



Photo by Michael Jacobson

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"We knew that we wanted an island," said Max. "Getting that to fit was important." They taped several potential island shapes and sizes on the floor and erupted in excitement when an L-shaped island finally fit perfectly. It divides the kitchen from the dining room but does not hinder the openness and, having openings on both sides, allows for good flow from the upstairs to the kitchen, from the living room to the kitchen, and from the kitchen to the entrance.

Once they decided the kitchen, the rest of the layout was easy. "It's actually how the house was set up," said Amy.

The biggest change in the downstairs design was moving the entry to the other side of the house, now facing the driveway. A bathroom and closet still stand by the entry, and Max has his office – which is wired for a projector so he can eventually watch football tape at home, projected onto the white wall – tucked into the back corner. The dining room is across from the kitchen, and the living room comprises the front of the house, along with the stairs.

Replacing the support provided by that length-of-the-house, main-floor wall was relatively easy; finding a way to get all the utilities that used to run in that wall to the second story was a bigger challenge. There are four bedrooms and a bathroom upstairs: one for the boys, one temporarily being used by Max and Amy (until their master bedroom suite is completed this year), one for the nursery, and one that Amy uses as a craft and sewing room. The upstairs layout didn't change much, though they did have to move a couple closets and alter a few walls to accommodate the utilities coming up from the main floor.

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One of the changes to the main-floor layout was moving the entry from the northeast corner to the southeast corner.



Photo by Michael Jacobson

A Bulldog logo decorates the shared upstairs bedroom for three-year-old Jamison and two-year-old Tyson.



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