



Photo by Michael Jacobson

Their new kitchen includes oak mission-style cabinets, granite countertops, and a walk-in pantry. It also has a great view of the backyard from the window over the sink.

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They both love the granite countertops, not only for their durability and ease of cleaning, but also their look in the kitchen. "We both liked the wildness of it," he added. "It's not boring."
"We've done it enough," Matt explained of how they trust each other when building. "We knew what we wanted. There's always something that you'd do differently. Hopefully, we've perfected it (this time)."

"It wasn't so much work to do, to move your family, I would do it more often," said Shelly of building. But, she added, "I think our friends are tired of helping us move."

They even used many of the same contractors as the last time they built, said Matt. And, due to the recession, they got great interest rates and a good deal on the property.

The hardest decision was the color of stain. Usually Shelly likes darker and Matt likes lighter; but in the end this time Matt advocated for a slightly richer stain.

"Every house we've ever done, the stain color was the one thing that was most difficult," said Shelly.

In the kitchen, which also faces the wetlands behind the house, they chose mission-style oak cabinets. "I like the grain," said Matt. "It made it more three-dimensional. It adds depth to it."

Their kitchen also had to have a walk-in pantry. "It's one thing I couldn't live without," said Shelly. With kids, it's easy to put foods they want - snacks, breakfast, etc. - on a lower shelf in the pantry for easy access, as well as keeping the

kitchen clean by hiding clutter.

While they like the openness of their main floor, the rooms have more definition in their new house. Twin pillars, for instance, mark the border between the informal eating area connected to the kitchen and the living room. "It's definitely open, but it has character," said Shelly. "Everyday I walk in, I get the same excited feeling again," she added.

They love the high ceiling of the living room, with the two sets of windows facing the wetlands and the stone chimney running from floor to ceiling. Off the

adjoining entryway is a home office with French doors.

Across from the stairs is the master bedroom suite, including a custom-built walk-in closet and a master bathroom with a tile shower and twin vanities. A center cabinet, providing more storage, divides the two vanities. "We did it in the last house and loved it," said Matt. "It just sort of breaks it up."

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