

GOING FROM "MINE" TO "OURS" – THE GREAT HOME RENOVATION

By Jacqueline Brigati

I am writing this article exactly 23 years to the day after I bought my 1977 Betsy Ross Colonial home in Fort Washington, PA. Back on July 30, 1999, my first husband and I were full of hope, being only the second owners to care for and love this solid 4BR, 2.5BA home. And here I sit on July 30, 2022, with my second husband, enjoying the beautiful updates completed by Coleman Home Remodeling.

I'm also reflecting on my years in this house and all the change that I've inflicted on it. I've added central air, converted from oil to gas, and replaced the heater, roof, windows, doors, landscaping (twice!), and just about everything else. In 2010, I gutted the kitchen and built it exactly to my liking from the studs. An incalculable number of colors have been painted in every room.

I have had two children since living here, and they have grown into beautiful young adults. My daughter is a senior in college, and my son just graduated high school and is college-bound as well. They have both had all of their childhood milestones here. My first marriage ended after 13 years in this home, but I wasn't ready to end my relationship with this house. I moved through hell and high water to make sure I could keep living here as I navigated the scary new world of being a single mom.



Before



After

In 2019, I married my Mr. Right. Originally, we were both going to sell our houses and buy our "forever home" together, but the housing market was just starting to go crazy. We hated every house we saw, and knew we would have to spend a ridiculous sum of money to customize these houses to get what we wanted. Eventually, we arrived at the conclusion that everything we were looking for was already here in my house; we just needed some renovation to make it perfect for our newly blended family.

We sought out Coleman Home Remodeling to tear down the laundry room that had separated the kitchen from the family room. Both rooms had always felt tight and disjointed, and I had been dreaming of an open concept floor plan for decades. Having gutted the kitchen only 10 years earlier, I wasn't willing to gut it again and start over. I wanted to save the kitchen I had so lovingly designed.

Thankfully, Brian was able to build a custom island to match my beloved kitchen. It is three times the size of the old island and looks like it has always been there. He meticulously measured everything for the new open space, making sure to install the proper support beams when we took down a load-bearing wall. He also took care of every single plumbing and electrical detail in relocating the laundry room to the basement—a feat much bigger than it sounds. Brian and his team installed new flooring after ripping out several layers of flooring that had been built up over the years. They took it down to the sub-floors, and, in doing so, we finally had a kitchen floor that was perfectly level with the hardwood floors in the three adjacent rooms. No more tripping when moving from room to room!

We had been impressed with Brian from the day we met him. He has a solid knowledge of building codes and does not take any shortcuts

where quality is concerned. He handles all the communication and inspections with the township, and he does it right the first time. But beyond just a successful large renovation, Brian gave us a home that feels like "ours" instead of "mine."

On September 1, 2021, a tornado blew through our neighborhood, touching down just 3 blocks from our house. We were lucky to have just debris all over the yard and a flooded basement. Brian had finished our renovation over four months earlier. The very next day, Brian and his dad pulled up in our driveway to check on us and see if we were okay.

We are forever grateful for the work that Brian did in our home. Now we have an amazing open space that easily and comfortably fits my kids, my husband's kids, and our extended family and friends, and we are living happily ever after.



Before



After

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