

MIDSOUTH

A photograph of a dining room. In the center is a dark wood dining table surrounded by matching chairs with cream-colored upholstered seats. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the ceiling. On the wall to the left is a large painting of a woman in a blue dress. To the right, a floor lamp with a white shade stands next to a large, ornate mirror. The room has light blue walls and a white crown molding.

Before & After
*Renovations and Additions
With Beautiful Results*

*A Home With Personality
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around the house



Before



ABOVE: An updated and opened-up kitchen brings this 20th-century Germantown, Tennessee, farmhouse into the 21st century with an eclectic twist on French style.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The O'Connor's previously separated kitchen gives way to the epicenter of family living with a comfortable but well-appointed keeping room adjacent to the new and expanded kitchen.

BEAUTIFUL RESULTS

WRITER K. DENISE JENNINGS

"AFTER" PHOTOGRAPHS ON BOTH PAGES BY ANDREA LUDWIG.



You've decided to renovate your home. This generally means that you love your home and/or the neighborhood where you live, but your house is just not meeting your needs anymore. Some may call this a commitment—whether it is to your home or neighborhood or to a mental institution depends on how you approach the project.

We've all heard horror stories about renovations, but many of us have been in older established homes that have had fabulous renovations that seem infinitely worth the hassle. The trick is to be prepared, enlist some experts and stay focused.

Two mid-South homeowners with unique commitments to their homes found their way through the renovation process and emerged on the other side with beautiful results. Their vision and that of their architects and interior designers come to life on the following pages.

IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

Pam and Greg O'Connor moved to Memphis fresh off the renovation of a 1920s farmhouse in suburban Chicago and happened upon a property

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that gave them the same feeling, a 1920s farmhouse complete with a basement dug with buckets and mules, and two outhouses. The Germantown, Tennessee, property might have been torn down and used as an infill development by now had the O'Connors not fallen in love with it. After looking at lots of large properties in the area that all started to blend together, the family with three small children decided on this unique location and a long-term project to make it their own.

A choppy layout with a kitchen that was in the back of the house and separated from the living area was a problem for this large young family, but the fact that all the house's utilities were situated right outside the kitchen—the most natural place for the addition—was a big obstacle. Three air-conditioning units, three gas lines, the cable, the phone and the MLG&W meter all had to be moved to even start the project.

Once all that was done, the O'Connors moved all the essential appliances into the dining room and installed a sink and disposal in the downstairs bathroom and dug in for the 10-month renovation process that would leave them with a new kitchen, keeping room and central home office. "It's not fun,*but you hang in there," says Pam. "You have to keep your eye on the prize."

The prize for this family was a big relaxing new epicenter for the family to gather and live in most of the time. The O'Connor's three children go to three different schools and are very active. The new kitchen and keeping room offer places to eat, do homework and hang out with their



TOP: Innovative kitchen appliances add modern conveniences to a historic home.

BOTTOM: An angled bar expands kitchen work space and doubles as a homework desk for the O'Connor's three children.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA LUDWIG.

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Before



A French chateau was the inspiration for the Jordan's new master suite which includes a sitting room, a new master bedroom, a master bath and walk-in closets. The suite is made personal with furniture and artwork collected by the Jordans on their travels to France.

OPPOSITE PAGE: The Jordan's former bedroom in their circa-1950s East Memphis home becomes an elegant master suite sitting room with raised ceilings and a fireplace.



"AFTER" PHOTOGRAPHS BY HAL JAFFE.



An intricately designed parquet floor and molding on the walls are some of the upscale craftsman touches that helped transform the Jordan's bedroom into a relaxing retreat.

HAL JAFFE

"I wanted to feel like I was in a French chateau or at the Four Seasons," she says. A nearly yearly traveler to France, Anne had collected lots of art and furniture that would help inspire Brad Shapiro, principal architect with Shapiro & Company Architects, Inc.

Catherine Harris

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Charming home hiding in the back of an amazing East Memphis cove. Complete renovation by builder/owner...The absolute best of everything...New granite, stainless appliances, hardwood everywhere, even upstairs. Brick floored kitchen, gorgeous new travertine in master suite. Backyard is paradise with new orchard stone, fountains, gas lights, covered living area with stone fireplace. Huge owner's suite is downstairs with fire place and sitting area.

290 W. Colbert, \$464,900

Former Riverbirch model in Schilling Farms full of luxurious upgrades. Wonderful marble on oversized island in kitchen and high-end cabinetry. Master's suite is downstairs and bathroom has beautiful travertine. 2-story Great Room with custom built-ins and amazing woodwork and glass tile around fireplace. Quaint and private outdoor living area. Two separate upstairs boast 2 bedrooms, a loft area, large bonus room and separate study. Located in Schilling Farms development, lovely area with neighborhood pool and easy access to Nonconah Parkway.



