

MAKING A **House a Home** —AGAIN

By Susan B. Barnes

Homeownership has its fair share of obstacles—from figuring out how to make those repairs to what color to paint the kitchen to just the right landscaping to showcase the house. For some, there comes a time to make a bigger decision: remodel or throw in the towel and buy new.

“People are requesting remodels in their homes for two reasons,” said Pete Costanza of Costanza Homes. “They are substantially invested in their neighborhoods and have lived in their homes for twenty years or so and don’t want to move; or, their families are changing and they need a mother-in-law suite, or they had more kids and need to add a room.”

He also noted that people like the idea of refreshing their homes without having to move away and that the sheer lack of resources motivates remodels.

“One of the main reasons people in Pinellas County remodel is that there is very little land available to build new, and they are pretty happy with their location,” added Costanza.

When beginning a project, a member of the Costanza Homes team visits the site to take a look at the project and assess the work to be done. Then, the in-house drafting staff develops preliminary designs, which are reviewed and finalized. Finally, the team works within the predetermined budget and builds out the job.

Powell Building Contractors, Inc. also sees a lot of renovation work in Pinellas County, which Bob Powell, president, attributes primarily to the tax implications of building a new home.

“We’ve recently completed a few whole-house renovations on the beaches, which results in significantly less taxes than if we’d built new homes,” said Powell. “We’ve also been doing a lot of bonus rooms, second floor bonus rooms, and home theaters.”

Powell concurred with Costanza. “People don’t want to leave the neighborhood where they’ve been for ten years, their kids are involved in soccer, and they have friends and neighbors that they don’t want to leave. A renovation provides more room without a move.”

Neal Fiske and his team at TriplePoint Design Build work with their clients from conceptualizing designs through to the final “punch out.” They generally have three types of clients: those who have an idea and need help getting started; those who know



TriplePoint Design Build transforms an ordinary living room into a spectacular, contemporary work of art. Refined elements of the design include “step tray” ceilings, angular walls and floor-to-ceiling glass

what they want but aren’t aware of all the things that have to be done to get the project going; and those with plans in hand and need a builder.

“Our clients come under our wing as we start looking at things together,” said Fiske. “We work through the



TriplePoint Design Build remodeled this home keeping within the original footprint of the house. Care was taken to compliment the existing architectural theme of the structure, while enhancing the open water views with the addition of the upper transom glass.



design process establishing realistic expectations for the project while trying to incorporate all of their objectives.”

“We keep a keen eye on the budget, develop accurate scope of work documents, and control the selection process, and strategically break the project into manageable components that translate into a successful construction strategy,” adds Fiske.

“We consider the design process—selections, establishing a realistic budget and developing a construction schedule—is all part of the courtship,” said Fiske. “The



From remodeling a single room to an entire house, the project(s) take time, patience, and expertise. (© Powell Building Contractors, Inc.).

construction part of the project is the marriage. If the courtship goes well, it is a clear indication that the marriage will be successful.”

When it comes time to make a decision to remodel or move, give it some deep thought and make the decision that will make your house a home—again. **DB**

To get started on your remodeling project, contact:

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