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# Recreating a Forever Home

*Artistic Renovations of Ohio LLC; Christopher Toddy, Architect;  
 Absolute Roofing and Construction Inc.; and Timan Custom Window Treatments*

**PLANNING AHEAD** to recreate a forever home, the owners of this center hall colonial wanted to integrate universal design, updated materials, new fixtures and additional space to accommodate their evolving lifestyle.

The 1920s house features hardwood flooring, classic trim and build-ins that are characteristic of its era. But the couple wanted to breathe some new life into the home with a modern addition that juxtaposes its original style.

This modern addition twist is becoming more common in Shaker Heights, points out Ken Perrin, president of Artistic Renovations of Ohio.

The airy addition boasts new Pella windows and vaulted ceilings, housing two convertible spaces: a master suite with bath downstairs that is currently serving as a home office; and a master suite upstairs the couple is now using for a bedroom. When the time comes that they prefer to live on one level, they can swap out their sleeping quarters.

The downstairs master bathroom features a walk-in shower with zero threshold and a handicap-accessible vanity. "You'd never know that was the purpose," Perrin says of how universal design can be seamlessly integrated.

Bathrooms feature porcelain tile that resembles marble, so it's functional yet elegant and blends with the quartz countertops and shower tile. "You don't have to worry about staining," Perrin notes.

As with many projects, one thing led to another. Toth Painting gave the exterior a clean look with a gray-taupe finish. Absolute Roofing topped it off. Inside, Timan Custom Window Treatments tailored designs for rooms throughout the home.

Adding to the home's accessibility, a composite ramp at the back entrance consumes two step spaces. The ramp can be elongated to serve the couple, should they need it in the future.

"The home offers a nice blend of styles that come together," says Perrin, relating that a team of craft-people and professionals working together helped pull off the project. Artistic Renovations partnered with architect Christopher Toddy of Christopher @ Architects LLC. "We made the home to where it fits the couple, and that requires getting to know the owners and their needs."

Specifically, Perrin describes a trellis over a concrete paver patio space that tucked perfectly into a nook between the original home and new addition. "The cedar recreated a feeling of the old house," he says, noting how the owner enjoyed growing climbers and grapes. "It brings back warm memories and ties the old into the new."

Overall, the home addition and renovation shows how accessibility, style, function and form blend to create a place that the owners can enjoy as they age. Perrin says, "They can just enjoy living in the home."

— KH

## NUTS & BOLTS

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**PROJECT FOCUS:**  
 Addition and Whole  
 House Renovation

