

**MEAGHERS -
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Max found some newspapers in one of the walls, dated 1939, so he guesses that is when the farm house was built. He also found a four-foot beehive in a main-floor wall and a wasp's nest in a wall upstairs. The only insulation on the main floor was a "burlap-ish" straw, said Max, although the stucco plaster is supposed to have some insulating value, and there wasn't any insulation upstairs.

Like a typical old farm house, the house used to be divided into a number of small rooms. Max and Amy, however, wanted a more modern, open floor plan.

Typically, you'd have a blueprint, admitted Max, but they tore the main floor apart and then decided how to rebuild. "As we went, we had to make decisions," he said.

They knew they wanted to remove a wall, running the length of the main floor and separating the old kitchen from the rest of the house. "It's one of those things when you start tearing out walls and you realize how open it can be," said Max, referring to their new entry way, dining room, kitchen, and living room that flow together. "Amy and I both like open floor plans. It was hard to put walls back in."

"The reason we wanted an open floor plan is so we could host larger events, such as family gatherings, without having to segregate people in different rooms," added Max, since both he and Amy have large extended families.

Coming up with the final design - which actually is close to the original design - wasn't clear cut. Since it is such an important room, their main-floor design depended heavily on their new kitchen. They considered moving the kitchen, to the front corner of the house or to the other side, but preferred its current location, preserving the views to the south. (They see numerous wild turkeys, upwards of 20 at a time, in their yard, as well as white tail deer, on a half-dozen occasions eight or more in their yard.)

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Photo by Michael Jacobson

The Meaghers loved the location of their house and wanted to preserve the views to the south (of the river, of the lake, etc.) in their remodeling.



Photo by Michael Jacobson

In redoing the house, Max (with help) filled five dumpsters during the demolition, removing several walls to open the floor plan.

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