

CHARLOTTE **URBAN**

HOME

APRIL/MAY 2013

CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE



RAISE THE ROOF

By Dana W. Todd

There's a well-kept secret hidden in plain sight in North Carolina. Many know about Shea Homes, a 128-year-old homebuilder that provides quality new construction homes in neighborhoods. Shea Custom, however, another division of the company specializing in building custom homes and remodeling, is not as widely known.

Robert and Susan Aliota recently discovered Shea Custom when they purchased a late 1960s brick home on the golf course at Carmel Country Club. They loved the location with its 1.2-acre spread, mature oaks on site and the master suite located downstairs. Some features though, were not as attractive to them – the leaking Mansard-style roof, the dark interior and exterior, differing floor heights and dated details to name a few.

After evaluating potential contractors, the couple chose Shea Custom to remodel the entire house, utilizing Shea's new 3,000-square-foot design center for many product selections. Shea Custom then worked with the couple and their residential designer, Jeanine DeVaney of Charlotte In-Vironments, to transform the look of the house in six months. By comparing the before and after photos, you may be fooled into thinking the house is new from the ground up. The changes are so dramatic that Shea Custom earned the 2012 Charlotte NARI award for best entire house remodeling job.

First, Shea Custom completely removed the roof and changed the exterior look of the house to a more traditional Georgian style by painting the brick, changing the architectural lines and adding a widow's walk. While the roof was off, the builder added a third floor and raised

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the ceilings on the other two floors to make the interior more spacious.

Although the renovation touched every room of the house, the Aliota's say the remodeled family room and kitchen are the best new features. “We love the family room the most, with the addition of its vaulted ceiling with custom cedar beams and stone fireplace,” says Susan Aliota. “The room used to be a sunroom tiled with terra cotta with a step down to the outdoors. Shea Custom had to jackhammer out the tile embedded in a concrete slab because we wanted wood floors for warmth.”

Charlie O'Melveny of Shea Custom said flooring changes challenged the crew, but the end result with level floors and French doors opening onto the patio creates a good indoor-outdoor flow. The open floor plan continues into the adjacent kitchen, which was gutted and lightened up. Major changes continue in the master suite, where O'Melveny came up with the idea of installing a double-coffered ceiling to create drama in the previously nondescript room.

The new (old) home pleases the Aliota's, especially since Shea Custom value engineered the project to implement cost-effective upgrades to increase the home's marketability, such as stacking a third story instead of increasing the house's footprint. “It just feels like home,” Aliota says.❖

Now you're in on the secret. Discover how Shea Custom can build or remodel a home to suit your specific needs. Call 704-817-2881 or visit www.sheacustom.com.



