

ORLANDO

# HOME<sup>TM</sup> design

## Marvelous Makeovers

Why remodeling may be better than moving

## Décor Galore

Find fabulous home accents in Winter Park

## Splashdown

Reinvent an ordinary bathroom into a personal spa

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COURTESY OF PSG CONSTRUCTION

The Gidus brothers of PSG Construction worked closely with the homeowners to achieve a whole-house remodel that remained true to the original construction's quality and design.



From a whole-house renovation of a historic home to a complete kitchen makeover, remodeling can transform an ordinary house into a dream home.



# A TALE OF TWO REMODELS

**W**hen searching for the perfect home, compromise is almost always in order. Let's say you find an excellent location—a short commute to work, a desirable school district or an ideal lot with towering trees. But the house itself comes up short. Perhaps it's just a little out of date—or maybe the effects of too many years of neglect have set in. Do you pass the house by? Not if remodeling can make it the house you've always wanted. Here, we offer an up-close look at two remodeling projects: One, an extensive, all-out redo of a circa-1927 downtown home; the other, a stunning kitchen transformation in Windermere. For both sets of owners, the end results justified the challenges of undergoing the remodeling process.

## WHAT WAS OLD BECOMES NEW AGAIN

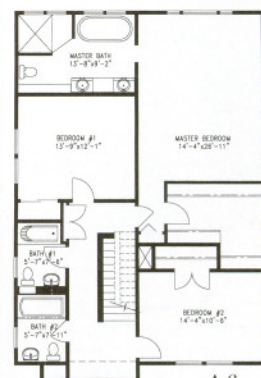
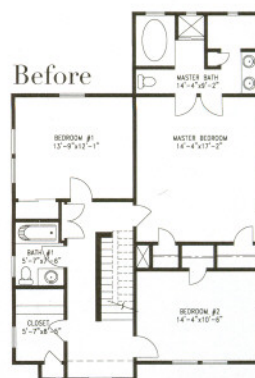
When Duke and Colleen Woodson purchased their four-level downtown home, it needed a significant amount of updating and refurbishing. However, in homage to the home's past (the original owner built railroads in the Florida Keys for Henry Flagler), the Woodsons were determined to maintain the integrity of the craftsmanship that characterized its original construction.

To that end, the couple hired Winter Park's PSG Construction Inc., specifying that the remodeling be completed using the methods and finishes appro-

priate to the period in which it was built. That meant finishing interior walls by applying plaster to wire lathe, using mud-set tile in the showers and even reconstructing and installing authentic divided, putty-glazed windows. Such challenges are all in a day's work for PSG owners Paul and Stephen Gidus. "Our clients tend to go with authenticity," says Stephen. Adds Paul, "When you're working on a house this old, there are materials that are no longer being used in current construction. Our job is to make the [remodel] look like part of the original house. You have to pay attention to details and research each individual product to make sure they all work together."

The Gidus brothers work closely with their clients to determine their remodeling options. Says Stephen, "We ask them, 'How close do you want to get [to the original construction]?' Then we give them several options to give them a choice of what level of authenticity they want." Not surprisingly, the closer to the original, the higher the cost. To illustrate the point, Paul cites having crown molding custom-made to match a home's original trim: "You pay a premium for that," he says, "but you get a better return on your investment when you do it right." Overall, renovating the four-level home included gutting the master bath-

**The master suite was reconfigured and a new bath was added by extending exterior walls and building out over a single-story portion of the roof.**



After

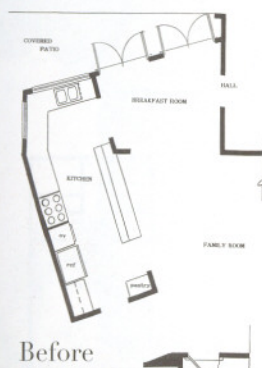




The Woodson home's new master bath is a successful balance of old and new, with period elements blending with modern amenities.



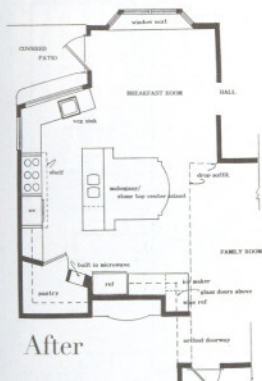
By moving the bathroom area out of the original space, the expanded master bedroom encompasses a comfortable sitting area.



Before



The Monserez home's original kitchen was small, bland and secluded from the family room; The Design Company C<sup>2</sup> enlarged and enhanced the space.



After

room to expand the master bedroom and then adding a new master bathroom by extending the second floor out over a single-story, flat exterior roof. Further work included renovating three additional bathrooms, refinishing flooring, repainting walls, aligning new exterior walls with existing walls, sand-blasting and repainting the exterior, repairing windows and screens, and reroofing the entire house. As a final nod to aesthetics, overhead utility lines were buried to further enhance the home's exterior.

The Woodsons couldn't be happier with the final result. "We appreciate the workmanship the original owners put into the house 75 years ago," says Duke. "We hope what we've done will be appreciated 75


years from now. In the meantime, we sure will appreciate it!"

## FROM CRAMPED GALLEY TO GRAND GOURMET

Matthew and Patty Monserez spent a lot of time searching for their dream home in Windermere. Then they finally found it in a secluded waterside enclave—

well, almost. "The kitchen was disgusting," says Patty. "It was a long, narrow galley." The bland, all-white décor did nothing to stir Patty's soul, either. "Everything we do revolves around our kitchen, so we wanted to open it up to the family room and increase the size," says Patty. And, she notes, while the couple "knew exactly what we wanted, we needed someone to bounce ideas off of." To achieve their goal, the couple turned to Carl and Maria Clark of The Design Company C<sup>2</sup>, based in Orlando.

The project required the Clarks to match the Monserez's desires with the budget they'd set. They also had to take into account that this would be no mere show kitchen—it had to handle the wear and tear of the Monserez's three daughters, too. To stand up to the pitter-patter of little feet while concealing their tracks, for example, they opted for durable slate floors. The Monserezes sacrificed part of their family room to double the kitchen's size, and took up part of the lanai to accommodate a new breakfast area. A dramatic center island, which seats up to eight people, does double duty by providing commodious storage space for the children's arts and crafts projects and supplies.

"The island is the focal point of the kitchen," says Carl. "We had it made of mahogany to make it look like a piece of furniture. It's a very dramatic contrast with the creamy antiqued maple cabinets." For the countertops, after much research, Jerusalem limestone was selected. "They needed something durable for the kids, but they're not big granite fans," recalls Carl. "They wanted a natural stone texture, but marble is too soft and absorbs stains—not a good option with children." Jerusalem stone proved to be the perfect choice: "It's durable and has the qualities they wanted without the cost—it's half the cost of a lot of comparable materials." The stone's gold and terra-cotta hues also provide a pleasing visual counterpoint to the slate floors. The end result? "We were able through textures and colors to incorporate an old-world design that's also functional and durable enough for a family," says Carl. Adds Patty, "I love the way the kitchen is interactive with the family room—I'm not closed off from the fun when I'm cooking." 

### RESOURCES:

The Design Company C<sup>2</sup>, 407-856-1996  
PSG Construction, 407-628-9660  
The Home Depot, 407-275-5771  
(Call for other locations)