



Remodelors Corner

BY LAURA THEOBALD

No one would ever guess the pristine basement in the Henderson's house was finished more than a year ago. The floors still sparkle, the lights still glow and the paint still looks fresh.

It would also be tough to guess that the basement, with its lack of clutter, is well-lived in. The family watches home movies in the new living area, Mitchell plays his X-Box on the large-screen projection television, friends eat and drink in the bar area, overnight guests sleep in the extra bedroom and Kim runs on her treadmill in the workout area.

"I like everything in its place," Kim Henderson said.

The project slowly evolved from their unfinished basement, Kim said. As their children grew Mark and Kim wanted a space for them that wouldn't seem like they were "bellying up to a bar." So the bar became a kitchenette with sink, wine rack, fridge, high-top table and foosball table.

The new bathroom is the nicest one in the house, Kim said. It has a large slate shower, heated floor and a built-in linen closet.

"The thing about finishing your basement," she said, "is that there goes all your storage space."

Enter Karen Blissenbach of Design Studio B. She helped Mark and Kim choose coordinating colors and offered advice to maximize space, such as built-in cabinets.

Karen also got creative with the floor plans, she said. She put in a two-sided fireplace to separate the kitchenette from the living area.

Along with the fireplace, the colors and the lighting in the basement were chosen to give it a warm, personal feeling.

"It doesn't feel like a lower level," Karen said. "That was one of our goals."

In the end, Karen said, the project really accomplished what most projects set out to do: join an equal marriage of function

and aesthetics.

"It was as stress-free as possible," Kim said.

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Contractor:

DESIGN STUDIO B

Homeowners:

MARK AND KIM HENDERSON

Project:

LOWER LEVEL FINISH