

Serenity Now

The renovation of this West Bloomfield home began with the kitchen and its design elements: soft arches and curves that are echoed throughout the rest of the home. The entryway into the kitchen was more than doubled in size and arched for a soft yet dramatic view into the home from the foyer. To the left of the kitchen entry are the refrigerator and freezer, to the right is a double pantry; to create a uniform look, the appliances are covered by doors that extend from floor-to-ceiling. An espresso-stained island is glazed with sable to add definition to the exquisitely detailed moldings and carvings, such as acanthus-leaf motifs on the legs. Touch-latch doors conceal full storage under the island, which is topped by a full slab of seamless granite.



A dramatic renovation transforms a contemporary-styled home into a fresh, open and functional oasis.

Lynne Konstantin | Design Writer
Jerry Zolynsky | Photographer

When a young and expecting Jewish couple returned home to Michigan in 2003 after living in Chicago, their primary concern was finding a home with plenty of room for their growing family-to-be. They also wanted to live in a tree-lined neighborhood with good schools and other young, Jewish families.

The 1973 house they found in West Bloomfield — coincidentally, by the same builder who designed the wife's childhood home in Troy and with the exact same floor plan — fit the bill. But they weren't in love with the previous contemporary-styled renovation.

Nine years, two daughters and one dog later, after interviewing many contractors who couldn't quite help them pinpoint exactly what they wanted, the couple turned to Andy and Lesly Sallan, the husband-and-wife owners of Millennium Cabinetry, recently relocated to Farmington Hills and whose staff includes licensed contractors and builders.

"We knew we wanted the look of an open floor plan with high ceilings and spacious rooms in our 1970s home but had no idea how to do it. Andy and Lesly were able to utilize it to its fullest potential," says the homeowner. "And beyond that, Lesly held my hand — patiently — every step of the way. She was extraordinarily helpful in choosing everything from doors to moldings and trim to plumbing."

Which is apparent in the transformation of the home. Walls came down, bathrooms were moved and columns and arches were added to create a spectacularly striking before-and-after that thrills the family.

"We were recently Up North, and when we came home and I walked into the house, I just smiled," says the homeowner. "I love how open and calming it is. I come downstairs in the morning, and I love how it all flows together. After nine years, it finally feels like our home." □

Do you have a home you'd like to share with the community? Contact Lynne Konstantin at lkonstantin@thejewishnews.com.

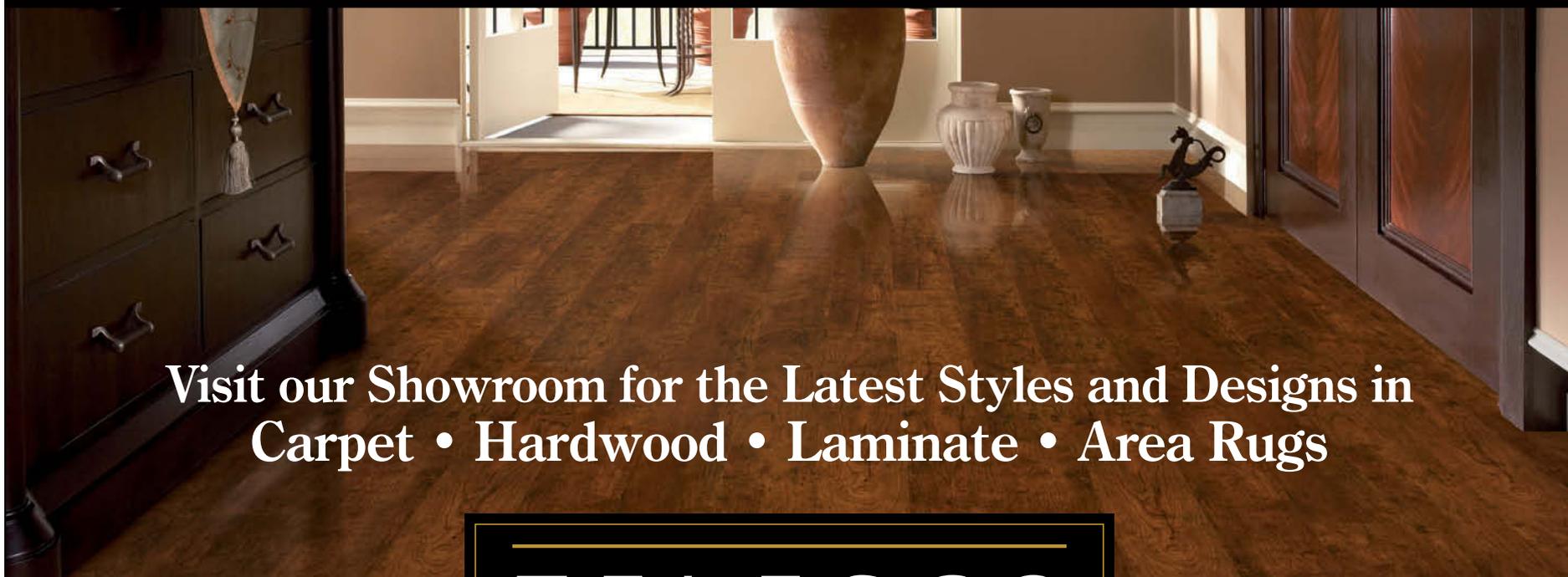


Left: A central carved molding on the door to the powder room is repeated in the traditional carved legs of the free-standing vanity brushed with pewter glaze. Bold stripes on the wall inject a more formal feel to the room. A pair of sconces nestle into the curves of the antiqued mirror.

Above: Once a traditional laundry room, the space now doubles as a mudroom for the kids' jackets and backpacks, with storage underneath for boots and hats. The bench cushion is covered in outdoor fabric to stand up to children and dog, and beadboard adds a rustic sensibility. The washer and dryer are fitted under a granite counter for folding space.

Serenity Now on page 88

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June 14 • 2012 87



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Top: Medallion-backed chairs circle a pedestal dining table to the side of the kitchen's work area. White-painted cabinets around the perimeter of the kitchen are glazed with pewter to add glisten to the undulation and moldings of the doors and drawers. Alternating shades of green tile crackle in the stove's backsplash. A footed hutch cabinet on the granite-topped counter was fitted with antiqued mirror inside; windows to the left were created where the doorwall once stood.

Middle: While achieving the open flow from the kitchen to the family room, Lesly Sallan added architectural pillars to delineate the two rooms and keep the space from being a long rectangle. Surrounding the fireplace, an ornately carved green-and-white marble mantel is supported by a pair of acanthus-leaf corbal legs. Decorative wall units on either side display artwork from Danielle Peleg Gallery in West Bloomfield. The muted green curlicues of the pair of club chairs – the favorite napping chairs of the family dog – echo the same pattern in the light fixture over the dining-room table. Another former door-wall has been transformed into a floor-to-ceiling window.

Bottom: A welcoming, continuous flow from the foyer leads through the arch of the kitchen. Wood risers, an iron banister with a satin nickel finish, walnut handrail and newel post highlight the foyer staircase, and are repeated on another set of stairs to the right of the archway, where a door once opened to the basement.