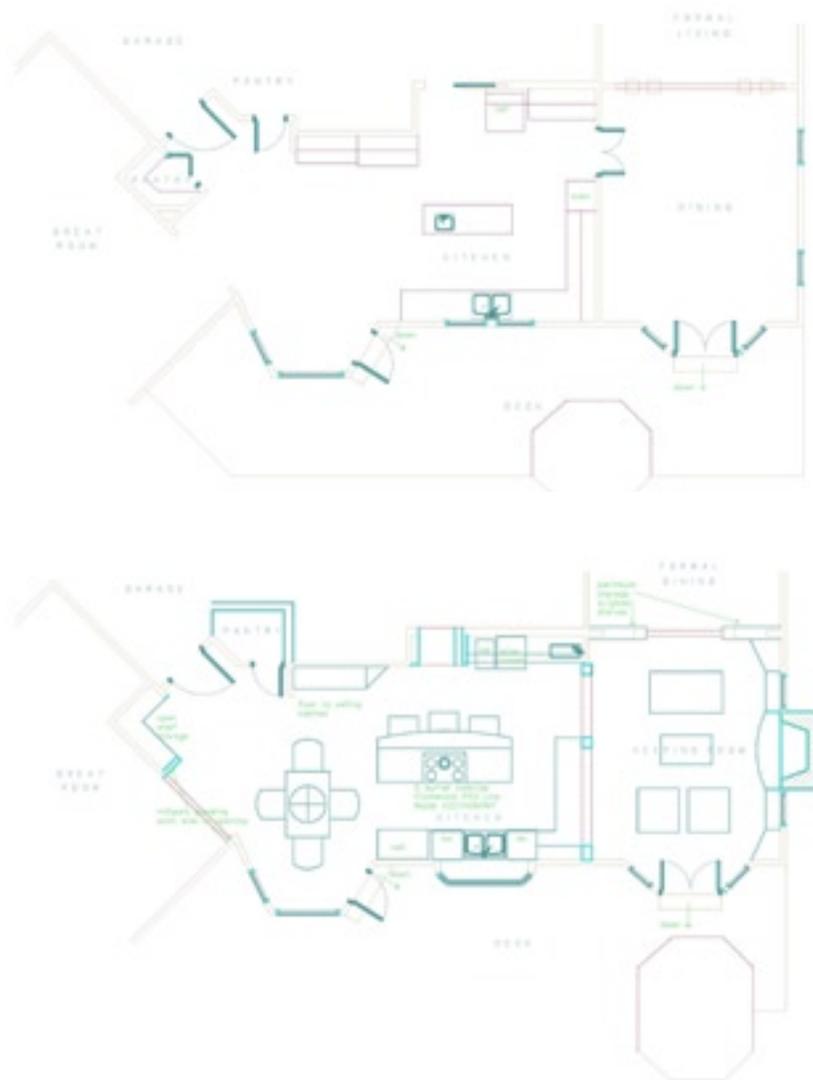




## The Hall Residence

Owners: Bill and Stacy Hall  
Architect: Robert Marlino, Smee + Busby Architects  
Interior Design: Connie Sullivan, Destination Designs, LLC  
Contractor: Spratt Construction Company  
Jack Spratt, Owner  
Carl Beatty, Project Manager  
Custom Cabinetry: Elite Millworks, Tom Richards



The Program: A kitchen renovation.

The Evolution: A nearly whole house renovation.

The Wish List: Dr. Bill Hall was taking possession of his house and wanted to update the kitchen. He hoped to be able to open the kitchen to the existing dining room, and turn that room into a casual sitting area. His biggest criteria: to be able to see a TV in the new space while working in the kitchen. He did not need a desk space in the kitchen, as there is a dedicated office near the front door. He wasn't sure what to do about the existing formal living room, until agreeing to turn it into the new formal dining room.

Bill had already contracted with a painter, and had selected paint colors for some areas outside the immediate boundaries of this project, and Tim the Painter was hard at work, so we needed to catch up. Partnering with Robert Marlino, we developed a new layout for the renovation that would involve the least amount structural intrusion while giving Bill the form and function he was looking for. Stacy was consulted at almost all stages of design development at Bill's request, and became an important part of the team...until she also became Bill's fiancée, when she became the *most* important part of the team!

Robert brought Jack Spratt as general contractor, and with Jack came Carl Beatty as Project Manager. Together, we worked through the typical issues of older home renovation, along with the required unexpected challenges...not least of which was the ever-expanding scope of the project. A simple kitchen renovation turned into the addition of a fireplace in the new gathering room...the necessity of finding a way to enlarge the pantry (involving the need to shift some HVAC work)...the decision to go with custom-built cabinetry and millwork...the inclusion of an overscale garden window that ultimately dictated the need to relocate the gazebo and redesign the back deck...and a request by the owners to find a way to create a protected front entry.

