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Tour of Remodeled Homes

BY ZOE MURPHY

The Greensboro Builders Association's (GBA) and the GBA's Remodelers Council has prepared another exciting Tour of Remodeled Homes. The annual event, now in its 10th year, will be held Friday, August 17 through Sunday, August 19 from noon to 5 p.m. each day. Cory Wilder, special events manager for the GGBA, said part of the charm of the event is that these are "homes people live in."

Showcasing 15 different homes by 13 remodelers, Wilder said the tour "offers a bit of everything, from in-law suites, kitchen remodels, a breakfast room, dining room and living room additions, a terrace, sun rooms, patios, decks and even an entirely remodeled house," she said. "There are a wide variety of things to choose from."

One of the remodelers featured on the tour is Southern Evergreen, a residential design and build contractor. The company's entry is a 10-year-old home, at 6095 Old Brick Store Road, in which a sunroom and deck were added, in addition to the kitchen being remodeled.

Southern Evergreen is new to the tour and hopes to have two entries in the 2008 tour. The company was formed two years ago when three companies merged. Southern Evergreen has a custom home division, an interior design division and a cabinetry division, as well as a real estate division.



The Greensboro Builders Association is holding its 10th annual Tour of Remodeled Homes with 15 houses by 13 remodelers, including this kitchen by Collier Construction at 111 Nut Bush Road West. The tour is Friday, August 17 through Sunday, August 19 from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at any of the homes. Tour booklets are available at area Harris Teeter and Lowe's Home Improvement stores.

Steven Johnson, project architect for Southern Evergreen, explained that the project took about one year to complete and involved a significant amount of cabinetry design. Southern Evergreen worked with the home's existing kitchen cabinetry, integrating new cabinetry to match the original. "The hardest and most complicated part of the work is that the homeowners lived in the house the entire time," Johnson said. "The project required a lot of flexibility on their part and ingenuity on ours to schedule the work."

Design/Build Services remodeled a kitchen and added an office, bathroom and foyer space for the home at 2313 Princess Anne Street. Robert Wilcox, owner of Design/Build Services, said

the biggest obstacle for this job was removing a large brick structure that was in the kitchen. "We had to tear all of that out," he said. "The brick was really overbearing in the kitchen. Without it, the kitchen looks like it has a lot more space."

Wilcox said the Tour of Remodeled Homes is a great opportunity for homeowners to go out and look at new ideas for renovations. "They really get to see the quality of workmanship that is out there," he said. Wilcox also stressed the importance of working with a professional remodeling expert. He cited another homeowner he worked with who hired someone to

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do renovations who was not an expert in remodeling. "We had assumed the work was up to speed, but when we tore down a wall we found it was substandard and not up to code," he explained. "We can't see through walls, so we don't know these things until we get into a project."

Another kitchen remodeling project on the tour is by Acorn Construction at 328 East Greenway North. The home's small kitchen needed reconfiguring to make the space more usable and up-to-date. Co-owners of Acorn Construction, David Henry and Mark Bolens, explained that one of the biggest issues with the project was removing a wall and re-engineering supports. "With a lot of older homes, the kitchens are really small. Now, the kitchen is more of a gathering point for the homeowners," said Henry.

While the reconfiguring of the space in the kitchen created greater accessibility, Bolens found some of the modern amenities that were added to be the most interesting. Working with My Dream Kitchen, Acorn Construction put in all new appliances and used cabinetry to conceal many of them. "The refrigerator is part of

the cabinetry and there are freezer drawers, which look like regular drawers," Bolens explained. "We were trying to bring the kitchen up-to-date but still keep it with era of the house."

DLM Builders has two entries in the tour this year - homes at 5000 White Bass Place and 1711 Duval Drive. Leslie Millsaps, president of DLM Builders, said the company she and her husband, David, started 15 years ago has participated in all 10 of the tours.

For the home on White Bass Place, DLM Builders worked with architect John J. Linn, AIA, to correct exterior water damage and create a breakfast nook for the home. The project took about nine months to complete, according to Millsaps, because of the number of parts of the house that the remodel touched. "The project was really unique in that the homeowner is actually owner of the company that makes and distributes water resistant building components," explained Millsaps. "We used lots of his products - Endura Products - in the remodel."

DLM Builders had previously redone the exterior siding of the home on Duval Drive and the homeowners asked them back to assist with remodeling their kitchen. The challenge with this

project was opening up the space and increasing its functionality, as the homeowners desired, within the existing footprint.

DLM Builders worked with interior designer Rita Reynolds, ASID, on the Duval Drive home to help manage the project's challenges. Millsaps found that working with other design professionals can be a big benefit to many remodeling projects. "It is so important for a homeowner who is accustomed to the space they have, who may have a hard time envisioning it in a different way, to talk to someone who does that for a living," Millsaps explained. "A design professional will come up with so many more options than the homeowner will, and it will give the homeowner so much more enjoyment and so many more uses for their space in the long run."

Tickets are \$10 and offer admission to all the homes on the tour. Tickets can be purchased at any of the homes. Tour guides are available at local Harris Teeter and Lowe's Home Improvement stores. The Tour of Remodeled Homes is sponsored by Carolina Custom Surfaces, Ferguson Enterprises, Hart Appliance Center, New Home Building Supply and Southern Evergreen. For information, visit www.greensborobuilders.org.