

# ultimate home makeover



**M**ike and Catherine knew the look they wanted. Their vision was something that could be found in a multi-million dollar home or featured in Architectural Digest. After purchasing their older home, Mike and Catherine's journey in renovation started with conceptual drawings that Custom Home Group adapted and took to new levels with detailed design and architectural elements, leaving no stone unturned. Custom Home Group's ability to achieve the aesthetic of a luxurious home while keeping to budget-friendly methods really impressed the homeowners.

From the moment Mike and Catherine decided to purchase the outdated home, they knew they would be making some changes. "The house was definitely a little bit older," says Mike, "but we fell in love with the property." Moving from what was essentially a model home with all the bells and

whistles in a development, the homeowners still felt that it lacked a lot of character. Mike and Catherine knew that they wanted to make a transformation that exuded personality.

After working with a designer who sketched up some conceptual drawings for the homeowners, they began the task of researching contractors. Many contractors they met with in the beginning were either unwilling to talk with them until final drawings were completed or were strongly pushing for Mike and Catherine to tear the house down and start from scratch. Catherine recalls, "We liked the size of the house for our family, and we knew it was a good solid foundation. We wanted to use what was here, and Custom Home Group was very open to the plans we had.



They were really great about taking the time to explain things and the cost differences and were very positive about the project."

Custom Home Group is a design-build company located in Quarryville, which offers design services separate from the building process. Dan Siegrist, owner of Custom Home

Group, explains "We offer the design phase with the goal of getting them to commit to construction, but it is not a requirement." He adds, "We are able to combine the design, the budget and the construction to make it work for the customer." Having a contractor with both construction AND design expertise provides a unique benefit to customers looking to do what Mike and Catherine were doing.

## SPOTLIGHT

### project description

#### TYPE

Addition and Major Renovations

#### CONTRACTOR

**Custom Home Group, Inc.**  
(see ad p. 35)

#### PROJECT TRADE PARTNERS

DelCor Home Interiors, LLC (see ad p. 44)

FlorHaus (see ad p. 41)

Kitchen Craft (see ad p. 39 & 59)

Martin Appliance (see ad p. 36)

Nolt Mechanical (see ad p. 36)

Quality Stone Veneer (see ad p. 45)

#### OTHER TRADE PARTNER

Walton Drywall (see ad p. 42)

#### SCOPE

Driving the project was the homeowners' desire to create new space for a custom kitchen and the addition of a full front porch. To meet these ends, the project included a complete front facelift, a rear kitchen addition, and a comprehensive interior gutting to accommodate a complete redesign of living space including a vaulted-ceiling entry.



as it if were his own. One example regarding the casement around the windows stands out in Mike's mind. He recalls Derrick calling him to say, "Mike, you have to come up here. Look, it's your house, but I think you need to have thicker trim here. I know at my house, that's what I would do." Mike laughs at the memory, but also explains, "That type of thing to me was personal."

The concern and respect for the homeowners did not stop with the Custom Home Group employees. The group of subcontractors that were involved with the project really impressed Mike and Catherine. "The one thing I wanted on this remodel was the front porch," says Mike, a southern gentleman through and through. "I came up here one day when they were working on the front porch and it was only framed up. I took a piece of plywood

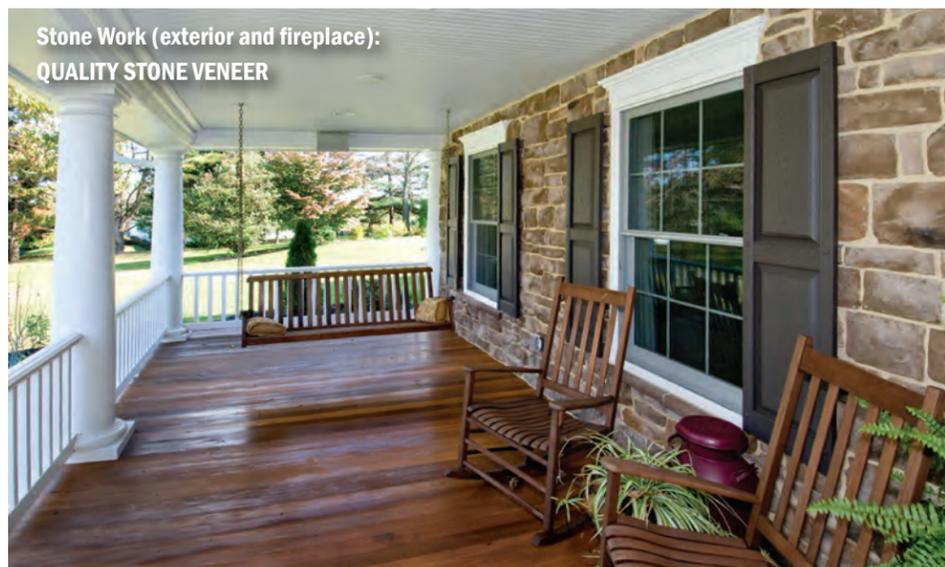
and a lawn chair and sat on the front porch envisioning what this porch would look like when it was done. I had to laugh as they continued to work on the front porch...they moved that chair and piece of plywood, always keeping it on the front porch no matter what they were doing there!" Mike adds, "The people that worked on the house were always of good character, good people. They would stop and talk to you whenever you came."

