

Extreme Home Makeover, Jefferson City Style

» By Vicki K. Brown
Photos by Chris Hollaway



Rob and Lori Howard's building experience could be described as a Jefferson City version of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." A contractor's determination and cooperation from sub-contractors, suppliers and friends created a new home from ashes within days of the birth of the Howards' third child.





OPPOSITE PAGE, LEFT: A silk floral arrangement adds an elegant touch on the coffee table.
OPPOSITE PAGE, RIGHT: A red felted pool table is ready for play in the home's lower level.
ABOVE: Natural light floods the great room.
RIGHT: Red walls create a lively frame, while a column-flanked arch and open walls give an airy feel.

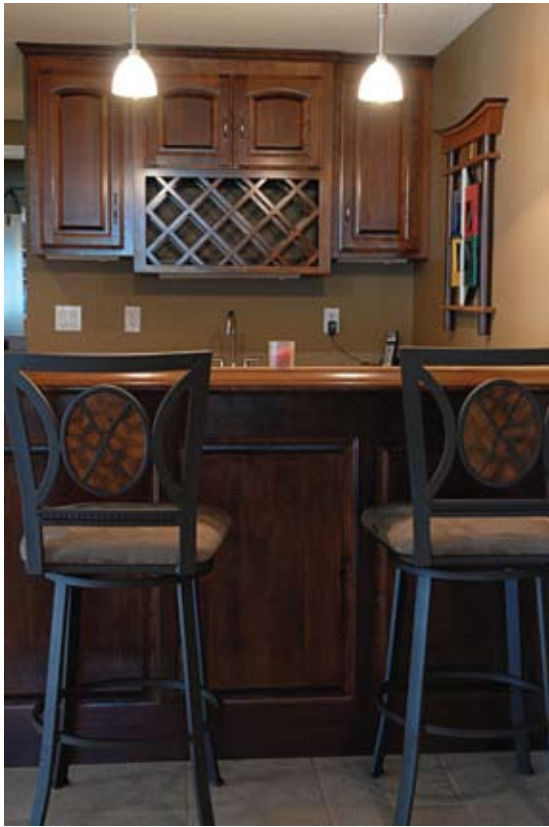
The couple, owners of Howard's ATA Black Belt Academy, lost their west-side home to a fire in May 2006. "The fire marshal said either a lightning strike or gas fumes caused it," Rob explains.

The only thing remaining was the foundation of the 5-year-old structure the couple had purchased the previous December. The Howards wanted to get settled as quickly as possible because Lori was expecting the couple's third child. They turned to Scott Schaeperkoetter and Signature Homes.

"Lori was seven months pregnant when I met them. My wife was also pregnant at the time, so I understood a little of what they were going through," Schaeperkoetter says.

Determined to get the couple into the home before the baby arrived, Schaeperkoetter set to work. "Once the remainder of the house was torn down, I think we had them back in within nine weeks," he notes.





Most home construction requires five or six months, he says. “We became part of their family for those two months.”

Although the Howards and the builder had to stick to the same basic floor plan when building the new home, they were able to make significant changes to the home’s look, Shaeperkoetter says.

Lori met with Signature employees, Angie Zimmerman and Tina Davis of Scruggs Lumber Co., for suggestions about color schemes and design.

“We wanted a practical home, but one that’s easy to keep up,” Rob explains.

The Howards relied on Signature Homes staffers’ expertise for interior structural changes. On the ground floor, a half-wall originally blocked the dining room from the living area and the stairwell to the basement in the original floor plan. Shaeperkoetter replaced the wall with columns, giving the home an airy and open feel.

The original home included an office at the base of the basement stairs, but the lower level was the most lived-in area of the home, according to the Howards. So the builder enclosed the office to one side of the room, leaving a huge comfortable area for family time. A flat-screen television hangs above a rock fireplace, with built-in shelves for accessories. Wires and hookups are hidden in a small room added behind the fireplace. A large sectional provides a comfortable place for movie viewing or gaming.





A mini-kitchen makes whipping up snacks a breeze, and a comfortable bedroom provides ample space for overnight guests. French doors open to the in-ground pool the couple had installed with the new home.

To give the home a brighter look, the Howards added more windows and French doors to the original plan.

Rob and Lori also added color throughout the home. The original house had been painted white throughout. The Howards added splashes of dark red, greens, earth tones and blues in various rooms.

The couple's two older sons, Jordan, 18, and Corbin, 11, chose the theme for their rooms. Jordan settled on a Jefferson City Jays theme, and Corbin, a St. Louis Cardinals look.

"It was always a goal...to get them in before her due date," Schaeperkoetter says. Though they tracked ahead of schedule most of the time, a last-minute glitch delayed carpet installation until Sept. 1. The furniture was to be delivered the next day.

"Everyone pitched in, including my pregnant wife, and helped clean everything. By the time the Howards got home from work at 9:30 that evening, everything was ready for the furniture to be brought in on Saturday," Schaeperkoetter explains. "It was just a neat experience."

Boston Howard was born Sept. 8. ■

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: Pendant lights illuminate the bar, found on the lower level's plan.

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM: The work of Toby's Cabinets and Martellaro Marble and Granite combine to create a beautiful kitchen.

ABOVE: A back deck overlooks the swimming pool.

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RESOURCE LIST

<p>COUNTERTOPS: Martellaro Marble and Granite</p> <p>CARPET: Scruggs Lumber Co.</p> <p>HARDWOOD FLOORING: Charles Luebbert</p> <p>HEATING/COOLING: Steifferman Heating & Cooling</p> <p>PLUMBING: George's Plumbing</p>	<p>CABINETS: Toby's Cabinets</p> <p>POOL: Findlay Pools</p> <p>GARAGE DOORS: Capital Installers</p> <p>SIDING: Capital City Home Maintenance</p> <p>ELECTRICAL: Tony Downing</p> <p>GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Signature Homes</p>
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