

Callen CONNECTION

August 2011



Lake House Gets the Wow Factor

The addition to a charming family lake home in Nashotah was only 8' x 20', but coupled with removing walls and visual barriers, the interior has a spaciousness the homeowners didn't think was possible.

The remodel centered on the homeowner who uses a wheelchair. "The intent was to make it easier for her to get around the kitchen and the rest of the house," said Callen designer Dave Clark, CGR, CAPS. "The family also liked to cook and wanted more of a connection between the kitchen and household activities, especially when the family was entertaining."

The remodel began with the removal of several walls that chopped the main level into smaller rooms, isolating family members from each other. One wall that fronted a staircase was made more visually friendly by replacing it with balusters. A second curved staircase to the lower level was straightened to pick up more room for the addition. A doorway to a bedroom hallway was enlarged to 36-inches and fashioned into an arch for a touch of flair. The arch opening was repeated in the great room entrance.

With the demolition complete, the space allocated for the kitchen now had views of the lake, opened to the dinette, and had plenty of room for a wheelchair to turn around. "We made the width according to Kitchen & Bath Association recommendations to make turning the chair easier," said Dave, who is certified in aging in place remodeling.

White kitchen cabinetry from StarMark was chosen with the focal point being a white mantle-style range hood, where the homeowner could place decorative accents. Amenities in the base cabinets include pull-out trays and drawers. One drawer was fitted with pegs for kitchen plates for easier access. The expansive kitchen island is two tiered, with the lower tier able to accommodate wheelchair seating. An end cabinet with a 15-in. depth faces the dinette area for easy access to tableware. The island base is cherry, offering a nice contrast to the white kitchen cabinetry. Countertops and the island were topped with a light-colored granite, Camelot Dream, which gives the illusion of movement as it reflects light.

The homeowner opted to keep the existing dishwasher and Wolf cooktop, but splurged on a built-in refrigerator, with integrated door panels matching the cabinetry. "Because it was adjacent to the family room, she wanted to have a more formal look," Dave said. "For added convenience, an undercounter refrigerator was placed in the island."

The family room addition opened to the kitchen and the great room and offered even more casual living space. The family room also included an elevator to the lower level walkout, which previously was very rarely used because of its wheelchair inaccessibility.

"The homeowner told me she loves to look at the expression on the face of visitors," said Dave, "because their jaws just drop at the transformation."

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Designer Roof Caps Interior Remodel and Exterior Repair

Cindy and Russ Szymek of Muskego have done a number of interior remodeling projects with the Callen Design Group, so when they needed help with rotting cedar siding, they called Callen Home Exteriors, the exterior products division of the company.

Tim Liegler, exterior design specialist, assessed the problem and made his recommendations. “The source of the problem was a water leak, and a lack of insulation. With the chimney needing major work, and a major portion of the siding needing to be replaced, the Szymek’s decided to replace the roof as well,” Tim said.

While the Szymeks preferred their replacement siding to remain the same style and color, they were open to changing the look of the roof.

The original roof was a typical 3-tab shingle, which didn’t do justice to the home’s other architecturally appealing features. Tim suggested the Szymeks might prefer the look of a tile roof, available with the Camelot® II designer shingle from GAF®. Designer shingles from GAF carry a lifetime guaranty.

“The Camelot II is a unique look,” Tim said. “It’s a designer shingle, but instead of looking

like cedar shake, it looks like tile. It’s very cool and different.”

Before the replacement siding could be installed, Callen put Tyvek around the areas of the home to be sided to ensure moisture would be kept away from the house and the air leaks would be sealed.

The Szymeks also replaced their front door and are pleased with all the work done on their home.

“We are enjoying all of our high quality products. We’ve met a lot of (the Callen) people over the last three years and we consider them friends and family. It was a great experience and I highly recommend Callen to anyone who is looking to do any remodeling or redesign. Great company; we’ve had a great experience,” said Russ Szymek.

Interior remodeling projects the Callen Design Group assisted with included the master bath, main bath, kitchen, window replacement, powder room, and laundry room.

Some past project highlights include refurbishing the master bath with Kohler fixtures, Starmark cherry cabinetry, and installing a new stone tile shower with amenities, including a seat and a recessed cubby. An awning window completed the remodel.



The main bath was refreshed with 13 x 13 ceramic tile flooring, plus a Corian® solid-surface vanity top in tumbled glass color and integral sink.

New features in the kitchen included Pietre Ducali glazed porcelain tile floor in ambratta (copper-toned) color, Venetian Gold granite countertops, and undermount sink.

“The work crews and installers were very polite and worked around our very different schedules. They cleaned up every day and everybody was great and very professional. We trusted them to be in our home while we were on vacation; they did everything they said they would do and we came home to a new phase of work. The schedule they gave us was followed and if an issue arose, they contacted us and we worked it out,” said Cindy.

