



# YOUR HOME

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## Spotlight Project Combining Households, Maintaining Privacy

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Like many baby boomers, John and Cathy had a decision to make about an aging parent. In their case, it was no longer safe for John's mother, Betty, to be living alone. But unlike most in their generation, the decision they had to make was not about nursing home care. They wanted to care for Mom, at least for the time being.

Now, their decision was which house to expand to accommodate separate living quarters for them all: their home or Betty's? After much discussion, the scenic views of horse country and the proximity to work for John and Cathy made Betty's home the answer.

The plan was to keep the first floor as John's mother's quarters and add a second floor that would function as John and Cathy's main living space. In fact,

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the views of horses and bison on the surrounding hills were the primary reason why John and Cathy wanted to add a second floor rather than expanding the ranch home. However, the conversion of the natural stone and brick home to a two-story home with highly personalized and detailed finishes was not going to be without its challenges.

First-floor renovations of the existing kitchen, dining room and living room opened the flow of the spaces and provided room for the large island – a high priority for Cathy. Since John’s mother no longer cooked for herself, a separate kitchen was not needed. With the location of the staircase to the second



floor, an open foyer was incorporated which also allowed natural light to flood the previously gloomy space.

The second floor was to be John and Cathy’s retreat. Having this separate

private living space was a high priority for all of them, including John’s mother. The second-floor caretaker’s retreat contains an expansive great room, study with wet bar, oversized master suite and Cathy’s sewing room. Large arch top windows

were incorporated into the second floor to add architectural flair, as well as a second-floor deck and screened-in porch so John and Cathy could take in the breathtaking views.



Are you in the market for a custom home or addition/renovation? There are many resources available to generate ideas, but the most comprehensive one today is Houzz.com.

#### WHAT IS HOUZZ?

It is a website and online community about architecture, landscape design and home improvement.

#### HOW TO USE HOUZZ

Using Houzz is as simple as creating a profile and browsing. As you find photos that inspire you, add them to your Ideabook. There are many different ways to search for photos, including by room, contractor (be sure to follow Metzler) or by typing in a specific word or phrase you are looking for. Ideabooks can also be shared with others.

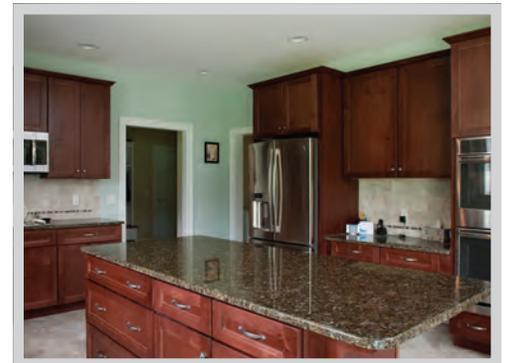
Houzz also provides articles on numerous home design topics. These are a great way to stay on top of the latest trends and to get inspired with new ideas for your own project.

## SPECIAL OFFER

Have we completed a custom home or addition/renovation project for you in the past? Give us a positive review on Houzz.com for a chance to win a \$100 Amazon Gift Card! Just email us (info@metzlerhomebuilders.com) and let us know you wrote a review. We will put all eligible reviews in a drawing on April 1, 2015.



# CUSTOMIZE YOUR INTERIOR: Kitchen Cabinets & Countertop Selections



*In our last issue we outlined drywall, painting and interior trim options. As construction on your project progresses the next things to happen are some of the most exciting. The kitchen and flooring installations begin to really show the customizations of your one-of-a-kind home. This month we will specifically focus on the options you have with kitchen cabinets and countertops.*

**KITCHEN CABINETS:** There is a lot to consider when selecting cabinets: construction of the cabinet, finish or color, door style, hardware options, moldings and cabinet heights. The cabinets will also tie in with your other kitchen features, such as flooring, faucets and appliances, to name a few. While this can seem overwhelming, we feel comfortable referring you to one of our experts and trusted suppliers to help walk you through this selection process. Janet Metzler is also available to assist in selections as needed, or you may have an interior decorator or designer that can help you making your selections. Don't be afraid to turn to these resources, as they are the experts – they help customers

pull together beautiful kitchens every day. **COUNTERTOPS:** Formica countertops provide the most cost-effective solution and also allow for many different color and finish options. There is no shortage of hard surface upgrade options, though, and many people immediately think of granite when considering a countertop upgrade. After all, it is readily available and is the most popular option for a hard surface countertop. Quartz is another natural stone option, and Corian, a man-made product, is another hard surface option. Wood and concrete tops are also available.

We asked Phil Clemmer, our trusted salesman from Swartz Kitchens and Baths, about the trends he is seeing in terms of cabinet and countertop selections. This is what he had to say:

“For the last few years, the cabinetry industry has been doing the same things in the kitchen. Having said that, we are now incorporating a couple of things together to create a perfect environment to work in. The two main colors being used are the Espresso and the soft

white paint, with some manufacturers calling them different names, like Chiffon or Antique. We are using them together by designing the kitchen's perimeter in soft white and the island in Espresso. Two-toned kitchens are still very much in vogue.

“On the cabinetry architectural side, staggered cabinetry is being used in many upper-end kitchens because most ceiling heights in these homes are nine foot. Wall cabinetry height varies from 36” to 42” which leaves a 12” to 18” open soffit above, which creates stunning detail by creating a look that is not so typical where every cabinet is the same height.

“A similar effect can be created by altering the depth of cabinet throughout the perimeter of the kitchen. By integrating the use of multi-colored along with varying heights and depths of cabinetry, a stunning effect can happen where the kitchen now looks much more like furniture than it does a ho-hum kitchen.”

# Your Home's Service Requests

At Metzler Home Builders, we stand by our work by providing a warranty for your home. Our service department is available to take care of any warranty needs when your project is complete. Once your warranty has expired, we offer regular maintenance and service for your home.

Although we have always provided service to our customers, we are also always looking for ways to improve our process of doing things. We feel we've not always been clear on the best way to initiate a service call, or whom in particular you should contact. In an effort to streamline our service

requests and improve response time, we are asking that our customers send their requests to **MHBservice@MetzlerHomeBuilders.com**. With this new system, someone will contact you to schedule a time to come look at the issues you are having.

## VOTED #1

**Builder/Remodeler by  
Lancaster County Magazine**

Thank you to our loyal customers for helping us earn the #1 Builder/Remodeler Award from Lancaster County Magazine 2013!



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