

Project Name: Whole House Remodel
Residential Interior \$250,001 - \$500,000
Completion Date: March 13, 2021
Location: Madison, WI



The clients contacted us based upon a referral from their Realtor. As young doctors, who were establishing a long-term career back in their hometown area of Madison, WI, they were still living on the West Coast doing a medical residency when we met online. Although in person meetings were not possible throughout the process due to the Corona Virus shutdowns, we were still able to design the home of their dreams. A great deal of preparation and trust were necessary during this process to achieve the home that they desired.



BEFORE: VIEW OF EXISTING GREAT ROOM

They came to us having selected a gracious 1980's contemporary home located in the desirable and private arboretum neighborhood of Madison. Their desire was to create the feeling of a modern mountain industrial home. Something along the lines of a Utah mountain home, but not a cabin. They requested that we use natural materials and bring outdoor materials indoors, like stone, wood, and metal.



AFTER: VIEW OF THE GREAT ROOM WITH SLOPING ROOFLINE



AFTER: VIEW OF THE GREAT ROOM OUT TOWARDS KITCHEN

The long sloping roof lines of this 1980's contemporary home were perfect for that feeling, ensuring that the interior and exterior would be integrated when the project was done.



AFTER: VIEW OF THE GREAT ROOM WITH GREENERY - AN INSPIRATION FOR THIS DESIGN

Further inspiration for the home is the client's love of plants and natural design elements. As the photos show, plants are a part of nearly every room in the home. From the great room to the solarium upstairs (shown later), plants are present. The windows of the home show off the beauty of the arboretum in all seasons, while the greenery of the indoor plants is cheerful all year long.



BEFORE: EXISTING VIEW TO KITCHEN

It was a given that the project required a gut remodeling of the kitchen, but the clients also requested that we evaluate the feasibility of opening up the kitchen to the rest of the house, so that it would have a modern floor plan for easier lifestyle and better entertaining.



AFTER: NEW OPEN KITCHEN FLOOR PLAN

The kitchen is now no longer separated by the unsightly decorative half wall. The new design is cohesive with the rest of the house, embraces the natural theme, and ready for entertaining.



BEFORE: VIEW FROM KITCHEN TOWARDS SCREENED PORCH

With the existing kitchen design, there was only a glimpse of light coming from the adjoining screened porch.



AFTER: VIEW FROM KITCHEN TOWARDS SCREENED PORCH

Now, we have brought the light from the outdoors inside by continuing the open concept through the kitchen. The new dining porch is a true indoor outdoor living space, connected to the kitchen with an Andersen three-panel folding hinging patio door. When wide open, these rooms are nearly seamless.



BEFORE: VIEW FROM KITCHEN TOWARDS SEATING AREA

Another unusual space in the existing kitchen was a restaurant style seating area in the corner.



AFTER: VIEW FROM ISLAND TOWARDS RESTAURANT SEATING AREA

This extra space provided the perfect opportunity to increase the functionality of the kitchen by wrapping the countertop all the way around the back wall, providing extra room for a beverage center underneath.



BEFORE: THE KITCHEN WAS ONCE SEPARATED FROM THE MEDIA ROOM BY A WALL

By removing the wall to the left of the existing seating area, we were able to continue the open concept all the way through to the adjoining room.



AFTER: VIEW OF ADJOINING MEDIA ROOM

Which allowed even more light into the space, and showcases another seamless transition. A load-bearing wall with plumbing and HVAC divided the kitchen and media room. Unable to be totally removed, instead it became an anchor for the island, and an element to house the refrigerator.



AFTER: NEW BRIGHT AND OPEN KITCHEN & MEDIA ROOM



AFTER: THE NEW MEDIA ROOM

The new media room is complete, showcasing custom bookend decorative shelves, and a piece of natural quartzite that our client fell in love with at a selections appointment. We decided to frame it as a piece of artwork.



AFTER: POWDER BATH OFF OF MEDIA ROOM



BEFORE: DARK & OUTDATED POWDER BATH

Just off of the media room, to the left of the quartzite artwork is a door leading to a powder bathroom. With its outdated pink-beige plumbing fixtures, it was dark, and somewhat dreary and uninviting.



AFTER: BRIGHT & MODERN

But, by the addition of white plumbing fixtures and subway tile, along with the warmth brought in by the wood vanity, wood counter tops, and flooring, this powder bath has now caught up to the modern, natural elements stated throughout the rest of the home.



AFTER: GLASS VESSEL SINK WITH GOLD FIXTURES



BEFORE: EXISTING BALCONY



BEFORE: EXISTING STAIRCASE

In keeping with the outdated half-wall theme that was so evident in many other areas of the home, some decorative half walls were present along the stairway to the second level, and the balconies looking out into the great room.