Fifteen months on, and thanks to the encouragement and management of Jack Spratt, the craftsmanship and care of Carl Beatty, the painstaking attention to detail of Tom Richards, the sainted and creative Robert Marlino, the many tradesmen who worked so hard on our behalf, and most especially the patient understanding of Bill and Stacy...

...what a result!



### Before

Looking toward the garage entrance, incorporating the breakfast area and family room entry. The three doors create visual clutter: at left, an awkward storage closet; at center, the garage entrance; at right, the "walk-in" pantry that you can't step into.



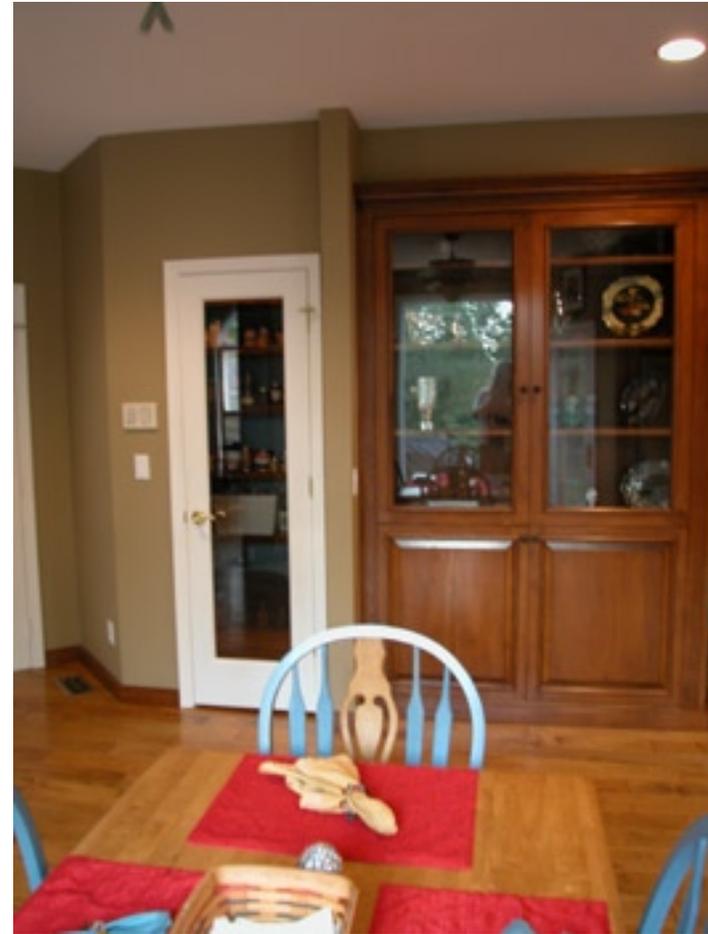
### After

Looking through the kitchen toward the garage entrance (just visible on right), incorporating the breakfast area, new open pantry, and family room entry. We shifted the ceiling fan farther into the bay to move the table out of the traffic pattern. Creating the open pantry eliminated the triple door confusion and created an enormous amount of storage.



Before

The pantry wall, with the built-in desk (that no one used), and the soffit-hung cabinetry. The 1980s color scheme and old-fashioned partial overlay cabinet doors all needed a facelift.



After

The pantry wall, with new glass door to an enlarged, *actual* walk-in pantry. We removed the existing cabinetry and replaced it with a Baltimore Cabinet after an idea Bill had. Cabinetry has glass shelving and overhead halogen lighting for display.



Before

From the breakfast area to the kitchen entry from the front door. The pocket door for the kitchen is barely visible beside the doorway to the basement. The existing island is too small, the refrigerator awkwardly placed, and things are generally crowded. At the far side, a small double door opens into the formal dining room.



After

Now, the Baltimore Cabinet shines, the entry to the kitchen creates a sense of arrival with the deep millwork and overhead lighting and provides a definitive separation between the front and back of the house, the new island is oversize and eminently usable, and the new beverage station is functional art. Custom panelled columns support the structural beam between kitchen and gathering room, which is now visible as the entire back of the house is open. (Tanner says he could throw a football from one side of the house to the other now has he tried it yet?)



Before

The kitchen was closed off from the rest of the house. All working functions were forced to the perimeter, leaving little prep or staging space. The oven cabinet projects inward into the kitchen, rather than being within the same plane as the counters. Two fan top windows punctuated the back wall. And the cabinetry ends abruptly; no skins, panels, or transitions.

Overhead lighting was barely sufficient, with no task lighting provided.



After

Now, the kitchen opens to a new gathering space. The cooktop is centered on the island, placing it offset from both the sink and the relocated refrigerator. Double ovens are hidden beneath the pass through counter. Flexibility is built in, with two types of dishwashers: a standard on the left, and double drawers on the right. A new oversize garden window brings in tons of natural light, and open shelving keeps glasses handy. Cabinetry is entirely finished; no awkward transitions here!



