

THIELENS— From Page 4

In the mud room, leading from the garage, the Thielens have a built-in four-unit cubby for the children to keep their jackets and boots, etc., which helps keep the room organized.

Their basement is mostly unfinished. (The only room that is done so far is the bathroom.) But the kids already use a large room as a play area, and they have a second sitting area downstairs. "It's wide open down there. They can run and do whatever," said Danielle.

Eventually, the Thielens will add another bedroom in the basement, finish the family room (including a bar, which is stubbed in), and use another alcove for a booth-like seating area. The basement also includes a large storage room, the mechanical room, and a second set of stairs to the garage for convenience.

This spring, the Thielens will concentrate on the landscaping, including the additions of a retaining wall and a concrete apron in front of the garage. They might cut down a few more trees to open their view, but this will be done cautiously, since "you can't take it back."

They also have some more rock to install on the exterior of the house, which is important to Jon. A series of rock-covered pillars run along the front of the house, leading to the front door, as well as on the exterior walls between the old-style wood garage doors. "It's worth it," said Jon of the stone. "It breaks it up so much."

"The first thing will be to get the grass growing," said Jon of the work to do, so the kids can play outside.



Photo by Michael Jacobson

The only finished room in the basement (so far) is this bathroom, which is brightly colored with black-and-white tile, a granite countertop, and turquoise walls and ceiling.



Photo by Michael Jacobson

Their kids find the four-stall cubby – in the mud room off the three-stall garage – to be very convenient for their jackets and shoes.

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