AFTER: VIEW OF STAIRCASE

With yet another opportunity to continue the open concept, we were able to incorporate the metal railings that the client desired, keeping with the natural and industrial elements design theme and seamlessly connecting the transition between first and second floor.



AFTER: VIEW OF BALCONY FROM GREAT ROOM



AFTER: VIEW FROM BALCONY TO GREAT ROOM

Opening up the railing and removing the half walls continued the open concept that is now evident throughout the rest of the home. Once again, allowing the light and greenery from the outdoors to infiltrate through every area of the home, even the stairway and balcony.

BEFORE: HALF WALLS OF STAIRWAY WITH ADJOINING ROOM



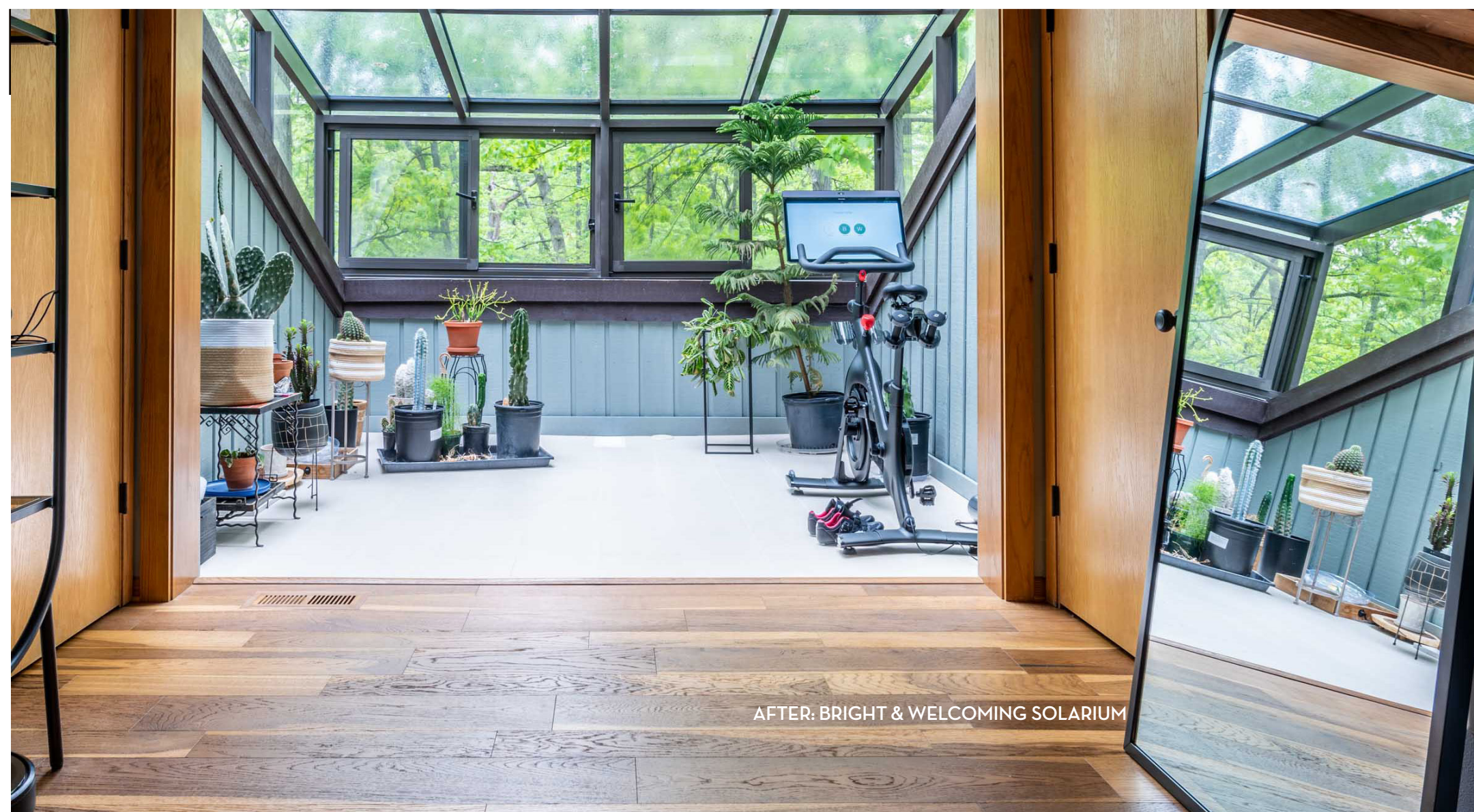
At the top of the stairs, by removing the half walls and replacing them with cable rail, in addition to removing the wall of an adjoining unused room, we were able to create a perfect opportunity for a seating area by the large window. Wood beams that were never noticeable before, now become a significant design element.



