

PARAGON



Whenever we hear a fire truck, we wonder if someone's home is in trouble. We have been involved in several fire restorations in our community, but our spotlight story this issue is truly special. Most retired couples are happily settled in their beloved home, neighborhood, activities, friends and well, their routine. One of our neighbors found themselves jolted out of the comforts of retirement to lead an aggressive design/build project practically overnight. But as you will discover, sometimes life's twists and turns lead to improvements that you never dreamed possible.

SPOTLIGHT

How can a tragedy unfold into a dream come true? That is exactly what Bob and Sheila Curran still contemplate with smiles as they move about the "most beautiful retirement home" they could have ever imagined living out their lives in.

The life they knew changed on a sunny day. "We were having lunch at the country club a few miles away when I got the call. It was my neighbor: 'Bob, you better hurry up home. Your house is on fire.' All I could think was how on earth could this be happening?"

When the Curran's arrived, they witnessed that half the home was already engulfed in flames. The entire roof was gone. Only the large inviting southern veranda and rocking chairs seemed untouched. "They told us that it was an electrical fire. It took us

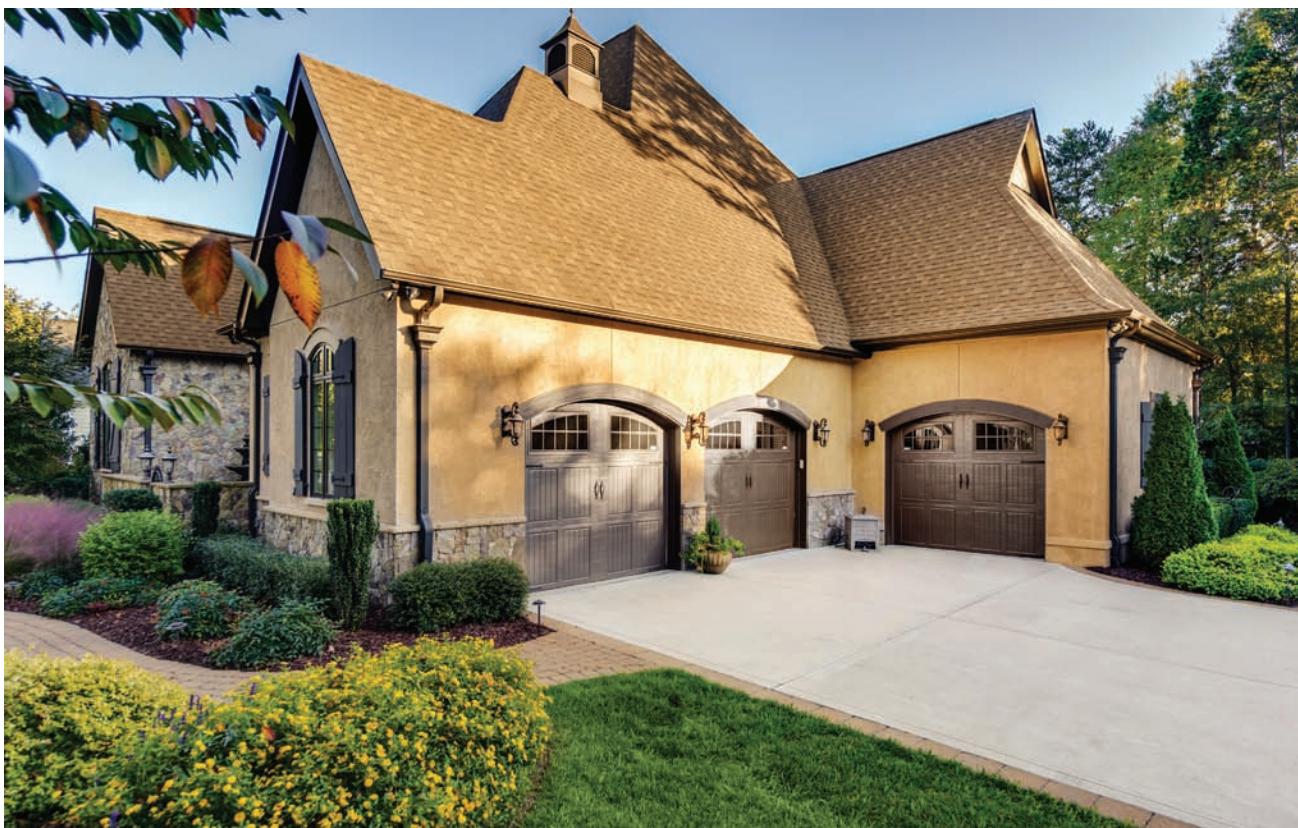




a few days to find our cat, Daisy. She had escaped to hide under a neighbor's shed. We are lucky she survived." The Fire Marshall determined the house could not be

restored and the Curran's needed to start thinking about rebuilding a home that had only been five years old. They had worked hard to finish this home before Bob

retired. Starting over was helped by a neighbor, who stopped them on the sidewalk one day after the fire and referred the Curran's to us. He had built several homes

