

It's Easy Being Green

How an Apple Valley couple went through a home remodel without upsetting the environment

BY ANGIE BROMELAND



LOCAL PRODUCTS USED

- ❖ James Barton Design-Build used shingles from Lamperts in Apple Valley (14555 Galaxie Ave. 952.432.0600. www.lampertyards.com).
- ❖ Engineered stone countertops were manufactured in St. Cloud.
- ❖ The design team relied on building suppliers that were fewer than 3 miles from the Kilzers' house.
- ❖ James Barton Design-Build also recycled locally by utilizing Atomic Waste (612.623.8888, www.atomicwaste.com).



It was one short year ago that Bill and Jill Kilzer started seriously talking about remodeling their Apple Valley home. Built in the late 1970s, they noticed not only that their house was becoming aesthetically dated, but also that they were experiencing frequent and dangerous issues with wires shorting out and sparking. These factors paired with the fact that their family was evolving—one son was off to college, and their other was already an upperclassman in high school—helped the Kilzers realize that now was the time for a home remodel.

After the idea settled into their minds, the couple began recognizing that though items like their cupboards might be outdated, they certainly had wear left in them. The thought of all that could go to waste in a remodel weighed heavily on their consciences. This is when they decided that if they went through with the remodel, they would do it right, without making a significant, negative impact on their surrounding environment.

The Kilzers began talking with James Madsen of James Barton Design-Build and shared with them their fears of waste. Madsen offered them an open ear as well as an open mind; it wasn't long before everyone was on the same page with a plan to make the remodel more eco-friendly.

The couple would bring in new green materials and make their house more earth conscious with heated floors, tight-sealed windows and increased insulation. But beyond that, rather than tossing their tons of would-be waste into a dumpster, they worked to recycle 85 percent of it. They were able to do this not only by utilizing Atomic Waste in Minneapolis—which prides itself on recycling all possible materials—but also by listing useable materials on sites such as CraigsList.com and TwinCitiesFreeMarket.org. Jill Kilzer gained a new appreciation for this way of recycling when she realized that “these days, if you want to find a home for something, you can do it,” she says. “You don't just have to throw it out.”

It took only four and a half short months for the James Barton team to give the Kilzers the home they were dreaming of. While the couple lived in the home of friends who spend the winters away, their team reworked the house to include an update of their energy-efficiency nightmare of a three-season porch into a comfortable living room (now the couple's favorite room in the house) and a much more user-friendly kitchen, among other changes.

Even the minor details of the remodel were not taken lightly, such as using low VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) stains on their kitchen cabinets. But the designers went one step further for the Kilzers, thinking as far into the future as possible. They re-ducted the entire house, installed ridge vents in the attic so that it can breathe and put in larger pipes for their air conditioning system so that when their current one inevitably fails, the transition will be less complicated.

BY THE NUMBERS

- ❖ **1979** rambler
- ❖ Renovated into a circa-**2007** home
- ❖ Completed in four and a half months
- ❖ Recycled **85** percent of their waste
- ❖ **95** percent of the home's windows were replaced with energy-efficient Marvis Windows
- ❖ Added approximately **600** square feet in all

The Kilzers' rambler is now completely updated and operates as a cleaner, more green and efficient entity. Their floor plan was opened up in order to obtain maximum space from their house, but despite the changes—both inside and out—their home still fits them and their beloved Apple Valley neighborhood. **M**