



Terrific Transformations

ACHERON CONSTRUCTION REDEFINES ROOMS



Acheron Construction produced dramatic results with the redesign of this Dallas area kitchen. The new space includes a large custom island, Acheron Private Label cabinets, a baking center, granite countertops, and a brick laid limestone backsplash accented by a decorative harlequin pattern above the gas range.



before

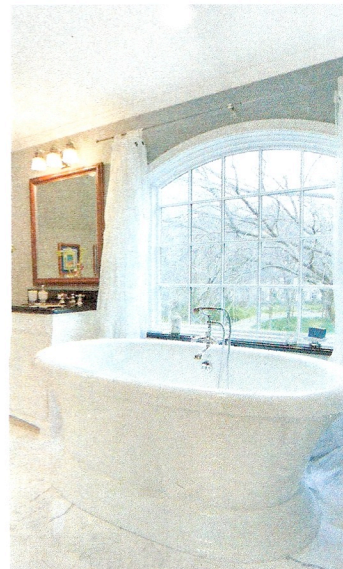
The large but poorly laid-out kitchen's 2 x 4-foot island and matching peninsula were removed to make way for the more practical and attractive 4 x 9-foot centerpiece.



Doubled in size, the remodeled bath also attaches to a new walk-in closet created from attic space. Accenting the double shower is a striking basket weave pattern created with several shades of gray tile



before



A formerly small and unattractive master bath has a new look with white and black marble floors and vanities, custom framed mirrors and an oval jetted tub backed by an airy, arched window.

TURNING REMODELING WISHES INTO A REALITY

BY PIERCE SHAYLEY • PHOTOGRAPHY BY TERRI GLANGER

GOODBYE HO-HUM, HELLO EXCEPTIONAL

Like many homeowners, Dallasites Gail and Charlie of Dallas spent several years settling into the older residence they had decided to call home, simply getting comfortable—and deciding what made them uncomfortable—as they debated what types of changes they wanted to make. Their main complaint was a cramped master bathroom, but once they finally decided to get serious about remodeling, the project expanded to include a revamped kitchen, restyled living room and even a new walk-in closet.

Consulting with Alex Dahlgren, senior partner of Acheron Construction L.L.C. in Dallas, they quickly became fans of the notion of taking charge of your living spaces instead of simply making do. Acheron, they say, helped them change their vague ideas and wish lists into a viable plan.

A Certified Graduate Remodeler, Dahlgren notes that the couple's home was in a great neighborhood and had plenty of potential, but they were suffering from "a ho-hum floorplan" that did not meet their needs. Fortunately, fixing that sort of situation is a specialty for Acheron, a company

that has been helping local homeowners improve the functionality and appearance of their living spaces since 1990.

Gail recalls that besides providing them with a selection of drawings of possible solutions to their home complaints, Acheron gave them the personalized attention and guidance they needed to decide on a detailed plan of action.

"We talked with some other contractors who were very nice people and could have done the work too," Gail says. "But we felt like Alex had vision and he asked a lot more questions about what we wanted for the spaces. He had great ideas and wonderful execution of them. The precision of the work was pretty amazing."

In the kitchen, Gail started off simply wanting her cook top to face the back window, but soon, the project grew. Dahlgren explains that the space, although roomy, was poorly laid out with a cramped breakfast area and a tiny-2 x 4-foot island and a matching peninsula. Today, the restructured layout includes a more practical mix of space and storage, packaged prettily in

Acheron Private Label cabinets painted ivory with white trim for a French country look. A walnut travertine floor has replaced homely commercial tile and the improved zone features a large 4 x 9-foot island complete with a prep sink and glass-fronted cabinets to show off the couple's wedding china.

In addition to extras like a walk-in pantry and a newly designed laundry room, the reinvented space also boasts a custom-made baking center equipped with special lift-up shelves for appliances like a food processor and mixer, and adorned with fleur de lis tiles.

Raising the roof over the cramped breakfast nook integrated it back into the room, while removal of the family room's bookshelves opened up the whole space.

In the adjacent living room, Acheron gave the fireplace a refined look, removing bookcases and a plain brick ledge, then creating an enlarged surround of black slate and limestone, and topping it with a large mahogany mantel. "It was just ugly before," Gail says. "All we did with the brick was pile things on it. Now it's lovely."

Upstairs, the couple's master bath

is now double its size, courtesy of Dahlgren's creativity and some little used attic space over the garage. Besides practical extras such as laundry hampers cleverly hidden behind wainscoting and a large walk-in closet that spans the entire width of the two-car garage, the luxurious retreat touts a contrasting palette of white and black marble—Statuary Venatino and Negro Marquina—with white cabinetry and custom framed mirrors above the vanities. Besides a stand alone oval jetted tub complete with a new arched window that adds more drama to the space, the room touts a grey-tiled double shower.

"It is a fabulous room," Gail admits. "It really turned out wonderfully."

She and Charlie, having joined Acheron's long list of happy customers, believe that the benefits of remodeling are many—as long as you choose wisely and pair yourself with the right contractor.

This month's showguide cover story is sponsored by Acheron Construction L.L.C. To learn more about the company, visit www.acheron.net or call 972.840.1749.