

Elevated Harmony

Redefining the Primary Suite for Modern Living



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the new primary suite above the garage instead? That single conversation changed everything.

What began as a straightforward addition soon evolved into a design that redefined how the home functions, feels, and flows, creating harmony between beauty and everyday living.

A Vision Rooted in Adaptability and Calm

From the start, my focus was on designing a home that would adapt gracefully to the family's future. One of the homeowners works in fashion and creative content, so the new suite needed to be both restful and camera-ready. Together, we established clear goals: abundant natural light, elegant backdrops for photography, a large shower for two, a deep soaking tub, and an airy, timeless aesthetic.

Relocating the primary suite to the second-floor addition above the garage achieved all of this, expanding the home's footprint while elevating the experience of daily life.

Creating Flow Through Architecture

To create better balance, we began by reconfiguring the existing second floor. One of the children's bedrooms was transformed into a new hallway connection and a beautifully functional laundry room. The former primary suite became an en-suite for their oldest child, maintaining the number of bedrooms while improving overall flow.

The new addition above the garage became home to the primary suite, a calm, light-filled retreat designed for long-term comfort and

A serene spa-like escape featuring a soaking tub and dual shower, centered around natural light and tranquility.



flexibility. In future years, the home's dual-suite layout will easily accommodate guests or multigenerational living.

A Spa-Inspired Sanctuary

The new primary bath quickly became the heart of the project and was recently honored with a **1st Place NKBA Susquehanna Valley Design Award**. Entered under the name *Whispering Wellness*, the space embodies everything the homeowners envisioned, serenity, light, and thoughtful luxury.

A unique architectural nook from the kitchen expansion below provided the perfect opportunity for recessed shower niches, turning a structural constraint into a refined feature. The expansive shower for two includes dual showerheads, a bench, and softly reflective tiles that heighten the sense of calm.

The freestanding soaking tub anchors the room beneath a generous window, framing a peaceful view while offering a luminous backdrop for content creation. A custom double vanity blends function with elegance, featuring built-in organization, a concealed hair-tool drawer, and brass fixtures that bring warmth to the soft neutral palette. Even the toilet alcove was planned for privacy and balance.

Custom cabinetry, brass fixtures, and balanced symmetry bring beauty and purpose to this calming retreat.



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hen this family first reached out to me, their goal was simple, to add a second floor above the garage for two children's bedrooms and a shared Jack-and-Jill bath. It was a practical plan to meet their growing family's needs.

As we reviewed their layout and discussed how they lived day to day, I sensed an opportunity to do more. Their existing primary suite lacked privacy, natural light, and functionality—essentials for a true retreat. I asked if they'd be open to exploring an alternate concept: what if we located

About the Author
Heather L. Rineer, NCIDQ, is the Founder and Director of Design at Rineer Designs, a full-service interior design firm based in York, Pennsylvania. Known for crafting sophisticated spaces that inspire and uplift, Rineer Designs provides comprehensive services from architectural planning to tailored residential and commercial interiors, including outdoor living environments, for clients throughout Pennsylvania, Maryland, and beyond.

Extending Function to the First Floor

While the addition above the garage became the project's standout feature, thoughtful updates on the main level completed the home's transformation. What was once a cramped office became three purposeful spaces:

- A powder room with soft neutrals, subtle wallpaper, and brass sconces.
- A mudroom with built-in cabinetry, shoe cubbies, and natural wood accents for everyday order.
- A pantry beside the kitchen, designed for seamless storage and visual continuity.

Each space contributes to a more intuitive, welcoming, and functional first floor.

A Home Elevated by Intention

Every choice, from cabinetry craftsmanship to lighting, tile, and material selection, was made to create a sense of calm and enduring refinement. The finished design delivers a sanctuary that reflects both the family's style and their evolving lifestyle.

What began as a plan for children's bedrooms became a vision of long-term livability, a home that grows, adapts, and continues to uplift the people who call it home.

The Bedroom: Calm Meets Creativity

The adjoining bedroom continues the same serene design language. Soft neutrals, layered textures, and a double tray ceiling with dual chandeliers bring harmony to the gabled architecture, once a challenge, now a defining feature.

A comfortable seating area and content-creation zone allow the homeowner to film and photograph within her own sanctuary. The floor plan also allows for an expansive closet footprint to support her career in the fashion and creative industries, ensuring both personal and professional ease. Her closet, designed with equal consideration for flow and proportion, maintains a streamlined, cohesive feel.

A carefully balanced architectural layout and thoughtful ceiling details shape a serene foundation for the homeowners' furnishings; creating a tranquil retreat that supports both rest and renewal.

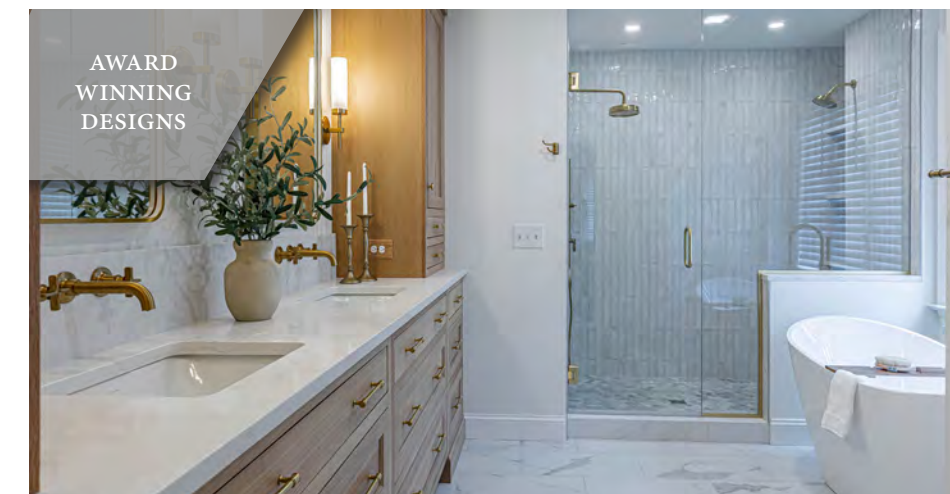


From left to right (above): **Mudroom**—custom cabinetry and natural wood details create an inviting drop zone that balances order and everyday function; **Pantry**—elegant organization meets daily practicality with marble-look surfaces and built-in storage for a polished finish; **Powder Room**—a compact space layered with warmth and charm, combining bead board, wallpaper, and brass accents for timeless appeal.

If you're ready to transform your space, let's create something inspiring together. At **Rineer Designs**, we are passionate about *Crafting Sophisticated Spaces that Inspire and Uplift*. Together, let's bring your vision to life!



Laundry Room—a tailored workspace designed for efficiency and calm, featuring a farmhouse sink, textured backsplash, and a thoughtfully integrated dog-bowl station with its own faucet just beyond view.



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