Russ added: “The neighbors were very interested in what we were having done. I had them inside because I was excited about it and wanted to show it off. Since then two of our neighbors have done work with Callen.”

Callen Design Group Now Offers Customized Closet Systems

You're just a phone call away from getting the closet you've always longed for because the Callen Design Group is now offering a new customized closet system.

The closet system makes the best use of space to enhance the access and style of any closet with long-hang and double-hang rods, shelving, drawers, baskets, hutches, and half-and-half options. The Callen Design Group applies customizable design and installation techniques for closets that hold more and function better.

Before offering this new product and service to its customers, Callen Sales Manager Mike Wood volunteered to test the system on the bedroom closet he and his wife share.

"We had a typical 9' long x 7' wide walk-in closet. The left side was mine; the right side was my wife's. Each side had a single bar with a shelf above it," Mike explained. "Our shoes were all over the floor and the shelf space caused our sweaters to slide around and be disorganized. We were definitely ready for some closet remodeling."

While it's not necessary to re-carpet or re-floor, the Wood's wanted to get rid of old carpeting and install a laminated wood floor. Then using a wardrobe inventory program, the Wood's began the design process. Mike developed a drawing of the floor plan and a closet system was designed based on the percentage needed for shelving and hanging. The Wood's then had the opportunity to tweak the plans to further suit their needs. When they were both satisfied with the final layout, the order was sent in. About 10 days later, the closet components arrived, securely packaged to prevent any damage in shipping. A Callen Construction carpenter came in and completed the installation in one day. (Larger closets may require a two-day installation.)

"With the exact same dimensions as we had before, we now have twice the hanging area, shelves for shoes, higher rods in the back for my wife's longer dresses, jewelry drawers, a shelf just for purses and a taller shelf on top for seasonal clothes," Mike said. "The jewelry drawer is velvet lined with acrylic dividers and we also opted for valet rods, a belt rack and a tie rack, all in an oil-rubbed bronze finish. Having the shoes off the floor is a really nice feature."

Another advantage to this system is not only weeding out old and unused clothing, but also finding items that were forgotten about. "My wife and I both commented that where we thought we needed to shop for another piece of clothing, we really didn't. We had the clothes; we just couldn't see them anymore because they were all smashed in there," he said.

Callen's new closet systems are not just for walk-ins. There are also designs for reach-in closets. The reach-in closet system generally goes wall-to-wall. Door placement and type, the most important considerations in a reach-in, affect the number of sections and where they are placed.

In addition to clothes closets, systems are available for pantries, laundry rooms, mudrooms, and more.

"We are very happy with our closet system. It's made a world of difference and really helps get the day off to a good start because everything is organized," Mike said. "If a homeowner is looking for an upgrade or to add value to their house, this closet system certainly adds a 'wow' factor."





“Refashion for Life” Returns to Callen

Callen Construction and Callen Design Group will again serve as the presenting sponsors for the fourth annual “Refashion for Life” benefiting CommonGround Ministry/Elena’s House.

The benefit, which had net proceeds of more than \$75,000 in its first three years, will be held Thursday, September 22, from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. at the Callen Showroom and company grounds, S63 W13131 Janesville Road, in Muskego. Kohler Co. will serve as a major event sponsor, and M Magazine is the event’s media partner.

The event will feature a fashion show combining the latest in early and late fall fashion with fashionable products for the home, including countertops, cabinetry, windows and doors, kitchen and bath products, floor coverings, and hardware. Kohler Co. and StarMark Cabinetry will provide many of the featured home improvement and remodeling products.

In addition to the runway show, there will also be a silent and voice auction featuring entertainment and sporting tickets, boutique certificates, and more. Saz’s Catering will provide hors d’oeuvres, plus there will be music by Mr. Lucky Light.

Tickets are \$50 and are on sale at www.refashionforlife.com. All proceeds support the programs offered by CommonGround Ministry/Elena’s House in Wauwatosa, which provides physical, spiritual, and emotional support to people infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Elena’s House, offering a holistic ministry that is both personal and communal, is a home for four to five people that wish to reside in a safe and supportive living environment. CommonGround Ministry is a 501(c)3 organization funded through the contributions of individuals, organizations, and foundations.

For more information, call 414-529-5509 or e-mail info@refashionforlife.com.



**Thursday,
September 22
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**

Make Life Easier with the Gutter Topper®

As summer is close to winding down, now is the time to implement a solution to that inevitable autumn chore – cleaning the gutters, a task that is dirty, time-consuming, and potentially dangerous.

For years, Callen Construction has been helping homeowners in southeastern Wisconsin enjoy the freedom from gutter cleaning as the area’s exclusive provider of Gutter Topper®, the most advanced gutter protection system available.

