



A bar and refreshments suite is accented by stonework and custom-built walnut millwork.

Remodeling Project Earns Awards

Potomac home makeover wins two top remodeling awards.

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FOR THE ALMANAC

Enlarging and reconfiguring the back rooms and rear elevation of an older Potomac residence recently won BOWA Builders two of the remodeling industry's top prizes. The Northern Virginia Building Industry Association (NVBIA) honored the comprehensive makeover with its 2004 FFL Monument award late last fall. In December, the National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI) named BOWA "Contractor of the Year" — conferring a Grand Award on the innovative, large-scale renovation.

Finding ways to keep an already sizable home from appearing unwieldy despite the addition of several thousand square feet of new space presented the immediate architectural challenge.

"One of the tricks to renovating a large home — especially when you're adding space — is to scale down the mass so the overall structure doesn't appear too voluminous," said Steve Kirstein, BOWA principal and a Potomac native. "Accomplishing this requires careful consideration of how the existing architecture is to be elaborated. Thoughtfully integrated design elements can make even a very large home seem cozy and welcoming."

BOWA's initial objective was to better rationalize the floor plan on two levels while substantially improving the visual continuum between the house and

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the setting.

"The original structure had been added to several times," Kirstein said. "One of our main objectives was to use this project to tie all the separate spaces together — side to side, as well as inside to outside."

The design phase focused on achieving a better balance between the interior and the rear elevation. To maximize both visual continuum and available light, the new interior was laid out to respond to a completely re-designed rear elevation featuring a running course of windows on two levels.

Work began by surgically removing the old rear terrace and creating a new footprint linking the two end wings of the existing house. Totalling over 2,000 square feet, the two-level rear extension enhances the utility of existing rooms while adding space. On the lower level, a complex of rooms and suites provides for a full regime of leisure pursuits. Above, a 42-by-13 second-level sunroom accommodates traffic from both the rear-facing library and dining room and a newly created breakfast nook.

Outside, a pair of sweeping stone stairs links the upper terrace to the freshly landscaped setting centered on a new pool and custom spa. The tiered terraces integrate the outdoor amenities, provide several sit-

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ting areas and invite easy indoor/outdoor transitions.

THROUGHOUT the renovated interior, detailing provides coherence and unity. In the new sunroom, five Tiffany-inspired commissioned art glass panels soften overhead UV rays while imparting elegant effects. French doors and floor-to-ceiling divided-light windows maximize available light in an envelope accented by crown molding, and trimmed pilasters — each of which conceal an automated blind.

Steps away, the enlarged kitchen now stretches into an octagonal breakfast nook, situated on its own promontory and boast-

ing a 180-degree view of the new terraces, pool and grounds.

One floor below, the reconfigured lower level accommodates a recreation complex. Finished in walnut, the multi-zoned great room provides a central gathering spot beside a remade stone hearth. Custom built-ins, specially milled to support a 63" plasma TV, lend the space a clubby elegance. BOWA's electrical plan included a six-zone audio visual distribution system that selectively delivers electronic entertainment throughout the house.

The lower level floor plan also provides a space for billiards, ping pong and foosball — just steps away from an enclosed fitness center and steam room.

Through an archway linked to the great room, one accesses a bar and refreshments suite — accented by stonework and custom-built walnut millwork that includes an auxiliary kitchen, humidor and walk-in wine cellar.

Founded in 1987, BOWA Builders was recently ranked the "Largest Whole-House Remodeler in the Country," by Qualified Remodeler magazine. The recipient of over 50 national, regional and local awards for excellence, BOWA Builders is a full-service construction firm serving clients in Northern Virginia, Suburban Maryland and the District of Columbia.