin Cities couple opened their home to its surroundings in a whole-house makeover that stayed within the generous footprint of the 1980s structure.

By ELIZABETH LARSEN • Special to the Star Tribune

The property sold Sharon and Rick on their home. Hug-
ging the eastern boundary of a golf club, the views segue
quickly from gentle hills of the western Twin Cities sub-
urbs to full-on Midwestern sky. Its wooded edges shelter
small gangs of deer, which lope past the tennis court, pond
and swimming pool to rumble with enough theatricality
for Sharon to compare them to the Sharks and Jets.

It was the kind of retreat Sharon and Rick knew they
would never want to leave. (For privacy reasons, the couple
requested their last name not be used.) The problem was
that the home's traditional 1980s layout blocked the stand-
out views from all but a few back rooms. With 7,000 square
feet, the family didn't need more space. So, with the help of
Streeter Renovation & Design designer Jeff Lindgren, they
decided to gut and reconfigure the interior in a way that
would open the house to the lot's natural assets.

The renovation was so extensive that it took more than
a year to complete and the family had to move out during
construction. But that inconvenience seems like a small
price to pay when you walk through the front door. Where
there was once a solid wall and a formal curved staircase,
the new foyer is doused in natural light from all four sides.
In fact, there is so much daylight throughout the house that
Sharon said they almost never need to flip a lamp switch.

before



after



Remodel continues on H4 ►

from the cover

MODERN MAKEOVER

◀ REMODEL FROM H1

The updated floor plan includes a dining area and music room, but no formal living room. Instead, Lindgren designed a comfortable family space that connects to the home's gourmet kitchen. "We wanted the house to be a place where our kids would want to hang out and bring their friends," said Sharon. "The kids do their homework in the breakfast nook."

Function first

She also wanted it to be extremely functional. Lockers in the mudroom are equipped with electrical outlets so that the kids can charge their cell phones and iPods. The first-floor bathroom has a kitchen sink and disposal, which Sharon said comes in handy when she's potting plants. And the U-shaped kitchen island — affectionately referred to as "Sharon Central" — was designed after hours of back and forth between Sharon and Lindgren to make sure that the silverware and dishes were stored according to how she works. The island's dining section is shaped like an L, so that the family can eat their meals on the fly but still get face-to-face interaction.

Lindgren placed transom windows above the kitchen's patio doors to expand the views to a higher point on the horizon. And thanks to an open three-story stairwell that holds court in the middle of the house, you can now see the golf course when you walk through the front door. "The staircase is its own architectural feature," said Lindgren.

An interior designer, Sharon also wanted to try her hand at a new decorating style. "My old house was Tommy Bahama goes to Italy," she said. For this home, Sharon chose a more contemporary look.

The color scheme mixes warm gray, walnut and cream tones and balances many different textures including poured concrete countertops, ash floors with rubbed-off paint finish, seagrass carpet and hand-glazed subway tiles. The stairwell's sturdy but smooth walnut steps and cherry and metal railings play off the main level's slate floors.

Both Lindgren and Sharon said that put-

REMODELING TIPS

Renovating your home doesn't necessarily mean making it larger. Here are a few suggestions on how to remodel within your home's existing footprint, from Jeff Lindgren, a designer with Streeter Renovation & Design.

- Simply adding more square footage to a home may not solve the space issues. Restructuring traffic patterns could enhance how the home functions in the same amount of space. Assess your project and devise a list that breaks these items down into wants, needs and maintenance issues. Then decide which features you truly need.
- Determine your budget before you start. Knowing how much you can spend will help an architect, designer or builder manage your expectations.
- Understand local building codes. When renovating older homes, extra dollars may have to be spent to bring features such as stairs and electrical outlets up to code.
- Make sure the home's "shell" is healthy. Fix any exterior problems first to protect the investments you plan to make to the interior.
- For more ideas on how to make the most of your existing space, visit "The Not So Big House" author Sarah Susanka's website at www.susanka.com.

ELIZABETH LARSEN

ting all these details together was an intimate collaboration. "The ongoing back and forth happened daily," said Lindgren. "In a project like this the client almost becomes a part of the company."

Now that the renovations are complete, what does Sharon enjoy the most? "The sense of calm," she said. "It's serene, like we are up north. The whole family feels it."

Elizabeth Larsen, a freelance writer, lives in Minneapolis.



By using only partial walls, Lindgren was able to delineate spaces without blocking any views.



The open staircase allows for views of the golf course from the front door.

Lindgren designed the contemporary staircase as an architectural feature.

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