

Family Time

Chagrin River Co.

WHEN A LARGE FAMILY wanted to open up their living spaces so they could spend more family time together, they called Mike Staffileno, founder of Chagrin River Co. in Chardon, for the job. Staffileno and his staff, who specialize in custom build and home remodeling projects, were up to the task of designing and remodeling the Cleveland Heights home that the family of six has lived in for 13 years.

The interior project included adding a family room, remodeling the kitchen and first floor bathroom, and adding a mudroom. Outside, Chagrin River Co. added a patio, complete with a table, a hot tub, a fire pit and a television.

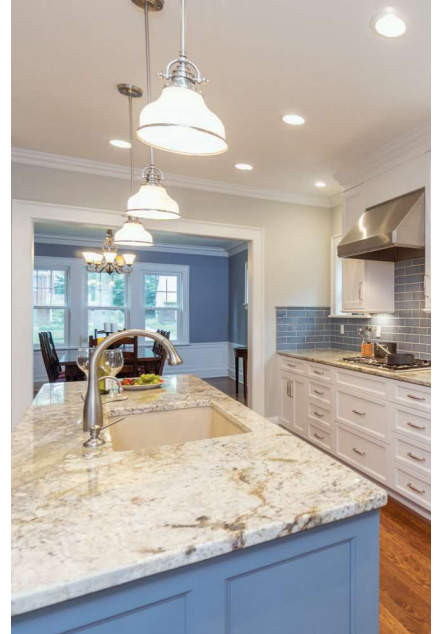
Aside from being a large project, Staffileno says the biggest challenge in the job was helping the homeowners envision what the finished rooms would look like. “The challenges are always getting everyone to understand how much space is involved,” he says. “Managing expectations and making sure we meet or exceed expectations of the clients is a priority in every job.”

With the kitchen and new family room, Staffileno created a space with an open line of sight between the two rooms. This open floor plan in the kitchen with an eating area allows for that spacious feel. “It was important that everyone was together,” explains Staffileno. “They loved the way we were able to open up the entire house.”

The homeowners emphasize that the open concept was important, saying, “The priority was to increase the functionality of the kitchen and downstairs living space to accommodate the family.”

Additionally, Staffileno says the family room provided a common area to relax as a family. “Everyone was watching TV in the living room before,” he says. “There was no place to

6



NUTS & BOLTS

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CONTRACTOR INFORMATION:

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PROJECT FOCUS:

Addition, Bathroom,
 Kitchen and Outdoor



unfurl. This new addition gave them a fun and comfortable space.”

The outside plans essentially created an additional room for the family. “We brought a lot of the outside in, and the inside out,” says Staffileno. “The outside living space really came together nicely. We gained 1,000 feet outside.”

The eating area, television and hot tub all offered the homeowners the opportunity to enjoy their backyard without sacrificing the interior amenities. “Summer in Cleveland is short, so this space allows them relaxation and enjoyment

outside,” says Staffileno.

Staffileno adds that an important concern in remodeling is making sure the client can visualize what is happening and is flexible to changes as the vision changes. “It took adjustments once they were able to see what we were doing,” he says of this project. “There’s give and take to ultimately get to a space they like. Some people admit they can’t visualize and want to make adjustments as we go along. Our forte is adjusting and accommodating to somebody who wants to change.”

The homeowners share that Staffileno communicated with them well. “You have to be flexible and accommodating, and they were wonderful in walking us through it. I give Chagrin River Co. my highest praise. They’ve been hardworking, trustworthy and responsive.”

— Karin Connelly Rice