

# Before & After

When homeowners want new-home amenities but don't want to move, remodeling is the answer.

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A complete makeover updates an outdated home. page 162

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Transforming a routine ranch into an up-to-date respite. page 172

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A warm family home gets a post-kids redesign. page 180





AFTER PHOTOS BY E. ANTHONY VALAINIS; BEFORE PHOTOS COURTESY THE NAZAROWSKIS

↪ *After*

The Nazarowskis' original kitchen and sun room were separated by a wall and fireplace. In the remodel, however, they added a warm, open family/hearth room that allows family members or guests watching TV (hidden behind the picture above the hearth) to converse with people in the kitchen.

# Grand Vision

A complete remodel brings an outdated home into the 21st century.

By Shari Held

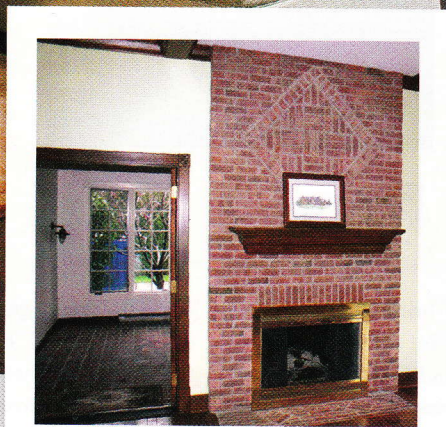
Several years ago, Wisconsin residents Sharon and Tony Nazarowski built a 12,000-square-foot log home in the Lake Geneva region. Located on 118 acres overlooking wetlands, the house had everything the couple wanted in a retirement home, including a 39-foot ceiling in the great room and plenty of space in which to entertain and accommodate guests.

A move to Indianapolis in 2002, however, forced them to give up their dream home and start an entirely new house hunt. Today, they again have the home of their dreams, although it required two trial houses and a complete renovation—including an addition—to get them there.

### Third time's a charm

The Nazarowskis' first Indy residence was an "ideal" French Country home in Carmel, which they fixed up for their needs. But nine months later, Tony was still having trouble adjusting to the house, which he felt was "tight" compared to their former home. So the couple put it on the market, estimating it would take six months to a year to sell. Instead, the home sold in four days, and the Nazarowskis had to vacate two weeks later.

Fortunately, the Nazarowskis soon found a home that was near completion in Zionsville's Willow Ridge community. One of the home's attractions was a large master suite on the second floor—but they soon realized that the



*Before*



After

The new color scheme in the kitchen preserved the dark walnut flooring, but reserved darker tones for the bottom of the island and the floor—giving the room an overall lighter effect. The island was extended to provide a casual dining area at one end, and a new travertine tile backsplash gives the stove a dramatic feel.

stair climbing would be a concern in coming years. Once again, the couple's search for the perfect home was on.

Fortunately, the couple's next home turned out to be only a few miles away, in Carmel's Bridlebourne. "Just before they gated Bridlebourne, I drove through it and saw this house," says Tony. "I absolutely fell in love with it. The exterior of the house is wonderful."

The stately 9,200-square-foot, two-story English Manor-style home, made of brick with limestone detailing, was built in 1989. It features varied roof heights and individually-paned windows for added interest, has an outdoor pool, and commands a spectacular view of Bridlebourne's lake.



Before

The interior of the home left a lot to be desired, however. All the wood—and there was an abundance of it—was stained a very dark brown, making the interior appear dark. Many of the rooms were wood-paneled, with ceiling beams prominently displayed. The only light in the lower level came from two small windows.

The Nazarowskis hired BLS Construction to help them transform the house into a home better suited to their lifestyle and personal preferences. "The best thing about the whole project was that they bought a house with basically great bones," says John Barrett, president of BLS Construction. "The house was just worn. It needed a new roof and a new driveway, but other than that, the changes were mainly cosmetic and purely their choice. That meant they got to spend their money on all the details, like granite countertops and marble floors."

The Nazarowskis were up for the challenge. "As you go through life and you buy homes and remodel them or build them, you learn by each one you have experienced," Sharon says. "So that's what we did. We knew what we liked and we had done it enough times that we saw the potential for this particular house, and we utilized every potential that it was offering us. It's all about putting our own stamp on it to make it our home. Not just to make it a nicer home, but to make it into our home."

Sharon's goal was to open the home's interior, making it more family-oriented. One of the first priorities on her "must have" list was a kitchen expansion, to make it the central gathering place in the home. The existing kitchen's brick fireplace and a screened porch were torn out to accommodate a new hearth room and adjoining sunroom. "That way,

when the family gathers, we are all together," says Sharon. "Everyone isn't in a separate room, but there's enough room so we are not tripping over one another."

Barrett couldn't tell the Nazarowskis how unified the rooms would be until they



Before

The new sun room enjoys a far more relaxing feel than the original thanks to several factors, including an arched custom window reaching nearly to the ceiling, bamboo shades, ceiling fans and elegant tile flooring.

removed the drywall. "They were great customers," he says. "They went with the flow." As it turned out, Barrett was able to work around all obstacles.