AFTER: OPENED SPACE WITH SEATING AREA



Continuing down the hall to the master en suite, a solarium, which was once unusable and completely separated from the master bedroom, was converted into a functional indoor living space. The doors were removed, and new luxury vinyl tile and paint were added to brighten it up. The new hardwood flooring in the master bedroom transitions beautifully into the new tile. Once again, continuing with the open concept, and bringing the outdoors inside.



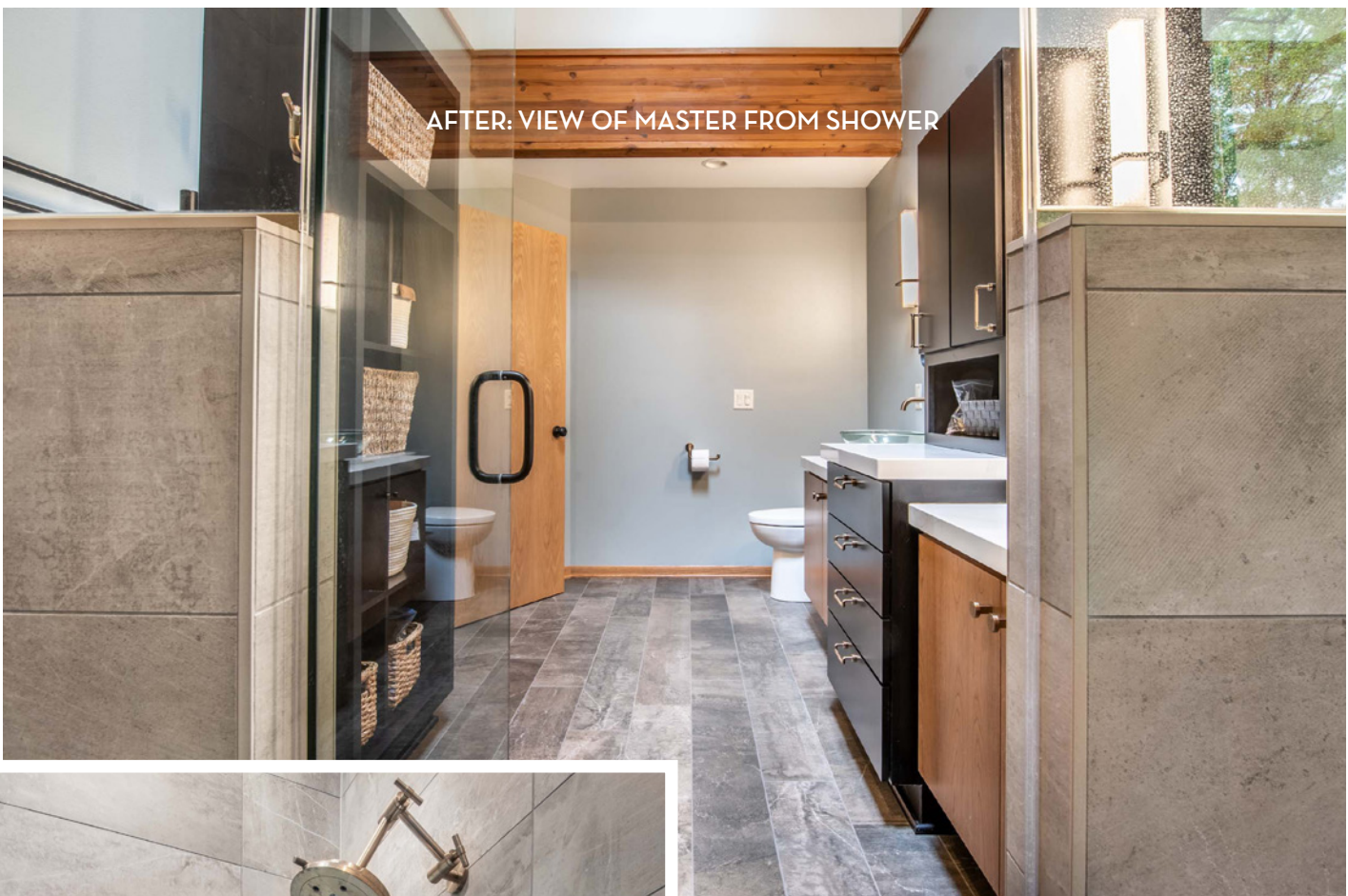


As we designed, the scope of work expanded and became even more bold. The master bedroom (not shown) was remodeled to provide better closet space, and straighter walls for furniture placement.



