



This addition relocated the main entrance and added a cozy new family room.



Remodelers Corner

BY JENNIFER M. GANGLOFF

Sometimes all it takes to find the perfect home is an open mind and a vision about a diamond in the rough. Joanne and Richard Long had plenty of that when they moved from Iowa to Rochester and began house hunting in October 2005.

They spotted a ranch house that had all the basic features they wanted, including a large basement, a heated workshop, few stairs, space for guests and nine gorgeous acres. But at 31 years old, the house was showing its age and needed extensive updating. The Longs saw past that. "We knew it had potential," says Richard Long, a retired engineer who immediately began drawing up designs for a remodel. They brought in an architect to help with the details and Tom Gommels, owner of Master Builders Inc., to bring the ideas to life in a multi-phase renovation. "Tom and his crew gave us good suggestions

and stuck with us," Richard Long says. "They're good craftsmen and set high standards." One key when doing a remodel of this scope is to check references and see finished work in person before hiring a general contractor, Gommels says. "If they hire a contractor who has the experience, coordination skills, quality employees and dependable subcontractors along with genuine concern for the homeowner, making the project turn out as they envisioned is a lot easier," he says.

The Long remodel took place in two stages, which Gommels also recommends for large projects. The first phase of the overhaul was a 30x22-foot addition on the west end that included relocating the main entrance and adding a cozy new family room and a guest suite. A second addition included a 17x10-foot four-season sunroom with white-washed pine paneling

and stunning vistas. On the east end, two bedrooms were converted into a home office and a large master suite boasting more closet space and a larger bathroom.

The remodel didn't end there. The home was dressed up with a new exterior facing of highly durable fiber cement siding that resembles rich redwood. The walls and ceiling got new insulation, the cedar deck was enlarged and geometrical maple inlay was added to refinished oak floors.

"The first thing people tell us is that our home doesn't look like it was remodeled," says Joanne Long. "We constantly tell ourselves how fortunate we are to be in a place we truly love living in."

Jennifer M. Gangloff is a health writer for the Mayo Clinic and a freelance writer and editor.

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The second phase added a four-season sunroom.



after

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Homeowner:

RICHARD & JOANNE LONG

Project:

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