800 Deloach Cove, \$304,900

Amazing use of space in this Sterling Square home. Master suite is down and master bathroom is beautifully appointed with copper tile and granite tops. Kitchen has granite tops and stainless appliances and a breakfast bar. Home has separate breakfast area. Upstairs boasts three bedrooms, a study and a bonus room. Great Collierville location—easy access to Nonconah and part of Schilling Farms development. Neighborhood is charming and has a neighborhood pool.



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friends while having great views of the backyard.

In addition to running the household, Pam manages all the kids' schedules and supervises multiple fund-raisers at all three schools, so her home office right off the kitchen and keeping room serves as the control center for the whole house and is in close proximity to where the kids hang out, so she can keep an eye on them and be part of the fun.

With the help of Abbey Allman, certified kitchen designer with Memphis-based Kitchen Solutions, and board-certified interior designer Sherry Jones, the O'Connor's renovation project, which had many ups and downs, ended on a positive note.

Renovating the kitchen is a big and expensive proposition, Allman says. On the short end, when you're only talking about replacing what is there, it could take as little as a month. If there are any changes or additions, it can be several months. "The time depends on the scope," she says.

You have to be prepared to live without a working sink for extended periods, and you have to be really flexible to live in the middle of a renovation project, Allman adds.

When deciding on this type of project, first get a handle on the type of style that you like and then a kitchen designer can help recommend design solutions based on your style.

Building on, especially to an old house, is sometimes challenging. People often want vaulted or taller ceilings and more open floor plans in their additions, and it is sometimes difficult to make the transition look seamless and still keep the integrity of the original house, says Jones.

Using some older pieces from the older part of the house and design tricks to make some materials in the new part of the house fit in with the original era of the home are important in blending the old with the new, Jones explains.

After lots of ups and downs, the O'Connors are happy with their decision to renovate. "It's kind of like being pregnant," says Pam. "Once it's over and you see the baby, you can hardly remember the pain."

HOTEL LUXURY AT HOME

When Rick and Anne Jordan were engaged, they bought a home on Galloway because of its location. The couple decided it would be their "forever home" that they would renovate as their lives demanded. Eventually, after four children had come along, the Jordans wanted a place where they could retreat as a couple in their own home and recharge.

The small master suite with 8-foot ceilings, a small bathroom and closet was not meeting their needs anymore, and the couple decided to add on a master suite complete with a new bathroom and closet to the existing space, which would become a sitting room with a fireplace. The addition was also planned with an eye toward the outdoor spaces that would be off the master suite. There are views of the backyard in the master bedroom and a bayed window area in the sitting room that overlooks a landscaped fountain area.

Anne had a particular feeling she wanted to invoke. "I wanted to feel like I was in a French chateau or at the Four Seasons," she says. A nearly yearly traveler to France, Anne had collected lots of art and furniture that would help inspire Brad Shapiro, principal architect with Shapiro & Company Architects, Inc.

"We have an overall master plan for the entire house which will update the exterior to a more architecturally significant design," Shapiro says. "The master suite was phase one of the project."

Generally, a master bedroom renovation/addition can take from four to six months for high-end construction, says Shapiro. There is a lot of prep work involved, and especially in high-end construction, you don't want multiple craftsmen working at the same time. "You have to do linear scheduling," he explains. "It's a cumulative project."

The Jordans decided to stay in their home and move into the guestroom during the renovation that took about six months.

"Be prepared to make a lot of decisions, and get a really good architect," says Anne. "Stay on top of things. Make sure the renovation is your own with your sense of style, but be willing to listen to your architect," she adds.

Shapiro believes listening is the most important thing for client and architect alike. "Most people hire an architect because they generally want something that they may not have thought about yet. An architect can present unique design solutions and, at the same time, preserve continuity."

"I love seeing people enjoy what they've ended up with," Shapiro says. "Helping people realize their visions for their home and creating something that they didn't know was possible is what I love about the job." ●

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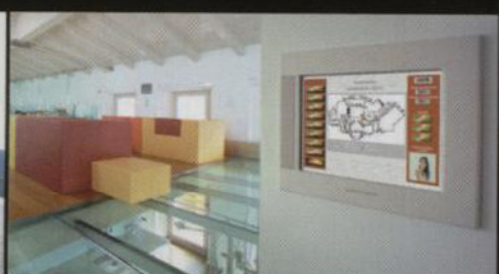
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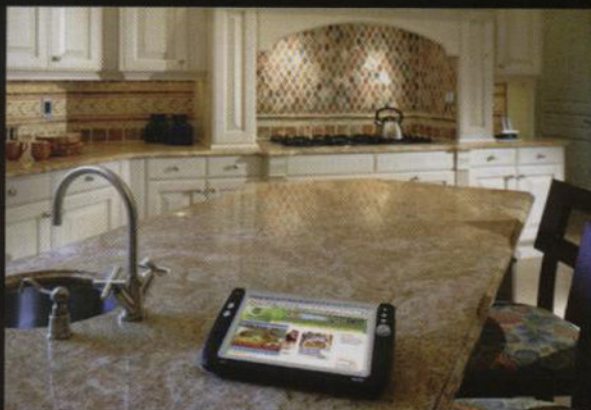
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