AFTER: MASTER BATHROOM MAKEOVER

While the master bathroom received a new floor plan to accommodate a luxurious shower and functional his and hers cabinetry.



AFTER: VIEW OF MASTER FROM SHOWER



AFTER: CUSTOM SHELVING & TOWEL WARMER



AFTER: BRIGHT SHOWER WITH WINDOW



AFTER: VESSEL SINK W/GOLD FIXTURES

An existing window above the tub (left) was re-purposed to bring light into the his and hers shower, and a towel warmer (top right) was installed on the wall next to custom shelving. Looking out from the shower to the opposite side of the bathroom (above), an existing wooden beam is now incorporated into the rest of the features.

Just down the hall from the master bedroom, a guest bathroom also received a makeover. A nautical style mirror, deep blue vanity and gold plumbing fixtures throughout, add a fun modern twist to this space.



AFTER: GUEST BATHROOM



AFTER: VANITY WALL



AFTER: NEW DINING PORCH

Another significant feature to preserve in this home is the fact that it had two screened porches. We converted these both to 3-season rooms. As stated earlier, the dining porch (shown above) is now a wide open extension of the kitchen.



AFTER: VIEW OF NEW 3-SEASON ROOM OFF OF GREAT ROOM



AFTER: VIEW OF NEW 3-SEASON ROOM OFF OF GREAT ROOM

While the great room porch, located off of the side of the house, is its own private oasis where one can be surrounded by the woodlands of the arboretum.



AFTER: VIEW OF SUNKEN GREAT ROOM FROM BALCONY



CRITERIA RESPONSES

To what degree were the expressed needs of the client met?

The clients brought us a wish list to do an interior makeover on their 1980's home, with needs including:

- creating the feeling of an industrial mountain home
- clean lines and minimalism
- natural materials that bring the outdoors inside

We accomplished these goals through our use of design and craftsmanship using the types of materials that were requested. The floor plan was opened, creating the feel of a contemporary mountain home, and indoor/outdoor living spaces were incorporated wherever possible.

To what degree does the project enhance the existing structures functionally?

The functionality of the home was increased by creating an open floor plan that connects the once disjointed kitchen, dining, media, and living area. The solarium is now a direct extension of the master bedroom enhancing the space with light, views, and comfort. The entire master bathroom and walk-in closets were revised to flow better, and a leaking jetted tub was removed and replaced with a beautiful his and hers shower. In addition two screened porches were converted into 3-season rooms which enhances the living space, and brings the outdoors inside.

To what degree does the project enhance the structure aesthetically?

We carefully preserved the best parts of the interior that the client admired in this once stylish 1980's home, while new finishes carefully integrate the new design motif the clients desired. For example, a new gas fireplace was installed while the original limestone and cedar wall were preserved. Yet, with the addition of java stain on the mantle it is brought back to the modern tones so popular today. The kitchen was dark and isolated, yet it was connected to a screened porch. By opening up the wall of the screen porch, we preserved the original craftsmanship and brought the kitchen new life. Careful tile and fixture planning were also imperative to the design and flawlessly executed, enhancing existing features, such as the wood beams that were never noticeable before.

CRITERIA RESPONSES (continued)

Is there evidence of superior craftsmanship?

Superior craftsmanship was necessary to execute this project and is demonstrated in the following areas:

- perfectly straight lines in cable railings
- carefully aligned subway tile with contrasting grout, which would easily show errors
- full overlay cabinet doors with precise margins
- walnut edge-grain butcher block counter-tops throughout most of the kitchen, and powder bath
- cedar ceilings protected, re-used, and patched due to mouse damage and wall removal
- long, straight lines in tile and wood floors
- careful waterproofing details around shower window

Were innovative uses of material and/or methods of construction used in the project?

We have several favorite innovations in this job. A piece of quartzite, not large enough for use in the kitchen became a piece of wall art, which required innovative thinking and superior craftsmanship to execute. A solarium, which was formerly an unconditioned space above the garage became an extension of the en-suite. And finally, a load-bearing wall with plumbing and HVAC divided the kitchen and media room. Unable to be totally removed, instead it became an anchor for the island, and an element to house the refrigerator.

Did the contractor overcome difficult obstacles?

At the time the clients interviewed us, they were still living on the West Coast during a medical residency. All design and contract negotiations happened remotely. While the clients were scheduled to meet us in person for interior design and product selections, COVID caused their flight to be canceled and they were not able to reschedule a time for this in-person meeting with us. Hence even all of our selections and interior design happened remotely. While it is now commonplace for most companies to conduct video meetings, these clients are one of two jobs where we never even met in person until the job was underway! A great deal of preparation and trust are necessary for a successful remodeling experience like this.

