

A photograph showing the exterior of a house before a renovation. The house has a mix of brick and white siding. In the foreground, there is a tiered stone fountain on a paved patio. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day.

BEFORE

and **A**FTER

A photograph showing the exterior of the same house after a renovation. The house now features a more uniform stone facade. The fountain remains in the foreground, but the overall appearance is more refined and modern.

and **A**FTER

By Charlotte Tallman
Photography By Carolyn Bowman

home remodeling

Home remodeling is a big event, often time-consuming and sometimes frustrating, but an event that can bring comfort, extra room and an increased home value to any homeowner with the right help and plans.

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Above: Newly remodeled kitchen and dining area.

over details in the home. Point out a notebook you will leave in the home where crew members can review daily questions or concerns you might have and reply to them, or add their own questions. Keep weekly contact with the job-site supervisor so you can go over any details that need to be addressed. Set up a schedule and a contract for the work schedule.

Right before demolition, remove all personal belongings from the area, making sure to place needed items in another accessible part of the home if you are just remodeling a room or two. If the whole house is being remodeled, arrange for alternate storage. Before the wrecking crew comes in, make sure that areas of the house not being demolished are covered well with plastic sheeting.

The final steps will be waiting and watching. Once your new home is ready, make sure you do a final walkthrough with the architect/builder and note any questions or concerns. Over a several month period, make sure to keep an eye on the remodeled spaces as the house settles. Above all, make sure to enjoy the extra comfort, space and value that you can now call your "new" home.

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Chad North of CGN Designs, LLC in El Paso took on a job that required remodeling a late 1920s home in order to open the home up and add more rooms with a second story while maintaining the home's original, notable look.

"They loved the location of the home and that's where they wanted to raise their family," Chad says of the homeowners. "It was an old bungalow-style house that we added to, but also restored to the original look."

The remodel, which took several months, included the removal of the entire roof and the rear wall, which only left the two sides of the front walls. "Three walls were left standing, literally," Chad says.

Before tearing down the walls of the 1,800 square foot home, the home was compartmentalized, making rooms compact. After the remodel, the home was doubled in size. "We opened it up so there is a large open space. You don't have to walk through one room to get another one," Chad says.

Three bedrooms were added on the second level, a master bedroom on the bottom floor, an enlarged kitchen, vaulted ceilings in the living room, and a covered outdoor balcony overlooking west El Paso with a beautiful view of the mountains. A mission-style staircase was built to match the original theme of the home, and the original wood floors were refurbished on the first floor.

If you are considering a remodel like the one Chad was a part of, or even one on a smaller scale, consider these questions: What do you want the finished product to look like? Do you want to use an architect or a designer/builder? What is your budget? This stage is all about making the right decisions. Once decisions are made, meet with the architect or contractor to go

Before: A before picture of a pass through bedroom. The house was opened up during the remodel so rooms were easily accessible and not needed to get from one room to the other.

After: A piano sits in the corner of the newly remodeled dining room.