

CHARLOTTE **URBAN**

# HOME

SUMMER 2008

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## Renovate!

Why Now It Makes  
More Sense than Ever

The Backyard  
**Staycation**

**7** Hot New  
Products  
for Outdoors

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# Unlocking Hidden Potential



“Pop the top” construction is perfect for young families looking to expand their families and their equity.

**Hot trends in real estate** include spacious, open floor plans, upgraded kitchens and baths, and modern conveniences. But what if you find the perfect location with the not-so-perfect house?

Finding a home near Charlotte city center that encompasses all of these desired features can be a tall order, but it’s not impossible. Savvy homebuyers can realize their dreams simply by looking past the outdated structure to see more than meets the eye.

When realtor Kevin Raymer found a two-bedroom, one-bath home in Dilworth, he knew he couldn’t let such a prime piece of real estate slip through his fingers. When he purchased it in 2001, the 1000-square-foot house had small rooms and limited living space.

“The house was square and plain with no interesting characteristics,” said Raymer. “I wanted a total remodel that would add much needed space, modern appliances and curb appeal to raise the home’s value.”

Raymer contacted ALB Architecture, PA and Absolute Remodeling, Charlotte’s award-winning construction and remodeling contractor, to take charge of the project.

“Together we consulted with the Raymers to formulate a plan that would greatly increase their living area and include a period-appropriate exterior to seamlessly integrate with neighboring homes,” said Allen Brooks, of ALB Architecture.

The Raymers created additional square footage by expanding the original footprint of their home on the

backside and then doing a “pop the top,” where the entire roof was removed to make way for an added second story.

According to general contractor Rick Norvell of Absolute Remodeling, “pop the top” construction is perfect for young homeowners looking to expand their families and their equity. Many homes can double or triple existing square footage, creating additional children’s bedrooms, bathrooms or a master suite. Absolute Remodeling completes approximately 12 such projects each year and emphasizes total integration in interior and exterior construction, whether duplicating existing heart-pine flooring or matching brick veneers.

At completion, Raymer turned his home into a 2600-square-foot, three bedroom, three bath beauty. He gained a large kitchen for entertaining friends and a host of modern amenities, including a built-in ice maker and a steam shower. The Craftsman-style exterior blends perfectly with neighboring homes.

Absolute Remodeling received an Excellence in Remodeling (EIR) award for this project.

“It’s like a different house,” said Raymer. “I have the space and amenities of a new home wrapped up in a beautiful façade that fully integrate with historical neighboring homes. I have the best of both worlds.” ♦

Ready to unlock your home’s hidden potential? Call Absolute Remodeling today at 704-676-4747 or visit [www.absoluteremodel.com](http://www.absoluteremodel.com).