



MASTERY *of a Remodel*

Seamless Blending Updates This Family Home

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from the outset, the primary objective of this project was to blend the new addition to the older section of the home without the dreaded look of an “addition.”

The 2,000-square-foot house was only four years old when current owners and builder Matt Vernon and his wife first stepped inside. The home seemed archaic, lacking necessary amenities and eye appeal. However, the home was situated on an exceptionally large lot in the desirable Mattawan school district. That made the stodgy aura of the house worth considering and tipped the scales in favor of a remodel.

It was Jennifer who suggested transposing the master bedroom into a living area. It became Matt’s mission to take the existing structure and reinvent it. “I designed the house with the objective of creating a seamless transition from old to new,” shares Matt. Working with his partner and father, Tom, the team began a thoughtful process of turning their vision into reality.

This meant leaving the existing structure as is, changing the purpose of the spaces, adding on where necessary and then remodeling to give the home a fresh, updated look. Two rooms on the main floor were transitioned into areas for entertaining and gathering; one became a TV room with fireplace, the other a sitting room with a view of the lake.

“It was the ability to use the existing spaces “as is” that allowed the project to stay on budget with such great accomplishment,” explains Matt.

The hickory cabinets in the original kitchen were replaced with white, glazed Shaker-style cabinets. Stainless KitchenAid appliances, coupled with black granite countertops, were the perfect complement to finish it off. “The kitchen is my favorite of any we have built,” declares Matt.

The galley kitchen is compact and efficient, but with ample space between counters it is ideal for cooking and entertaining.

All the trim in the house was replaced with a flat edge, contemporary style and painted a soft shade of white. A palette of pearled grays was selected to create the perfect mood in every room.

Most of the house had been carpeted; this was removed and replaced with rich walnut flooring along with some tile. Now, only the bedrooms are carpeted.

The existing stairways from the main level and the basement were removed and built in the new addition. The steps were widened and new stair treads are black walnut complemented by wrought iron balusters. An antique newel post completed the new look.

Matt’s new floor plan also included a new foyer, study, mud room and attached garage. In the upper level a master suite and second bedroom with private bath was added.

The master suite showcases a walk-in closet you enter through the bath. Cathedral ceilings in the bath and bedroom add expanses to both spaces.



The exterior of the home was aluminum sided. The siding was preserved in some areas but was replaced with cultured stone for a rustic look on the lake exposure of the house. The new addition was raftered to maintain the pitch of the original structure. A patio and fire pit were added to enhance the pleasure of lakeside living.

With Matt's vision and inspiration, a 5,700-square-foot seamless conversion of space took place. His ingenuity and use of complementing materials clearly defines this as a luxury home of exception.

Vision is what propels us into the future, success and beyond our expectations. For Tom Vernon, it was learning a trade after returning home from the army. For Matt Vernon, it was an opportunity to learn the skills and expertise his Father had perfected. The result is the Vernon Group. A 12 year-old company with a reputation for unique, upscale homes, superior craftsmanship and dependability. □

PREVIOUS PAGE:

Cultured stone replaced some of the existing siding, giving the exterior the importance and aesthetic value it deserves.

TOP: The galley kitchen is ideal for family meals as well as entertaining.

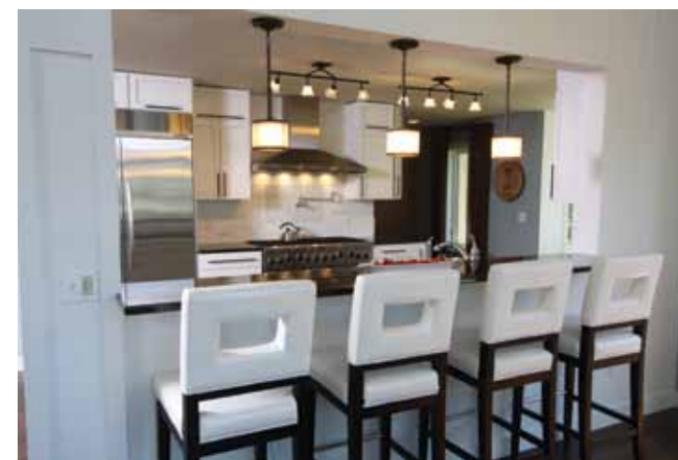
BOTTOM: The new staircase features an antique newel post.

OPPOSITE PAGE:

TOP: A new color palette and black walnut flooring creates a fresh, updated look in the main floor living area.

BOTTOM LEFT: The clever pass-through also functions as a snack bar.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Fireplace and flat screen TV adds luxury to everyday living.





ABOVE: Basket-weaved, stained, wood panels serve as a headboard and master bedroom focal point.

MIDDLE: The master bath is outfitted like a luxury retreat.

BELOW: Main floor bath combines beauty and practicality with a handicap accessible tiled shower.



The Vernon Group LLC

PRINCIPAL OWNERS:
Matt Vernon and Tom Vernon

NUMBER OF YEARS IN BUSINESS:
11

EDUCATION:
In 2000, received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Integrated Supply Management from Western Michigan University.

YEAR BUSINESS STARTED: 2001

BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY:
Our philosophy is to do whatever it takes to keep our customers happy.

WHAT SETS YOUR BUSINESS APART?
We understand the needs of our customers and will do everything in our power to ensure that our product exceeds their expectations.

HOBBIES:
Matt coaches Mattawan Little League and soccer. Both partners support multiple area non-profit organizations by donating time and space.

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