Had you driven past this home before the renovations, you might not have recognized that it was the same house. The entire front of the house received a refreshing facelift. The addition of the spacious front porch, which features a barrel ceiling and tongue and groove mahogany decking, was important to the homeowners. They wanted this front porch

Custom Home Group had recently completed an addition on a home down the street and had also constructed a new house nearby, so Mike and Catherine felt fortunate to see how they worked on both new construction and remodeling projects. And having contracted with Custom Home Group to do the final design of their home's renovations, Mike and Catherine felt ready to work with them on the construction phase as well.

From the time he built his first home in 1986, Dan has gone the extra mile for his customers. His focus has been on doing the job right no matter what. Dan explains, "In short, our philosophy is really to serve the customer." His faith has always driven him to treat his customers as he would want to be treated. In 2004, Dan's son, Derrick, came on board, and it was both the customer-driven service and family dynamics that Mike and Catherine were really drawn to.

Knowing that the scope of work was extensive, Mike and Catherine moved down the street into Mike's parents' house for the duration of the renovations. It was a comfort to the homeowners having Derrick as project manager in the house. Later, when Derrick's personal investment in the project and natural concern for doing things the right way became apparent, the homeowners often joked how it was really "his" house. They appreciated his attention to details and how Derrick treated the home



Stone Work (exterior and fireplace):  
QUALITY STONE VENEER



*Larry and Debbie*

Larry and Debbie Rigler  
Jeremy Hess Photography/JH

"For years we discussed if we should move or build a new house, but in the end, we had a hand-crafted timber framed sitting room that we love and couldn't leave behind. It's where we entertain family and friends and it's one of the many places that we fell in love. Custom Home Group knew how to put our minds at ease. The plans for an addition that Custom Home Group presented to us had an amazing kitchen and living space built from the ground up around our favorite room. They took the time to work with us and carried our sense of style, along with design cues from the timber sitting room, throughout all of the new construction. Custom Home Group's professional expertise allowed them to be our designers, builders and now... our friends."



How did it all come together?

Visit [www.customhomegroup.com/Rigler](http://www.customhomegroup.com/Rigler) to learn the rest of their story

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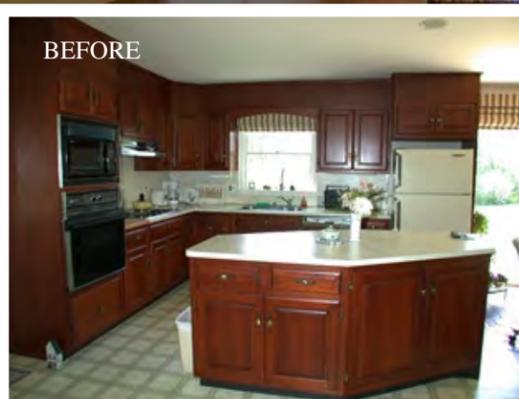
for relaxing and entertaining as well as to give Mike an outdoor space to utilize for work since he typically works from home. Crown moulding, composite railings and impressive columns gave the front porch the desired finishing touches.

The exterior of the home was refaced with a complimentary mixture of stone veneer, stucco and vinyl siding. The two new dormers were added to the reshingled roof giving the front of the home some balance with the front porch gable. Additionally, the garage doors were upgraded with carriage-style garage doors by Clopay that have the appearance of swing-out doors, but offer the modern convenience of overhead operation.

Custom Home Group works closely together with subcontractors and suppliers to provide a cohesive end result for the homeowners. Jared Erb is the designer for Custom Home Group, and his involvement varies from initial design to product selection, always working closely with the homeowners and trades people. "There are so many variables," says Jared, explaining the coordination required. "We try to work very closely to pull it all together." A kitchen design, for example, has specific selections and design decisions which all work together to play a role in a successful finished product. Miscommunication about the lighting placement, flooring selections and paint colors could create a disappointing result if not handled with the thoughtful coordination that Custom Home Group provides its customers.