The new kitchen is light and warm. Honey-gold faux-painted walls, honey and brown granite countertops and off-white painted woodwork and cabinetry balance the rich, dark walnut hand-distressed plank flooring and French-Country-style island's dark wood. Beige travertine tile, used as a backsplash, is accented with decorative off-white embossed mosaic tile. Touches of paprika provide a punch of color.

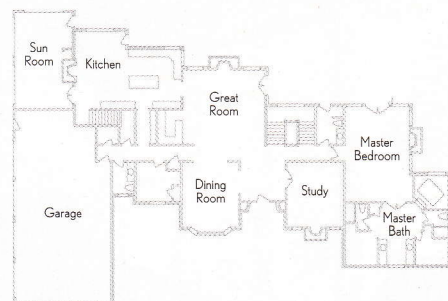
The hearth room has 14-foot tall ceilings and continues the warm color scheme. A painting over the mantel on the new brick fireplace hides a wide-screen plasma TV when it is not in use.

The sun room, dubbed the "Tommy Bahama" room, is one of the Nazarowskis' favorite places to relax. It was added to take advantage of the view of the pool and the lake. "That room is our tranquility room, our devotional room," Sharon says. "Every morning Tony and I get up and sit there. In the summer the sun is already coming up and you see nature all around you—the lake and trees and wildlife. We saw the coyotes come across the ice on the lake last winter. We have Canadian geese and a blue heron. It has a little bit of everything."

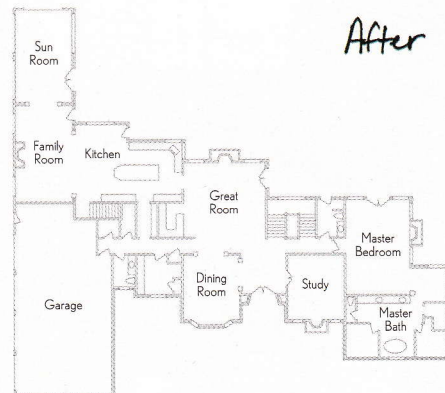
One thing the Nazarowskis hadn't planned on was replacing every window in the home. "That inspired us to make some



Before



After



In general, older homes are split into smaller rooms separated from each other by doors and walls. Modern remodeling projects such as the Nazarowskis' often create dramatic results with the simple removal of a wall or two.

changes," Tony says. "While we were replacing windows and ripping out walls, fireplaces and bathrooms, we added some arches and other architectural details." They also rewired the home for sound and installed two geo-thermal furnaces and two heat pumps for fuel efficiency.

The foyer features a seven-foot-tall elaborate antique entry mirror and custom double doors in solid alderwood with wrought-iron trim, but the first thing entering visitors see is an ornate limestone fireplace with fluted, curved legs. Measuring 10-and-a-half feet wide and seven feet tall, the hearth is the focal point of the great room and makes a greater statement than the brick fireplace it replaced. The mantel itself weighs two-and-a-half tons and each leg weighs 800 pounds, so the fireplace's installation was a project in itself.

Another focal point in the great room is a "gentleman's bar," original to the home, that's tucked into an alcove at one end of the room. A new wood-and-wrought-iron staircase to the right of the great room leads to the upper and lower levels.

Sharon, an accomplished interior designer, used larger-scale furniture in the

great room to balance the new fireplace's size. Many pieces are in brown leather and rich woods with accents in gold, red and green. An oval-framed picture of a bathing beauty, labeled "Miss Chicago 1928," adds a personal touch—the beauty is actually Sharon's mother. "Decorating has always been my love," says Sharon. "I became a little more aggressive as we continued to move and I gained more experience."

French Country furniture, silk curtains and Oriental rugs add a more formal flair to the dining room and great room.

The dining room, to the left of the foyer, is defined by an arched entrance flanked by white pillars, a theme carried throughout the house. Each pillar took two weeks to make, and consists of 186 individual pieces of wood. Twelve coats of lacquer were applied to each, followed by hand-rubbing. A Tuscan-style wall mural in muted colors depicting the property's lake is the focal point of the dining room, which is also accented in shades of gold, red and green.

Tony's office, to the right of the entry, is the only room in the house that wasn't totally redone. It retains the original cherry paneling and built-in bookcases and cabi-

netry. The wood was re-stained and a ceiling fan was added.

The hallway to the right leads to a guest bath and the master suite. The guest bath, dubbed the "Pool Bath," bears aqua and white serpentine stripes faux-painted to resemble wallpaper. A rich burl wood vanity with a copper bowl sink and a filigree-framed mirror add elegant touches.

A spacious master bedroom suite with an oversize shower was another must-have for the Nazarowskis. White-on-beige walls, off-white carpet and a white wood fireplace trimmed in beige travertine stone provide a neutral framework for the rich wood of the large four-poster bed. A plasma TV sits above the doors leading to the patio. Brown-and-black zebra-print chairs, animal-print area rugs and a wooden ceiling fan lend a West Indies look to the bedroom. "Our bedroom suite is our haven," Sharon says. "It is very serene and inviting at any time of day or evening."