Before

And back around to the breakfast area. The table sitting parallel to the largest window blocked all access to the back door. The striped wallpaper, floral border, and dark blinds only closed in the space and made it even more awkward.



After

Placing the table perpendicular to the largest window opens the floor space, and allows the entire window to show. The uninterrupted paint color helps ease the area's tensions, and removing the window coverings shows off the gorgeous back deck and garden.



## Details

An ice maker, two zone wine cooler, new bar sink, and our standard lit-from-above glass shelves make the beverage station not only functional, but beautiful.



The new walk-in pantry, created from a dead space left by poorly placed ductwork. Shifting that ductwork allowed a near doubling of the pantry size and makes a more efficient use of space.



The new open pantry. Shelves are spaced far enough apart to hold oversized cookbooks, tall bottles, or the entire contents of Stacy's Longaberger basket collection.



A broad view of the new kitchen. Wider passage between sink wall and island allows more than one person to work in the space. The beverage station also helps with traffic. And there is Bill's TV!



Before

The kitchen led into a formal dining room through a small door. The dining room looked from the back of the house into the formal front living room, which was never used. The square columns were decorative only and served only as a visual interruption.



After

The new gathering room looks into the newly relocated dining room. We removed the columns and replaced them with custom display cabinetry that frame the view of the table and the bay window. Cabinetry again has glass shelves and incorporates overhead lighting to enhance the family treasures.



### Before

A simple wall; two windows, with space for a server in between.



### After

No longer simple... We built a new masonry fireplace and surrounded it with custom cabinetry. The TV is built in above the Rumsford firebox, with component storage contained within window seats on either side. Corner units rise to mantel height and serve as a wood box (right) and wine rack (left). Valances and Roman shades allow privacy when necessary, or frame Mother Nature's show outside.



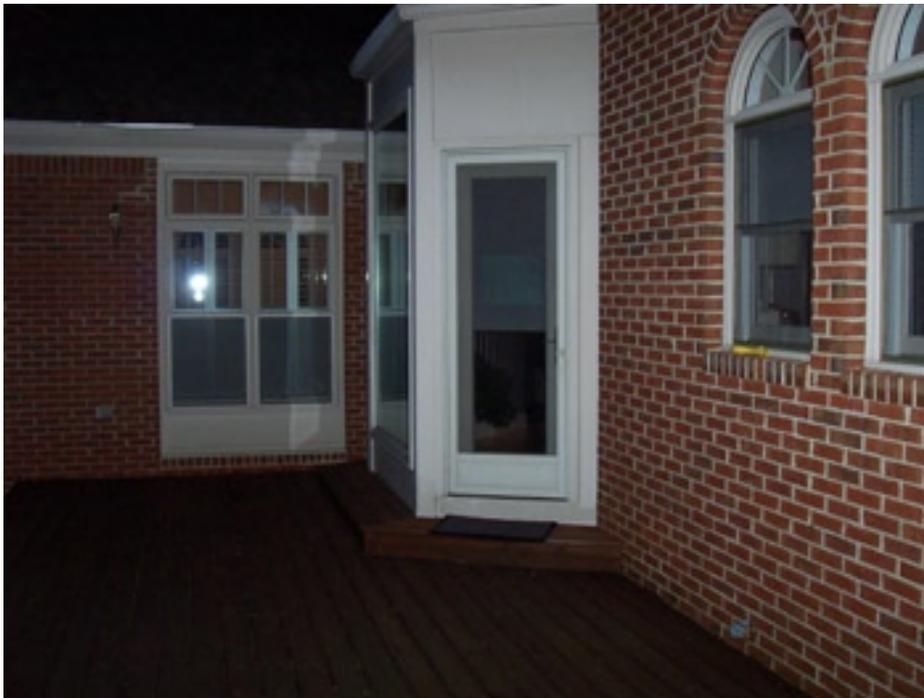
Before

From the old living toward the back of the house into the formal dining room. La...



After

The new dining room looks into the new gathering room. Once again, simplifying the color scheme and carefully framing views with the addition of millwork plus the removal of window coverings makes all the difference.



Before

Outdoors, the back door element seemed an intrusion, and the fan top windows too small.



After

The new garden window in the kitchen adds a necessary third protrusion from the main body of the house and allows for a new outdoor storage space beneath.



### Before

The old gazebo, set between the dining room door and the kitchen windows.



### After

The new gazebo is pushed to the end of the deck and enlarged, allowing for a potting shed below. This placement also balances the box bay of the second floor and adds a needed symmetrical mass to the overall rear elevation. Direct access from the new gathering room is easy and the new double stairway with planters is all drama.



The back yard. Robert, Bill and Stacy, and the builders get all the credit for this beautiful result. What a fabulous place to relax or entertain!

