

Finding **New**
Living Spaces
Outdoors

Splashy
Baths

Illuminating
Homes with
Beauty

A Garden Gets
PERSONAL

Building Value in Older Homes

Throughout the country people are transforming existing houses into “new” custom homes through renovations, major additions, even demolition and reconstruction. This growing trend is allowing homeowners to create new homes and new value in highly desirable neighborhoods. House transformations make economic sense, allow owners of existing homes to accommodate changing lifestyles without losing the comfort and history of the home, and afford custom home seekers easier access to the aesthetic pleasures that older homes hold.

Here in Charlotte, remodeling investments in homes that are located in “old Charlotte”—neighborhoods like Myers Park, Dilworth, Elizabeth and Eastover are increasingly popular. But one thing is certain, like beach front property, they aren’t making any more “old” neighborhoods anymore, and savvy Charlotte homeowners know the value of living in these areas.

But renovating an older home can be challenging unless the right team is selected. Old homes require a little more TLC and require a different type of contractor. Just as the relationship between a homeowner and the home they are preserving is an important one, so too is the relationship between a contractor and the homeowner.

Several years ago, Kim and Alan Wilson of Dilworth, found what they thought was a dia-



mond in the house was clearly inadequate for a growing family.

Fortunately, they drove around their neighborhood and took down names of remodeling contractors that did work in Dilworth. One company kept coming up over and over—Absolute Remodeling Inc.

“We contacted Rick Norvell, Absolute Remodeling’s owner, to find out what the process would be like for our renovation,” said Kim. “As it turns out, he does a good bit of work with ALB Architecture, a prominent architectural firm that specializes in historical renovations. We had the foundation for a great remodeling team.”

“The client wanted to expand and improve the home while preserving the historic design,” said Norvell. “They also wanted to take advantage of the tax credits administered by NC Historic Preservation office.” Absolute Remodeling has worked on many such projects and can guide clients through

the entire process.

The design called for a whole house renovation that was to be done in stages. The formal front rooms were preserved while the rear of the home was expanded with a new kitchen, master bath, laundry and loft. The addition increased the house size by 728 square feet.

“We were going to be living in the house during the entire process, so we wanted to make sure our contractor was responsive to our needs,” said Kim.

The end result? A 1,800 square foot masterpiece that has plenty of room for a growing family.

“I have a tremendous amount of respect for our old home—it’s a living piece of Dilworth’s history—so teaming up Absolute Remodeling made perfect sense,” said Kim. “Their quality is a throw back to the craftsmen that originally built our home.”

Norvell agreed. “Renovating older homes requires different skills and a great deal of patience. We’re just as passionate about preserving the past with these architectural gems as the homeowners are. It’s a special kind of relationship.” ♦

Absolute Remodeling Inc. is an award-winning remodeling firm. They can be reached by calling 704-332-4343 or online, at www.absoluteremodel.com.