

Arlington rambler pops up into a beach house bungalow

By Merlisa Lawrence Corbett
Special to *The Washington Examiner*

In love with the coastal lifestyle but anchored by careers that keep them in the Washington area, an Arlington couple had their single-level brick rambler transformed into a beach house bungalow.

In 2006, Scott Mikolajzyk and Micah Stein-Verbit exhausted their search for the perfect bungalow and decided to purchase a 1950s rambler on a quarter-acre lot in the Williamsburg section of Arlington. When it came time to remodel, they hired the architectural firm of Mickey Simpson, an area expert when it comes to Arts and Crafts- and bungalow-style renovations.

They added a second story, boosting the space by some 1,500 square feet for a total of 3,500 square feet. The brick was painted brown, wood siding used on the top level and Arts-and-Crafts-style windows installed. The result is an English-style cottage that would be at home on the shores of Maine.

"We love everything about the coast," Mikolajzyk said.

Interior designer Marilyn Greene helped decorate parts of the interior, which Mikolajzyk and Stein-Verbit continue to improve.

"My job is to clarify someone's thoughts and style," Greene said. "When you're talking about a Mickey Simpson design house, you want to go sophisticated and not do simple beach house. We wanted to take advantage of all the wonderful trim in the interior and those wonderful doors. We wanted to make it more Hamptons, versus Ocean City."

Elegant yet comfy, the interior features an open floor plan with built-in bookcases, interior beams and wainscoting on the walls. Instead of cavernously high spaces, the ceilings are 9 feet high. "We wanted it to have a warm, relaxed beach feel," Mikolajzyk said.

The centerpiece of the first floor is a stunning kitchen with a 13-foot island. The island's cabinets are black, beaded board. The rest of the kitchen cabinetry is a distressed cream color, while countertops are white and gray marble. A raised counter on the long island shields dirty dishes and any mess from those in the living and dining rooms. An assortment of horizontal blue-gray glass tile from Architectural Ceramic make up the backsplash, which catches the reflection of the stainless steel hood and Wolf range.

A large, Midcentury Modern wood dining room table and chairs are the perfect addition for entertaining. Just outside the dining room, a large screened-in back porch, part of the original house, offers even more space for get-togethers.

"We thought of making it a two-story sleeping porch but decided we probably wouldn't use the space," Mikolajzyk said.

A color pallet of marine blues and brown tones is repeated throughout the home. They used environmentally safe paints from Restoration Hardware; silver sage in the living and dining rooms and cappuccino in the family room.

In the basement, white built-in shelves flank a fireplace. A tobacco-colored burlap weave covers the walls in the basement to balance a blue sofa. Staying true to the home's vintage feel, the guest bathroom features 1950s-style tile work.



BEFORE:

Scott and Micah bought this 1950s, single-level brick rambler in Arlington in 2006. Because of their love of a coastal lifestyle, they decided to transform it into a beach house bungalow.



COURTESY PHOTOS



Resources

- » Marilyn Greene
msgreeneinteriors.com
- » Restoration Hardware
restorationhardware.com
- » Mickey Simpson
mickeysimpson.com

AFTER PHOTOS BY ANDREW HARNIK/EXAMINER



AFTER: Scott and Micah hired the architectural firm of Mickey Simpson, an area expert when it comes to Arts and Crafts- and bungalow-style renovations, to complete the transformation. The result is an English-style cottage that would be at home on the coast of Maine.

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