

Reference: Brooke Rush Builders  
Project: Kitchen / Family Room Renovation  
Dates: January - March 2008

The best recommendation we can think of is inviting Brooke and his team back for a second major project and that is what we did in the beginning of 2008. After enjoying our lovely sunroom addition for several years, we met with Phase II Designs and planned our kitchen/family room renovation. With plans in hand, we enlisted Brooke and his team to make this new dream come true. Having enjoyed the new kitchen / family room for nine months, we are delighted with the layout and quality.

We started this project knowing that the same high quality team of subcontractors would return to our home. These rooms are contiguous to the sunroom and the skilled craftsman worked to make the transitions between the spaces seamless. We particularly appreciate the quality of the drywall, making sure old seams as well as new are well done. The deep color scheme highlights the spaces well; we appreciate the painters' meticulousness in the various color transitions. Of particular note, is the precision of the ceramic tile installation. Using the same tiles, in a complimentary color, the heated flooring continues with perfect alignment between the sunroom and kitchen. The detail continues in the backsplash, using miniature subway tiles in a window pane setting. Lastly, we replaced the fireplace surround with a contemporary slate design, which contrasts nicely with the kitchen surfaces, including a large granite island and granite counters.

We commissioned custom cabinets to match the original European design. And while a risky strategy, the craftsman persisted till the style and color made for another seamless transition between the original cabinets and the new. All of this is beautifully and effectively illuminated by lighting, much of which uses dimmers to increase efficiency.

One major concession to Brooke was relenting on our wood fireplace and installing a gas log set. While easy to do since we converted to a propane cook top, we had particularly enjoyed our wood fires. Brooke promised that "frequency would offset authenticity." And here in writing, we say, "Brooke, you were right!" We love the convenience of the gas log set and it has already become a congregating area for family discussions and gatherings with friends.

In any major renovation, problems may arise. In those few cases, these issues were handled professionally and to our satisfaction. We preferred delaying the project a few days to ensure the final results met our satisfaction; and Brooke managed the project to accommodate the scheduling changes. The combination of Phase II Designs and Brooke Rush Builders has been a winning combination for the Beaulieu household and we recommend them to anyone looking to make a renovation vision become a top quality, lasting, enjoyable reality.

Paul and Ann Beaulieu