The kitchen area was a critical element in Mike and Catherine's home renovation. The major goal they hoped to achieve was the creation of a large, open kitchen space to serve as the hub of the home. Working with Kitchen Craft, a local kitchen and cabinetry company located in East Earl, the homeowners became very involved in the design of their dream kitchen. Mike and Catherine put a lot of time and effort into thinking through every possible function they would want their kitchen to serve, from the location of their pots and pans to the ideal spot to make breakfast in the morning. "It was a fun process," Catherine recalls. Kitchen Craft transformed the homeowners' ideas and specific needs into an elegant, yet perfectly efficient, kitchen design. The end result is a stunning kitchen, beautifully crafted and well coordinated with the rest of the home's renovations.

Appliances: MARTIN APPLIANCE  
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The kitchen was designed with a barreled ceiling over the kitchen sink and five custom arched windows overlooking the backyard. While being a beautiful design element on its own, this window area serves a functional purpose by providing an abundance of natural light. The custom island was created from a design that Catherine fell in love with in a magazine. The round wooden table built into the corner of the rectangular island was constructed as a fully complete table and then cut down to fit the corner. The replication was exactly as Catherine had envisioned, right down to the custom edge of the wooden table top.

While the front porch and kitchen area were high on the priority list for Mike and Catherine, the whole home was essentially gutted to accommodate the new living spaces. The central fireplace in the living room is double-sided and can also be viewed from the kitchen area. The challenge of designing this focal point was



Kitchen: KITCHEN CRAFT



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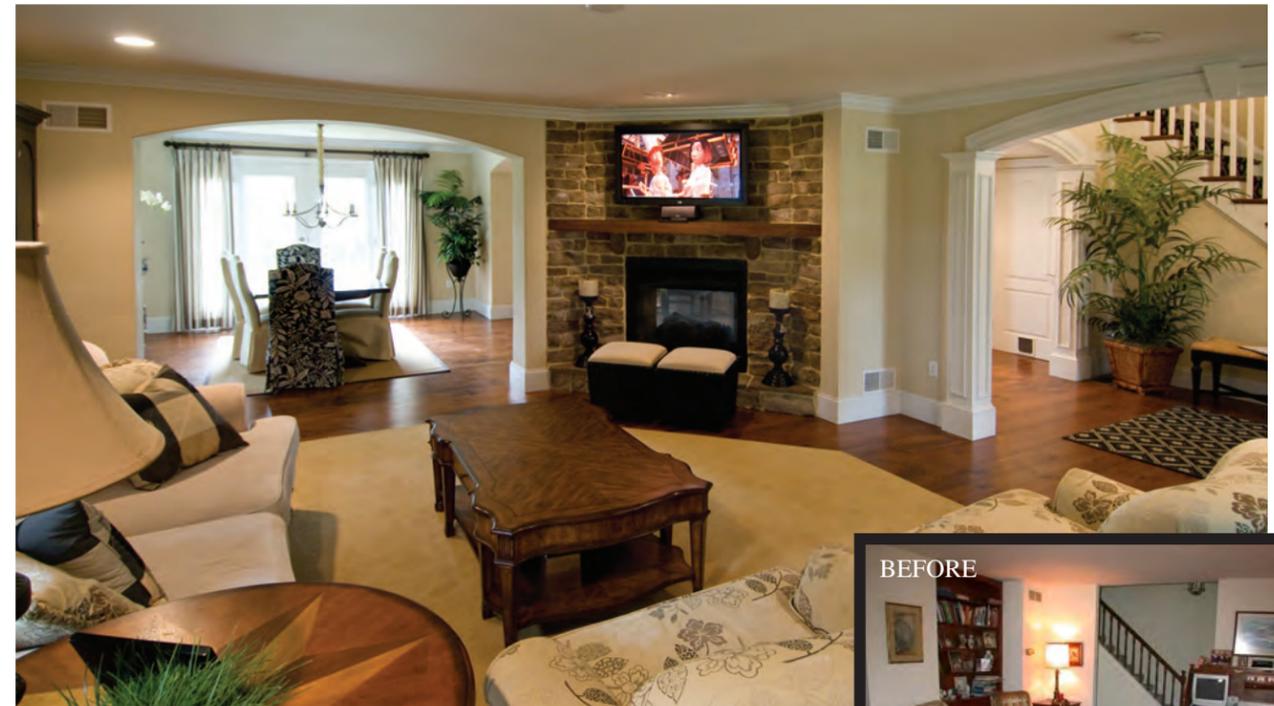
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one that Jared embraced. He and the homeowners went through several different plans in order to achieve the perfect solution, and in the end, everyone was delighted with the outcome.

