

# Reasons for Renovating

*a closer look at the motivations*



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I recently found myself up to my elbows in stain and sandpaper dust, tackling the enormous task of refinishing our outdated bedroom furniture. For whatever reason, I did not really care for the natural wood look and stain color that adorned our dressers and end tables. The attached hardware also left a lot to be desired. The furniture came from my grandparents, and although it was not what you would call antique, it did have sentimental value to me. When my grandmother had fallen ill, I was able to find some old pictures of her in her prime buried deep behind an upper drawer. Plus, the furniture had great bones and was constructed well. I could not see myself parting with it.

After realizing that neither our budget, nor my sentiments, could withstand an entirely new bedroom suite of the same

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quality and size, I had the idea of refinishing it. I discovered it was far more feasible than I thought. With a little patience, a fresh coat of stain and sleek new hardware, my husband and I transformed our bedroom into something we truly love. It is far more suitable to both our

style and our wallets alike. When I look at the furniture, I still think of my grandparents and I am happy that we could make an alteration to something we hold dear.

Transforming our furniture had me reflecting on what motivates our

customers to renovate or add on to their home in lieu of buying something new. What do they hope to gain from making these changes? More importantly, what are they holding on to?

For Andy and LeAnn, of Lancaster,





footage they wanted if they bought a home. It was then that they explored the idea of building an addition. LeAnn says, "We were shocked at how much easier it would be to add on to our home and keep our house." Neighborhood and location played large roles in the decision making. "We are far enough away from the city, but close enough to get pizza delivered. And we know all our neighbors." Plus, they had emotional ties to the home, where all the "first moments" occurred for their daughter. When it came down to it, the home had great potential and plenty of emotional attachments that led them on the road to renovation.

a style that matched their way of life. But after six months with their home on the market, they were second guessing their choice. Tod and Susan felt the timing was not right due to the turning real estate market, not to mention they really loved parts of their existing home. "The renovation decision became quite easy," Tod remembers. They realized they could transform their home into a more open, family-friendly style, while maintaining all the things they loved about their home.



the decision to renovate and add on to their charming, but small bungalow-style home was triggered by the needs of their grow-

ing family. After finding that they were expecting their second child, they realized they simply did not have enough space in their current home. Although they loved the home's character and charm, with all its nooks and crannies, they started looking for a new home to buy. They quickly found that there would be no way to afford the square

After years of living in their Lancaster home, Tod and Susan were looking to find something that would more aptly suit their family's lifestyle. They acknowledged that the style of their home was a reflection of the times in which it was built. Smaller, more distinct rooms, including formal living rooms and dining rooms, seemed to be the trend in the mid-90's. Tod says, "We realized 90% of our time was spent in the kitchen and family room." They went in search of a home with

Stan and Judy decided to renovate their outdated kitchen and add an adjacent family room to their Lancaster home. The new open design added a fresh new look, complete with modern amenities in a style that matched their needs. This allowed them to remain in the friendly neighborhood that they enjoyed. The renovation allowed Stan and Judy to enjoy their home in a whole new way.



Donna grew up on a farm where the kitchen was the center of life. After spending years raising a family in a rancher-style home with a small, cramped kitchen, there were suddenly fewer people underfoot. Donna debated downsizing from her Ephrata home, but had always longed for that large, open kitchen where people could gather. Making the decision to expand the back of the home and build her dream kitchen was not a hard one. Now, seeing how her youngest grandchildren always line up on stools along the large island countertop, Donna says, "Every time I look at the counter, I see cookies!" With a smile and sparkle in her eyes, Donna treasures those memories of her existing home, but joyfully welcomes the new ones.

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Renovation brings new life to an old shell; a shell that often contains the sentimental memories of a lifetime, and the promise of new memories to come.