An alcove with a view of the lake formerly housed a Jacuzzi, but it has been transformed into a sitting area that Sharon uses as a peaceful place to read and relax. "The view from the bedroom was a turning point

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in our decision to purchase the property," says Tony.

The West Indies theme and wall treatment is carried into the master bath, a luxurious retreat that features an oversize shower with a rain showerhead and a free-standing soaking tub. Decorative tile highlights the walls and beige travertine tile is used on the floor.

At the other end of the hallway, a walk-through butler's pantry with pocket doors leads into the kitchen. The butler's pantry has the same off-white cabinetry and honey and brown granite countertops as the kitchen. A custom glass door with decorative etching hides the pantry within the butler's pantry.

Nearby, the "Up, Up and Away" bathroom features off-white wood wainscoting topped with colorful hot-air balloons, accented by a whimsical hot-air balloon mobile. A "window" mirror above the vanity is flanked by wrought-iron in a country motif. The laundry room, a back stairway and a wooden locker area, which leads to the four-car garage, complete the main floor.

What was once a subterranean basement has been dramatically transformed into a light, airy theater room and bar. "We made a walkout and dug it all out," says Barrett. "We put in doors that lead to a new patio, and there are steps that walk out to the lake. It feels so much different now."

Two doors flank the multi-colored slate fireplace in the bar/theater room. A 50-inch plasma TV is strategically positioned above the fireplace, while all the woodwork and trim is white. Leather couches and chairs provide comfortable seating.

The walls of the theater room are blue, while faux-painted wide gold stripes on the blue define the bar area. The bar's dark wood cabinetry and black granite countertops were original to the home. Matching black granite was used on an additional small curved bar.

A guest room with adjoining bath on the lower level is a tranquil blue with an off-white carpet and brown and beige accents. The bath features brushed pewter fixtures and an art-deco pewter-toned mirror above the beige granite and wood vanity.

Four guest bedrooms, each with its own bath, and a loft area make up the upper level. Family is important to the Nazarowskis, and the guest rooms are designed specifically with the grandchildren in mind.

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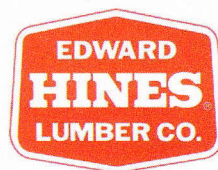
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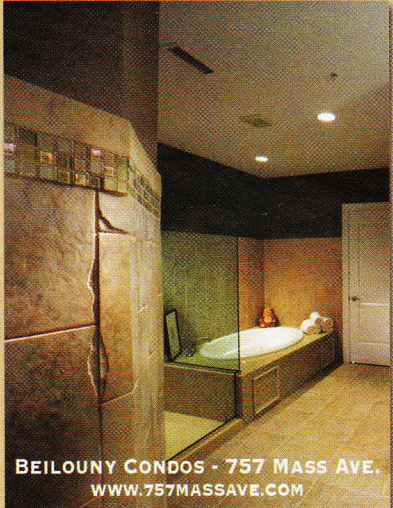
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During a visit, the two grandsons share a Nascar-themed room: From the race-car beds, black-and-white checkered curtains, black-and-white tile on the bathroom floor and checkered flags and shower curtain, the room is all boy. Their granddaughter, on the other hand, enjoys a beach-themed room, complete with wall murals depicting sand, surf and palm trees. A ceiling fan with neon trim adds a youthful touch.

In a third guest room, the walls are faux-painted in shades of toast and cranberry with a bit of sparkle. Leather furniture, a rustic wood mirror and copper accent pieces give it a masculine flair. The walls of the bath feature a map design in earth-toned wallpaper and brown Chinese Mandarin slate is used for the shower and floor.

The fourth guest room is in shades of soothing green with green-striped silk wall treatments. A straw hat flung on a freestanding mirror, ivy draped across an armoire, upholstered armchairs and accessories make it a comfortable feminine retreat. The room's custom-made three-panel wood-framed mirror with curved edges was inspired by one the Nazarowskis saw at Big Cedar Lodge in Branson, Missouri. "Sharon and I love to go on the Dream Home tours and we are constantly getting ideas," Tony says. "Then she translates them into where we live."

The home, including landscaping, took nearly a year to complete. A walkway was added around the pool and the existing driveway was replaced with tumbled stone. "It changed the whole look of the house," says Tony. "We took out a lot of old shrubs that hid a lot of the beauty of the house and then we up-lighted the entire house all the way down to the willows by the lake."

The Nazarowskis couldn't be more pleased with their new home. "We do a lot of entertaining and spur of the moment things, and it really fits our lifestyle," Sharon says. "It is just a very welcoming place and people feel comfortable when they come in."

"The quality of work that BLS Construction has done is the best, bar none, that we have been exposed to, and we have been exposed to a lot of different contractors over the years," she continues. "John is just a very rare individual and builder. He is a perfectionist with everything he has accomplished here in our home. We very much respect him and admire him." ●