

# Distinctive Remodelers helps reinvent living spaces for Orland Park family

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Eight years ago, Kevin and Angela Reynolds moved into their dream home that they had built in Orland Park. But as the years progressed and their two daughters were born, an unsettling awareness crept in. The couple realized that the home they had so carefully chosen and customized required some re-imagining to meet their changing needs and standards — especially in the kitchen, which was proving to be less functional and efficient for a family of four than they had hoped.

“When we first bought our home, I was pregnant with our first daughter, and we were trying to get in the neighborhood on a more limited budget,” said Angela. “We chose to spend money on exterior options and extras instead of investing in interior upgrades. But after only a few years, it quickly became apparent that the kitchen and other spaces needed re-inventing.”

The kitchen layout in particular “bugged us,” Kevin noted. “We didn’t have enough counter space, the countertops were less-than-desirable Formica, the ceramic floor tile was chipping, and the built-in pantry was taking up too much space. We wanted to do things like bump out the size of the kitchen, install higher quality custom cabinetry and countertops, add an island and put in hardwood floors.”

Determined to renovate,

the Reynolds shopped around and solicited bids from several remodelers. Dissatisfied with the proposals and estimates garnered, they weren’t sure how to proceed. That is, until Kevin went jogging one day and noticed a sign for Distinctive Remodelers — the renovation division of Distinctive Companies, both based in the Reynolds’ neighborhood. Inspired, Kevin told his wife, who phoned Distinctive Remodelers on the spot. It wasn’t long before Mike Carroll, the president of the company, personally came over for an in-house consultation.

“Originally, our idea was to expand the kitchen size by building outward,” Kevin said. “But Mike suggested that we could solve our space problem by utilizing our existing square footage instead. For example, he showed us how knocking out our pantry and expanding the kitchen footprint into the adjacent family room would better open up the flow between the two rooms. There was already a lot of wasted space in the family room, so compromising a bit of square footage there to expand the kitchen was a good solution.”

Enamored with Carroll’s fresh ideas and reasonable project estimate, the Reynolds hired Distinctive Remodelers. Then came the challenging part: living without a working kitchen for several weeks during the remodeling process.

“Mike saved us some time,



however, by ordering the cabinets earlier to minimize interruptions,” Angela said. “And the project was actually finished within the time frame they promised.”

Carroll’s crew virtually gutted the Reynolds’ kitchen and installed extra-tall custom birch cabinets sporting a cherry finish, European hinges and brushed nickel pulls. They replaced all the older, bisque-colored appliances with stainless steel KitchenAid models and added a garbage disposal unit. Attractive tan, black and red quartz-patterned granite countertops and an eye-catching island were implemented, as were new pendant, can and under-cabinet lights. A new ceramic backsplash was put in. In

place of the space-robbing pantry, a butler’s pantry with a wet bar — complete with a KitchenAid beverage center, wine rack and cabinetry above it — was inserted in the space between the kitchen and family room, creating a handsome transition between the living spaces. And the tile floors and carpeting prevalent on the main level were substituted with the exquisite hardwood floors the Reynolds had been dreaming about.

Additionally, Distinctive Remodelers upgraded the standard trim throughout the whole house with detailed white painted trim, enhanced the first-floor powder room with a new elegant pedestal sink and faucet, mirror and light fixture, and supplanted

the main level’s original hollow oak doors with solid core, six-panel white doors.

“Their attention to detail was amazing, and they were courteous and tidy throughout the entire remodeling phase,” said Kevin. “Mike came by to visit our house regularly and check on the progress. He’d ask if everything got cleaned up to our satisfaction after the crew was finished for the day. He made sure there was no construction debris or loose nails for the kids to step on. He really exceeded our expectations.”

Kevin said that “it’s amazing how this project evolved. Originally, we were determined to simply replace the tile and carpeting with hardwood floors. But with the

help of Mike Carroll’s vision and Distinctive Remodelers’ craftsmanship, we were able to improve many areas of our home for a more reasonable price than we had imagined. My wife and I had previously finished our basement and tackled other home improvement projects, but this was by far the best remodeling experience we’ve ever had.”

Carroll said that he and Distinctive Companies Chairman/CEO Bryan Nooner founded Distinctive Remodelers based primarily on rising demand from past home buyer clients seeking to modernize or expand their existing residences.

“We have a large base of satisfied, loyal customers

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