

Frankfort foreclosure fixer-upper transforms into dream home

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Staff Report

It takes a keen eye to spot a diamond in the rough worth saving. But it takes an even keener skill to cut and polish that flawed stone into a glimmering gem. Randy and Brooke Moll had the vision to transform a foreclosed residence into a 10-karat caliber home, and Distinctive Remodelers had the resources and expertise to make it happen.

The Molls, who had resided in an Orland Park home for the past eight years, weren't necessarily looking to move. But when a foreclosed home in Frankfort was brought to their attention by a real estate broker relative, they were intrigued. The Moll family, which includes a 7-year-old boy and twin girls and a 5-year-old son, had dreamed about eventually living in a wooded neighborhood, but little did they know this dream would come to fruition sooner than they had imagined.

The foreclosed home, an English Tudor style residence in Frankfort's Butter-nut subdivision, promised plenty of elbow room, an ample yard for their kids to romp around in and a fantastic bargain, but at a stiff price in terms of sweat and labor needed. Damaged from the elements and outdated, it would require a complete reinvention. The basement, in desperate need of a gutting, had nine inches of standing water and mold along the walls. The cramped kitchen would have to be opened up and thoroughly modernized. The first floor master bath called



Randy and Brooke Moll purchased a foreclosed home and hired Distinctive Remodelers to modernize the interior, including this totally revamped kitchen. PHOTO SUBMITTED

for a complete redo, as did the sunroom, staircase, upstairs bath and many of the floors. To accommodate their kids, the second level also required an additional bath and an extra play area for toys.

"We believed the home was salvageable and worth the investment, but we wanted an expert to evaluate it before we purchased.

So we asked an old friend of ours, Mike Carroll, to check it out," said Randy, a sales manager for an investment information company.

Mike, president of Orland Park-based Distinctive Remodelers, carefully surveyed the bank-owned property. He gave his thumbs up that the project was worth their investment — provided the Molls hire

a mold remediation expert first and agree to structural changes that would be needed to renovate the home to their wishes. The Molls took the plunge, closed on the fixer-upper last August and enlisted Distinctive Remodelers for the heavy lifting necessary.

"Remaking that basement was difficult after the damage it sustained, as we

had to gut it down to the concrete walls and studs. But the most challenging aspect of the job was probably the kitchen remodel," said Mike. "Our goal was to make it about 25 percent larger, so we needed to remove a wall to open the kitchen up to the adjacent great room."

Mike and crew installed a two-tiered island, painted

and glazed custom cabinetry, granite countertops, high-end stainless steel appliances — including a Wolf cooktop with a custom range hood, refrigerator built into the cabinets and a concealed dishwasher — and oak hardwood flooring.

The master bath, mean-

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