## Another Professionally Done Job!

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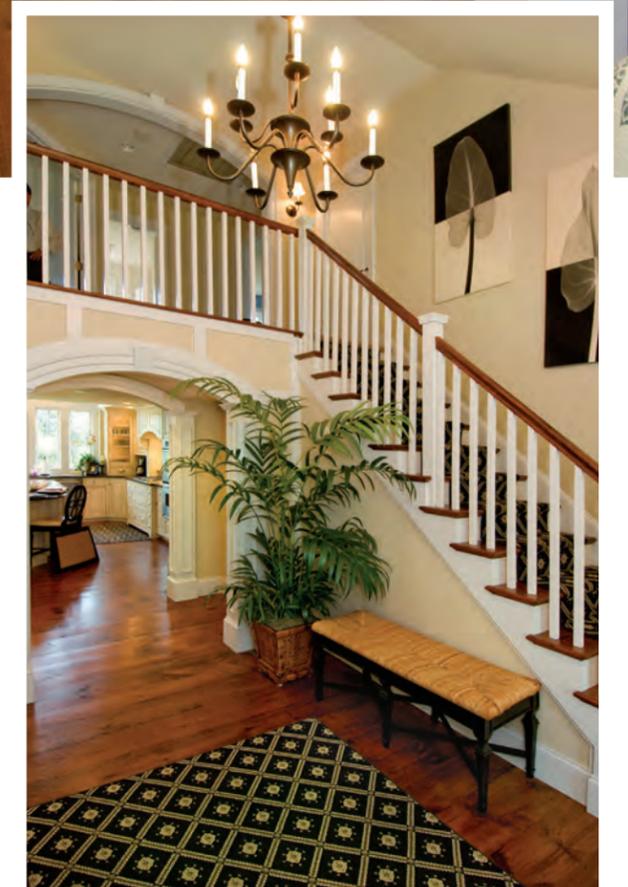
Flooring: FLORHAUS



“One thing that pleasantly surprised me,” Mike remembers, “was this foyer area.” The second floor over the foyer area was removed and a new staircase installed creating a stunning entry-way with detailed trim work and a vaulted ceiling. “We had given them photos of what we wanted, which was clearly out of a several million dollar home...very detailed, very ornate, very trimmed out,” Mike says. An avid reader of Architectural Digest and other

similar magazines which feature multi-million dollar homes, Jared explains, “That’s one of my favorite things to do. I love taking an idea or concept and replicating it for normal people...most of us aren’t millionaires.”

Custom Home Group was flexible in allowing the home-owners to do some of the work themselves. There was an area off the kitchen that led to Mike’s office which the homeowners wanted to tackle themselves. Having the contractor work with them on thinking through the details was beneficial for the contractor and homeowners alike. They questioned Mike on the type of flooring he was going to be putting in the unfinished area, and were able to build up the floor so that when Mike installed the tile, the heights of the flooring matched.





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Mike and Catherine felt that many contractors they had initially spoken to were hesitant to do extensive remodeling, due to the level of difficulty versus that in new construction. The experience that Custom Home Group has in doing renovations put the homeowners at ease. Jared says, "There are always unforeseen issues that happen in a remodel, but we try to stay positive." Dan

adds, "My philosophy is that there is always a way to figure it out."

For Mike and Catherine, the process of renovating their home was a remarkable experience. And the homeowners are thrilled with their whole house remodel and addition. Mike says, "You want people who understand

Interior Decorating: DELCOR HOME INTERIORS, LLC



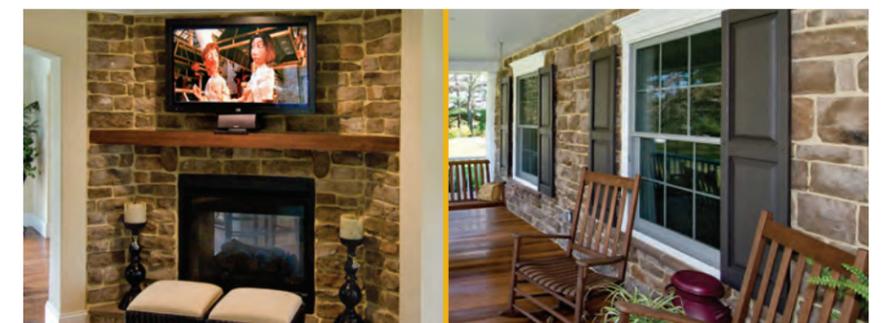
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what your vision is and who have as much concern and desire to have it look its best. That is really what we got with Custom Home Group."

The team at Custom Home Group possesses the skills to take a conceptual idea and turn it into a reality. Their ability to accept the challenge of replicating high-end design features without the expensive price tag has proven to be a much appreciated skill. It is their attention to details in the design and construction of a project, paired with the determination to exceed customers' expectations, which really offer a unique building experience.

R&A



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