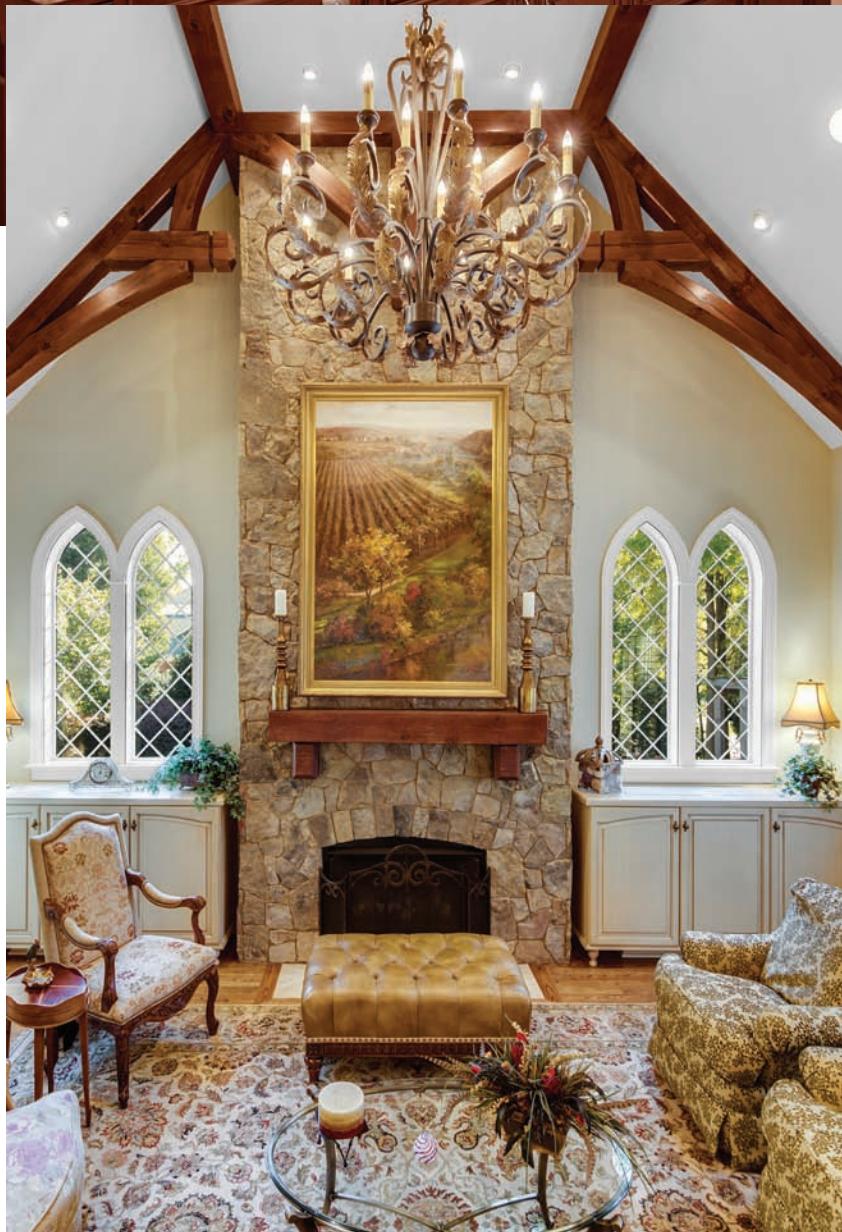




with our company and told them it was the best experience he had ever had. We're glad he did.

After several meetings reviewing what the Curran's wanted in their new home, we presented a French Country design to them called 'The Adelaise' by Jim Phelps. The house plan was approximately 3,000 sq. ft., which was perfectly right sized for their needs. It was love at first sight.

Sheila will be the first to admit that they micromanaged the process, because they had nothing else to focus on and everything they owned was gone. They rented a furnished home in a nearby community to be close by. The project was a completely new 'build from scratch' job in every sense. In addition to the house construction, we needed to install a new driveway, sprinkler system, outdoor kitchen, patios and landscaping.





We guided the Curran's in customizing the existing plans to suit their lifestyle needs. They had very specific requests that were worked in. They moved the laundry room to be adjacent to the master bedroom suite walk-in closet. The original laundry area off the kitchen became their home office. It wasn't until the timber beams and lighting were installed in the kitchen and main salon, that Sheila started to realize that this tragedy was about to turn into the greatest gift.



It was heartfelt by all involved. When asked how this new home has benefited their daily life over their previous home, the Curran's reflect on the fact that every space in the Adelaise is completely usable. They no longer have a living room just for show. No more formal dining room that they would only use twice a year. They were able to do away with space that didn't function, which opened up the flow on the ground floor for entertaining.





JOE'S MAINTENANCE CHECK LIST FOR YOUR HOUSE

Replace furnace filters once a month during this season.

Clean gutters to prevent unnecessary roof leaks.

Replace batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

Locate master water shut-off valve, should you need to stop water supply due to a burst.

Test and clean sump pump (if applicable).

Adjust your humidifiers.

