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HOME Beautiful

Local Home Remodel

A Natural Addition

by Nancy Powers

When LN's own Susan Maurer and her husband, Roy, bought their 80-year-old Glendale home, it had a screened-in porch, a feature Susan loved. But it also lacked a casual dining space and a family room. Not long after they moved in, the Maurers enclosed the porch, creating a kitchen/family room—a pretty radical concept back in 1977. “We really are glad we made the changes, because we live in this space,” Susan says, “but I always wanted that porch back.”

The couple is in the finishing phase of creating a dream porch, using stone from the original (dangerously uneven) two-level patio to create a new outdoor space. Some landscaping will be planted soon to enhance the addition. “This is the best thing of all,” Susan says, pointing out the French doors that were added for access to the living room. “When the weather is nice, our living room gains all that space. I can’t wait until we can actually



Vintage-style wicker furniture with freshly covered cushions creates a relaxing environment on the Maurers' new porch.

photos by Jason Mueller

have a party to try it out.”

In addition to the French doors, the solid door to the kitchen was changed to one with 15 panels of glass. “It’s amazing what a difference it makes to that corner of the kitchen now that it’s flooded with light,” she says.

One drawback to adding the porch was the concern that it would eliminate the natural light that made the living room so inviting, but the problem was solved by adding two skylights to the porch’s vaulted roofline. “I really wanted them, and I think the design is inspired,” Susan says. “They flood the entire back of the house with light.” She also loves the exterior design and says the collaboration with Killeen Studio Architects is what made the project such a success. “The details they added go perfectly with the architecture of the house and make the porch like a little house of its own,” she says. Charming and looking as if it has always been part of the home, the porch is anything but an afterthought.

“When you have a very small addition like this one,” says Andy Killeen, “you really need to include things like the bracket details and substantial framing and rails. Architectural details add stature to the design and give it presence.” The goal of the project was to design a porch that fit the style of the house and the neighborhood. “The skylights were the client’s idea,” he says.



Existing stone from a dangerously uneven two-level patio was recycled to create a usable space alongside the house.

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#3 Topping Place

LADUE

- 511 South Warsaw - 3/4 acre homesite in a central Ladue location with very private backyard. Lot price is \$495,000 plus house construction costs.
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The deck, interior porch floor and stairs down to the patio are constructed of long-lasting, low-maintenance composite. "The framing is wood," he says, "as are the added details."

Rather than starting from scratch, stone from the existing patio, including a pink limestone and large-scale flagstones, was recycled to create a long, somewhat narrow patio. "Dan O'Halloran is the stonemason who did the work," Susan says. "We talked about how we could use the materials we had, but make the space look a little wider. His idea was to lay the stones on a diagonal, and we settled on a herringbone pattern." Other stones were used to create a border. "We're going to have viburnum planted around the perimeter," she says, "and get a propane gas grill." O'Halloran's final project is digging the base for setting the remaining stones into a walkway leading into the backyard.

Vintage-looking white wicker furniture fits perfectly with the architecture of the porch and home. "My neighbor was mov-



Skylights flood the living room with light and frame lovely views of the mature trees overhead. A ceiling fan adds comfort when the weather warms up.

ing and I bought it from her," Susan says. "Roy and I recovered the cushions ourselves—without anyone sustaining an injury," she quips. The house is painted a buttery yellow, and blues and yellows dominate in the fabrics indoors and out, with a shot of lime green used for accent pillows on the porch," Susan says. "I had my grandson here the other day and it was fantastic," Susan says. "The porch is like a giant playpen. Michael could watch all the kids playing in their yards and still be safe and within reach."

The finishing touch will be some outdoor-rated lamps. "We included plenty of places to plug things in," she says. "And we're going to put a round bistro table out here, but I'm not sure where yet." In addition to the kitchen remodel, over the years the Maurers have added a fourth bedroom upstairs and redone both bathrooms on the second floor. What's next? "I can't tell you," she laughs, "because you'll write it in the story and Roy will read it and holler, 'Uncle!'"

LN



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The porch addition to the Maurers' Glendale home was designed by Killeen Studio Architects, with detailing to give the small space character and stature.

photos by Jason Mueller