

2005 WBA Remodeling Awards

Project Category:
Finished Basements (any value)

"Colorful Contrasts"

Award Winning Entry



DEGNAN
DESIGN BUILDERS
INC.



The clients had several needs for their family.

- A place for the two elementary-aged children to play and plenty of toy storage.
- Work space for crafts and sewing.
- A snack bar with refrigerator and sink.
- A TV viewing area.
- A guest bedroom and bathroom.

We were able to meet all these needs. In order to meet the clients' budget, several elements of the project were changed. The fireplace was eliminated, and the cabinetry was changed from full-overlay quarter-sawn oak to standard-overlay oak. Yet, the character was maintained using a similar door style and the preferred stain color.



The “craft area” of the new finished basement includes a table for work space with plenty of storage for supplies. The cabinetry was carefully planned to fit poster board, sewing machines, and other supplies— simply ordered from a semi-custom line, the cabinet units do not include center stiles which would prevent full sheets from being stored, and extra shelves were installed closer together than average. Roll-outs were considered but eliminated from the budget for several hundred dollars in savings.



Before: The basement was unfinished but had several windows to take advantage of the exposed back yard.

In the design, a structural column did not seem obtrusive and was to remain in place. However, while framing we quickly realized its obstruction and an additional beam was installed to clear span the space.



Vinyl flooring defines the space of the snack bar and extends to the stairway. Soffits are used to define the main space of the room using its ceiling plane.

A structural column did not appear to conflict with the design in plans or 3-D views of the project. However, during construction the Lead Carpenter quickly realized that the column would indeed be intrusive in the space—the toy closets were only a few feet away and seemed to crowd the column. The Lead Carpenter suggested to the clients that the column be removed, and with one change order and some extra glulam, adequate support for the first and second floor of the home had been installed sans column.



Before: A bump in the foundation would become the perfect location for a snack bar. The existing column is visible at left.

To the left of the snack bar and refrigerator are two toy-storage closets with an alcove suitable for furniture, artwork, a desk or TV. Currently it is simply used for additional open storage space. A soffit above defines the main space of the room while lighting brightens this decorative nook.



Final Assessment & Results:

While the clients were apprehensive about color selection, the advice from our interior designer was successful: they look forward to adding color to other rooms of the tract home at some future date.

The clients note that the quality of the lower level is so good that they now notice deficiencies in the existing home that they had previously overlooked. Accordingly they hope to have additional mouldings installed in other rooms of the house in the future.

Furthermore, sound transfer was successfully addressed. Installation of sound board, batting, and hat channels has been particularly effective at dampening sound between the lower level and first floor of the home.

Craftsman Beaded Panel cabinetry in the bathroom provided the color for the Antique White painted trim work throughout the entire lower level.

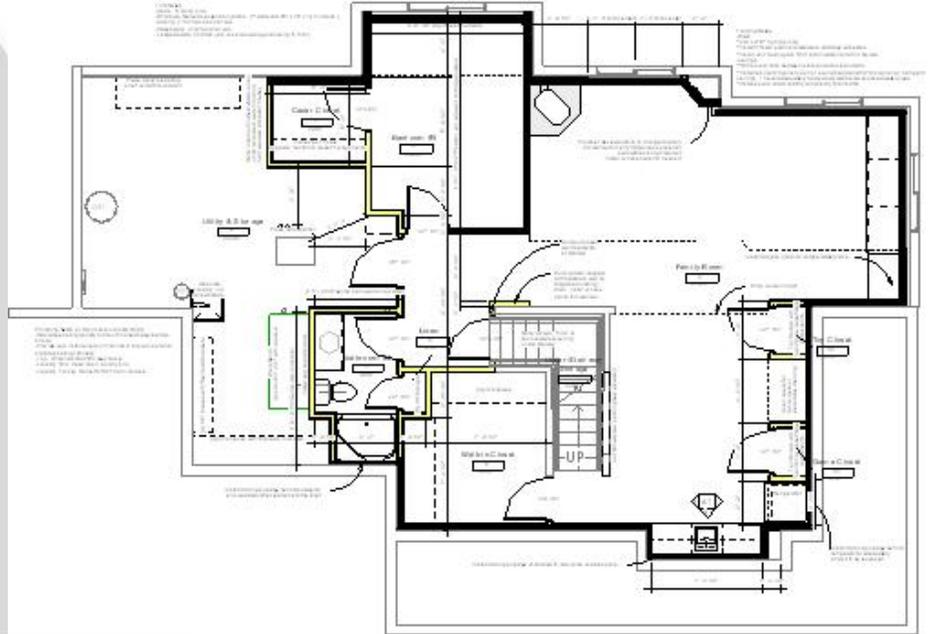
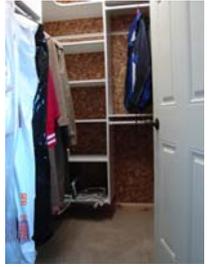


The utility area of the basement is hidden by the new bathroom.



Storage space is bountiful in the central walk-in closet at the bottom of the stairs.

The walk-in closet off the guest room is the most luxurious in the house with California Closet-style components and cedar wall panels.



Colors are prevalent and playful in this lower level. A deep red is used to turn the stairway wall into a sculptural object, while the light green color defines the perimeter of the craft room and television area. The stairway wall was cut at an angle to open the space while descending from the first floor of the home. Note that the structural column has been removed and the space is open between both areas.



Specifications of Note:

- Cabinetry: Snack Bar: Dura Supreme Crestwood, Santa Fe Doors, Oak with Mission stain.
- Bathroom: Dura Supreme Crestwood, Craftsman Bead Panel Doors, Maple with Antique White paint.
- Flooring: Snack Bar: Luminesse 52067
- Bathroom: Ceramica 96115
- Carpet: Royal Oaks Crossroads with 1/2" Luxury Step pad.
- Light fixtures: Murray-Feiss



2005 WBA Remodeling Awards:
A CUT ABOVE THE REST

FINISHED BASEMENT

Degnan Design Builders Inc.

Presented February 19, 2005



Weather Shield
Windows & Doors

