



PROJECT OVERVIEW

The homeowners interviewed five other firms and finally selected Four Brothers, LLC as their remodeling partner. They were impressed with Four Brothers' portfolio, and liked the transparent nature of their design/build approach. In its pre-renovation condition, the attic had one redeeming quality: the heart pine flooring (although it was badly in need of re-finishing). Other than that, it was a dark, dated space, with an awkward kitchen and tiny bathroom.

Renovate & Remodel

After living in their Chevy Chase home for several years, these homeowners were ready to convert their attic into a master suite.

DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION

The goal of the project was to create an open, spacious master suite, conducive to unwinding after a stressful day. During the design phase, several concepts were explored and after a few rounds of schematic drawings, the homeowners selected an open floor plan with enclosed areas for the shower and toilet.

A large walk-in closet backs up to the shower, and the location of the bed was changed to allow the couple to take advantage of better sight lines. In spite of its urban setting, the large windows and proximity of trees make the suite feel as if it is nestled in a remote forest. The design includes a reading area with a coffee center and beverage fridge, custom shelving for books, and hidden storage for luggage. The television is mounted on the exposed brick chimney, and swivels so as to be visible from both the bed and the seating area.

From the beginning, Four Brothers suggested an eclectic combination of classic and contemporary finishes for a timeless, clean look. The heart pine floors were refurbished and the custom cabinetry throughout was finished in complimenting colors. A wall of salvaged wood from an old barn in Virginia is illuminated by accent lighting, and a stained glass window from Chicago adds texture and interest.

Four Brothers encountered several unexpected problems during the construction phase. When the floors

were opened, it became clear that the existing structural framing was inadequate, and hazardous insulation had been used in the floor joists and walls. Despite the added structural and remediation work, Four Brothers kept the project on budget and on schedule.

IN THE WORDS OF THE HOMEOWNERS

"We had very high expectations, but the end result still managed to far exceed them, both aesthetically and functionally. From the project's inception, we had a collaborative relationship with Four Brothers. They patiently and carefully listened to our ideas and concerns and came up with innovative solutions. Leroy worked hard to keep our project on-budget, informing us of unanticipated costs along the way and suggesting ways to keep on track; Matthew is a gifted architect, whose designs really set the tone for the project; and Walid was the project foreman extraordinaire.

Anyone who has done any renovation work knows that you will be seeing A LOT of the foreman. Walid is exactly the person you want—meticulous in his craft, punctual, respectful of the home and homeowners, hardworking, and pleasant to be around. We are thrilled with our new master suite and thank Four Brothers for their hard work." ■

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