



SPA-INSPIRED *Master Suite*

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TRANSFORMING A CHERISHED HOME

Wayne and Jennifer's farmhouse was built in the early 1920s on property that has been in Jen's family for six generations. The homeowners really appreciated the lovely features of the original home that included natural woodwork throughout and numerous windows providing spectacular views of the home's rural setting. They cherished all the family memories their home brought to mind.

However, our clients desired to give their home a more spacious feel inside. They sensed the house needed to breathe, yet they didn't want to expand its overall footprint. The homeowners had a specific vision for how they would like to transform their existing home in terms of space, flow and look while preserving the home's beauty and characteristics.

Jen does a lot of cooking, canning, and baking and therefore desired an open, professional-style kitchen with enough storage to accommodate her needs. Wayne travels a lot on business and wanted a relaxing, spacious, spa-like master suite to come home to. And since this home is the "family home", they also like to host their large extended family and wanted to have space to do so comfortably. Finally, they both desired a deck that extended the living space into the natural beauty of their outdoor environment.

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SPA-INSPIRED *Master Suite*

Whenever homeowners envision the master suite of their dreams, it is almost always a spa-like hide-away where they can escape the stresses of daily life. The master suite of The New American Home 2017 is a prime example of this kind of retreat.

The master suite is located in a secluded section of the home's layout, distanced from the more public living spaces yet connected directly to the outdoor lanai and pool area. A restful ambience permeates the master suite, originating in the simple modern lines and clean white surfaces throughout.

In the master bedroom, a full-height cushioned headboard adds texture and muffles sound to ensure a quiet, relaxing environment. A horizontal fire feature creates an inviting atmosphere, while also providing warmth on chilly evenings. Floor-to-ceiling sliding glass doors allow the bedroom to open completely to the outside, making the beautiful natural surroundings a visual part of the interior. The doors also open to a protected outdoor sitting area



Photo: Courtesy of Jeff Davis Photography

with a fireplace, which in turn leads to a glass enclosed fitness room. An adjoining steam room refreshes the body after workouts and removes toxins.

The master bath is a spacious open wet room with no curtains or glass partitions for the shower. A multitude of shower heads and programmable body sprays make showering a refreshing experience. The body sprays are connected to the internet, so changing the selection of spray patterns is effortless. The absence of curbs and the comfortable bench of Brazilian wood provide the shower area with universal design benefits. A freestanding oval soaking tub rests serenely in the corner next to the floor-to-ceiling windows. Natural light streams through the windows made of frosted glass for privacy. A separate water closet accommodates a smart toilet offering many advanced spa features, including a foot warmer, a deodorizer, built-in speakers for playing your choice of music, and a bidet with personal water temperature settings.



Photo: Courtesy of Jeff Davis Photography



Photo: Courtesy of Jeff Davis Photography

The master suite is also outfitted with a private laundry room and two spacious walk-in closets—one that doubles as a safe room for shelter if needed during storms. In every case, products used in this master suite were carefully selected to meet the most rigorous environmental standards for water savings and energy efficiency.

Smart Connections

When it comes to smart technology for the home, homeowners have already benefited from the availability of Wi-Fi enabled security cameras that keep watch over their home's premises, smart home thermostats that help them save on home energy costs, and motion sensors that turn lights on and off throughout their homes as needed. However, what has been lacking so far is useful technology for their kitchens and baths, which are typically the most active areas in the home.

In the U.S. more than 500 adults, divided equally between male and female, recently participated in a survey conducted by Field Agent, a mobile research firm. The findings indicated that only 30 percent of those surveyed currently own smart tech for the home, but 81 percent are excited about the idea of updating their kitchens and bathrooms with Wi-Fi enabled appliances or electronics in the future. They primarily look forward to the convenience and safety this technology can bring to their life style. The 2017 Builders' Show introduced several new possibilities that may have met the mark. Here are three examples:



Photos: Courtesy of Kohler (kohler.com)



FLOATING VANITIES

Beautiful bathrooms by today's standards are those that are simple and serene. But when your life is super hectic, is it even possible to maintain that calm, uncluttered atmosphere in your beautiful bathroom? Yes, provided your cabinetry is designed for organization and ease of maintenance.

Cabinet manufacturers are now offering many organizational solutions in bathroom vanities that help make your morning

routine go much smoother. There are drawer dividers that assist you in arranging your toiletries and makeup so everything is easy to find and put away again. Pull-out drawers may be designed specifically for storing small appliances, like hair dryers and curling irons. Some pull-out drawers feature built-in electrical outlets so you can keep your electric toothbrushes and razors charged and ready for use.

A stylish wall-hung vanity—often called a floating vanity—provides that clean and open look that enhances your sense of tranquility. If your bathroom is small, a floating vanity can make it feel more spacious. A floating vanity can be installed at your preferred height that gives you the most comfortable ergonomic experience as you bend over the sink. In addition, the absence of a cabinet base or furniture legs makes for easier cleaning under a wall-hung vanity.



Photo: Courtesy of GE Appliances (geappliances.com)



Photo: Courtesy of Brinks Home Security (mybrinkshome.com)



Photo: Courtesy of Moen (moen.com)

Kitchen

- GE Appliances demonstrated their new suite of kitchen appliances that collaborates with Amazon's Alexa and Echo to enable hands-free convenience through voice control. The suite includes refrigerators, dishwashers, wall ovens and ranges, plus laundry and more. You can preheat your oven, find out when your dishwasher cycle will be finished, or make any number of other requests—all with the sound of your voice.

Entry Door

- Brinks Home Security Array deadbolt is a cloud- and app-based smart lock that uses the home Wi-Fi connection. With the array, homeowners can unlock their doors, provide and manage access

remotely, and view user and battery data four different ways—smartphone, smartwatch, keypad and key. The Array won the Best Indoor Living Product award at the Builders' Show.

Bath

- Moen presented their U by Moen shower technology, a Wi-Fi/cloud-based digital shower that offers mobile connectivity. It allows you to control your shower preferences through a smartphone app. You can customize everything from time to temperature. If you need to get a little more shut-eye in the morning, you can get the shower going from your bed and it will notify you when it's ready to go.

Transforming a Cherished Home

Spa-Inspired Master Suite

Smart Connections

Floating Vanities



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T.W. Ellis creatively redesigned and remodeled the entire first floor, which included relocating the first floor powder room to a more convenient location. On the second floor we built an addition in order to create a spacious new master suite. The design of the first and second floor had its challenges due to the different elevations of the existing kitchen, but we were able to meet the homeowner's wishes while keeping to the original footprint of their home.

"We really appreciated the craftsmanship and professionalism of the finish carpenter, Jamie, and his assistant, Eric. The work they did was phenomenal and truly made our house beautiful," Jen said. "We were especially pleased that Jamie understood how meaningful the preservation of the home's character was as well as our environmental values. He reused as much of the removed woodwork in new areas as possible. To see those pieces in new areas brings a smile to our faces, as well as to my family members, whose home this has been for nearly a century."

Wayne and Jen enjoy coming home now to their new space. They agree that the kitchen is beautiful and makes food preparation and dining very special. Retiring to the "spa" after a long day is a treat. But their favorite thing is to enjoy a cool beverage on the deck in the evening.

Does your home also need to breathe? We would love to help you transform your home into a wide, open living space that fits your lifestyle perfectly. Contact T.W. Ellis at twellis.com or 410.420.0740.

See more photos and floor plans of this farmhouse on Houzz: houzz.com/pro/twellisllc

