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Updating a '90s dream home to present-day perfection

CONTRIBUTED REPORT
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Just as dreams can get sweeter over time, so can dream homes, as Hoda Gabriel and her husband, Adel Fahmy of Preston Village have learned.

They purchased their home in 1995 as an entry in the '90s annual event, Dream Home Showcase. Sponsored by the Home Builders Association

of Raleigh-Wake County, the Dream Home Showcase featured impressive homes by prominent builders on a specified Wake County street, each filled with all the bells and whistles worthy of a "dream home" title.

"We've loved our home from the start," said Hoda recently. "But by 2009, I was ready for an updated

master suite, and Adel really wanted a screened porch. Adel and I began looking at new construction. Because we were so happy with our existing location, our neighborhood, our lot size and the overall construction of our home, we couldn't find any new homes that we liked better than our current home. We made the decision to stay put and remodel, and I'm so glad we did. We love our new space!"

Hoda and Adel bought their home originally from Randy Walker and his former partner, Dave Hawley, of Timberline Builders. "Randy and Dave were great to work with," said Hoda. "We bought the lot before the ground was broken for the house, so we all worked together to build it. Over the years we've transformed the interior from a very contemporary '90s look, which was our taste at that time, to a more traditional setting today."

"When we decided to remodel, of course we contacted Timberline, along with a few other builders," Hoda continued. "Randy's son, Wes, had joined the business, which has since been renamed Walker DesignBuild. Although they were not the least expensive of the bids, we were comfortable with them. We knew what to expect from them and we knew we'd get our money's worth, so we went with them."

The remodeling project began in late 2009. Hoda and Adel met with Dave, Randy and Wes on a number of occasions to review the plans that would ultimately remodel their master suite and add approximately 400 square feet to the area; finish an upstairs bathroom and closet, adding another 120 square feet and add the screened porch Adel yearned for. The project, completed in early 2010, revamped these areas into the present-day dream spaces Hoda and Adel were seeking.

"Hoda and Adel knew what they wanted, but they were also open to our suggestions," said Wes. "We



Raised-panel cherry cabinetry combines beauty with excellent storage space. The full overlay cabinetry design adds to its appeal, as do the floor to ceiling pantry-style compartments flanking the vanity. The flatscreen TV and phone dock on the left wall are handy amenities for a master bath update.

showed them jobs we'd completed for ideas, and we worked hand in hand with them throughout the process."

"It was important to us to keep disruptions to Hoda and Adel's lives at a minimum," Randy commented. "So we sealed off the inside entrance to their master suite with a dead-bolted door and heavy plastic, and created a temporary entrance in the back of the house so we wouldn't have to enter their home through the front door. This limited the remodeling dust to the area we were working in. In addition to the back entrance, we created an opening in the ceiling of the master suite so we could get upstairs to work on the guest bath and closet, again without having to enter the home through the front door. Hoda and Adel told us they really appreciated the privacy this afforded them."

In the master bath, the original walk-in closet was moved to become two large closets, one for Hoda and one for Adel. "I was thrilled to finally be able to kick Adel out of 'my' closet!" laughed Hoda. "I had planned to work with a specialty closet company, but Randy and Wes saved us a lot of time and money by having one of their sub-contractors work with us to design the shelving and rods exactly as we wanted them. We received truly custom-

ized closets at a fraction of the cost. That same sub-contractor was talented enough to mimic the look of our vanity valance in the trimwork over our tub as we asked. All our interactions were terrific, including those with the vendors Randy and Wes referred, who were wonderful in helping us with selections. Our new space looks like it's been here all along... That's how skilled Randy and Wes are at creating seamless transitions. After living in our remodeled home for almost a year now, we are just as delighted today as we were when the project was completed. My advice for anyone considering a remodeling project is to not look solely at cost when making decisions. Talk to people who've had their home remodeled, and listen closely to what they say about their experiences. In our case, we are very, very happy with our choice to work with Walker DesignBuild. Randy and Wes put their hearts and souls into their work, and it shows. Their workmanship is excellent, they give great advice when asked and they are just nice people."

Is it time to update your dreams? Maybe a remodeling project is just what you need to add comfort, space, and/or appeal in your life. To contact Walker DesignBuild, visit www.walkerbuild.com.



A stained beadboard ceiling featuring an aged bronze fan with hardwood blades, three screened walls and 18x18 Italian tile flooring come together to present outdoor living at its finest in this inviting porch addition.