Schedule your lawn irrigation start up (if applicable).



Working together closely allowed everyone to pitch an idea to add to the design plans. As hands on as we are, we contributed our typical out-of-the-box thinking to this process as well. We understood that interior distances and convenience were important. We built a potting station in the garage next to the door facing the backyard. A utility room facing the kitchen was therefore moved and the space re-purposed into a galley-style pantry, one of Sheila's favorite stops on her tour of the house.

Conveniences aside, the house exudes a wonderful relaxed atmosphere inside and out. The Curran's acknowledge that they feel like they are on vacation

from the minute they rise in the morning and gaze out on their outdoor living area, which is one of Bob's favorite "rooms."

Their fondest memories about working with us were that we were so open and "good" about an idea they may have. Our fondest memory about working with the Curran's is that we were able to turn a nightmare into a dream come true. ☺

THE A-TEAM

Kitchen Designer: Laura Wray
Timbers: Carolina Timber Works
Appliances: Ferguson Enterprises
Windows: Pella

BLANK CANVAS

BRINGING VISIONS TO LIFE

Q&A

Q Explain how and why you became interested in designing homes?

A I started playing with the shapes and drawing homes since an early age. By 5th grade, I was presenting my designs to the class as part of a talent show! My love and interest in home design came from walking in my neighborhood as a kid and noticing all the beautiful homes surrounding me. For as long as I can remember, I have always enjoyed getting lost in my designs.

Q Explain how you and Grainda Builders approach a project together?

A We work as a team to guide the client towards a fun and peaceful process. Grainda is particularly sensitive to paying attention to cost every step of the way. This is important, because it allows the client to have proactive involvement versus reactive.

Q You call your creations "gems"...why?

A Well, no two gems are alike. Each one is unique. I only have one shot at each home design. I give each one all I've got. With each project, I want to leave something special and one-of-a-kind behind.

Q Explain the process from a blank canvas to a vision?

A It starts with the client and going over their personalities and lifestyle needs. Creative discussions then lead to sketches and finalized drawings. We recommend including Grainda Builders as early on in the process as possible. During construction



Jim Phelps, Luxury Home Designer

we stay involved to ensure that the vision is followed through.

Q What type of historical architecture inspires you the most?

A Classical architecture really intrigues me. Carrying on the historical reverence for craftsmanship quality from all over the world is really important to me.

Q What kind of architecture would you like to explore more?

A Modern! We should become better stewards of the products we use as designers, architects and builders. I feel this is most successfully addressed in contemporary organic designs.

Q What are the most popular things people are looking for in their dream home?

A A sense of uniqueness. When people decide to custom design, they are all searching to stand alone inside a unique expression of who they are and how they live. We're finding that clients are also desiring vastly improved craftsmanship and updates that

reflect real living. For example, families often want a home that meets the needs of today's modern lifestyle. Integrating the dining and breakfast areas to become one nice casual dining space that is always in use is quite popular now. Formal dining rooms as we know them are waning.

Q What has been the most unique feature or detail ever requested?

A That is a great question! Some unique features are within the realm of reality, such as a bowling alley or having a safe (panic) room. But some requests are more storybook or commercial in nature: One client wanted a house design where the main salon ceiling was retractable, so they could enjoy a night below the stars while still remaining inside the comforts of the room. Another client requested a movie theater be sunken into the ground with indoor windows facing inside the adjacent outdoor pool. There are no bounds to the imagination.

Q What are the biggest misconceptions about designing your own home?

A Cost. People do not clearly understand what it costs to build their custom home.

Q If a reader is considering a custom home project, what words of wisdom can you share before they get started?

A Surround yourself with the right team! Call references, visit homes they have done, and dig deep. Then embrace your team and trust. Choose people you can trust, because trust is key. ☺

MODERN VISION

CONVERTING A TRADITIONAL HOME INTO A CONTEMPORARY LIFESTYLE

TRENDS

Sometimes a house is just right on the outside, but doesn't quite fit your lifestyle on the inside.

The new owners of a sprawling three story 6,000 sq. ft. 5 bedroom, 5 1/2 bath residence had a vision of exactly what they needed to do in this situation.

They assembled a team starting with their preferred interior design firm from Florida, B+G Design. The firm was charged with the responsibility of finding the right contractor to handle this large scale renovation. "We found Grainda Builders to be the right fit for us. There was a nice sympatico with them," explained B+G Partner, Brett Sugarman.

The creative thrust in modernizing this home was to replace compartmentalized sections and decorative details into wide open linear clean lines of living space. Many rooms, such as the kitchen, were completely gutted and revived with the modern sensibility that the owners craved. Trim and baseboard were replaced. Columns and walls were removed. The fireplace and cabinets were rebuilt. The terrace was opened up from all viewpoints by removing a large retractable awning and creating a sunny outdoor kitchen/entertainment area. ☀

THE A-TEAM

Interior Design: B+G Design

Cabinets: Rowan Custom Cabinetry

Tile/Marble: Walker Zanger

Project Manager: Skip Richter



GRAINDA