With Gutter Topper, water flows through while screening out leaves, twigs, and other debris. Made of durable aluminum, Gutter Topper has a patented clip system that attaches to existing gutters and it comes in a dozen colors to match any colored roof or trim.

A leading consumer magazine ranked Gutter Topper highly and was the first recommended surface tension system. Gutter Topper can also stand up to intense rain, wind, and weight. Independent testing proved that Gutter Topper withstood winds of up to 110 mph and handled downpours of up to 22-in. per hour. And when it comes to snow or ice,

Gutter Topper held up to 1,200 lbs. of weight per square foot.

Callen’s exterior specialists are available to answer question you may have about the Gutter Topper system and can demonstrate how Gutter Topper Eliminates Gutter Cleaning Forever...Guaranteed!™

And, as part of Callen’s value-added service, when you order Gutter Topper, we’ll clean your gutters for free before installation.

Call 414-529-5509 today about Gutter Topper and let us help you have one less chore to do this fall.



Callen Employee Spotlight

Brad Flannigan

Brad has spent 22 of his 30 years in the construction industry with Callen Construction. As a sales representative, Brad is dedicated to keeping current with knowledge and trends in the construction industry to provide his customers with the best products and services.



“I love my job and what I do,” Brad said. “It’s very enjoyable for me to be invited into someone’s home and be able to help them find a solution that meets their exterior remodeling needs. I like meeting new people and I’ve made a lot of good friends through my work with Callen. It’s been a great experience.”

Brad is dedicated to providing a high level of expertise to his customers. His experience and certification include: certified window installer; Master Elite GAF Certified roofing expert; VSI Siding Institute graduate; Gutter Topper Leaf Protection System Authority; and Infinity® from Marvin Replacement Window Specialist. He also is a specialist in providing homeowners energy efficient ways to update their homes.

Among many of Brad’s outside interests is rehabbing homes and then re-selling them. He is on his fifth – and final – home on Okauchee Lake. “This home was condemned, but I bought it and rehabbed it and now my wife and I finally have the house we are going to spend the rest of our lives in,” he said.

He also is an enthusiast about the sport of lacrosse and is involved with supporting his son’s team at Arrowhead High School. “I played hockey in college, but golf is my passion,” he said. “I like competing in local tournaments and charity events. That includes organizing the golf outing for the Special Olympics, an organization close to his heart because he has a mentally challenged sibling.

The Flannigan family enjoys getaways at their vacation home in Eagle River. “We like to have our family time there,” he said. That includes wife Marylee and sons Rhys, 18, and Ryan, 21, a student at the University of Wisconsin – Platteville.

Mike Peterson

Senior carpenter on the Callen Construction staff is Mike Peterson. Mike has been with Callen for 20 years. “The only one that’s been here longer, besides Tom and Phil, of course, is Brad Flannigan,” he said. “When I started with Callen, there were only two or three other carpenters. It’s certainly grown over the years and I’m glad I was able to be a part of this. I really enjoy working with Tom and Phil.”



Mike’s been in the home building and remodeling business ever since graduating from high school in Mercer. There is very little about home construction he is not knowledgeable of, making him a valuable employee on the job site. He also is a Lead Safe Renovator, meaning he was trained and certified in the safe removal of lead building materials.

But even experienced professionals can have a day go bad. Such was the case earlier this summer when Mike and a table saw weren’t in sync with each other. “The table saw bit me,” he said dryly.

As a remodeler, Mike enjoys the variety of working all aspects of a project and meeting new challenges. He particularly likes working lower level and kitchen remodels.

In his leisure time, Mike enjoys playing golf, although he said he doesn’t keep score. He also is a NASCAR fan and has traveled to tracks in Bristol, Tenn., Charlotte, N.C., and Brooklyn, Mich., to experience the thrill of being close to the action. His wife, Judith, a Milwaukee school teacher, prefers more tranquil activities such as camping and fishing so the Peterson’s spend vacations in the Great Outdoors, with favorite spots in Door County and the Kettle Moraine.

Mike and Judith reside in Milwaukee and have three children and four grandchildren.

Out and About

You’ll find Callen Construction and the Callen Design Group at the following area events:

21st Annual Milwaukee/NARI Fall Home & Remodeling Show: Friday, September 16 – Sunday, September 18, Wisconsin Exposition Center at State Fair Park

4th Annual “Refashion for Life” Charity Fundraiser for Elena’s House: Thursday, September 22, Callen Construction Muskego Showroom

MBA Fall Remodelers Tour: Residence TBD: Saturday, October 8 – Sunday, October 9, 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. each day

Fall Callen Design Group Seminars: Wednesday, October 19 – 6:00 p.m.: “Need Extra Space? Addition and Conversion Options” and 7:00 p.m.: “Kitchen & Bath Designs that Function, Look Good, and Feel Good”

Fall Callen Design Group Seminars: Saturday, October 22 – 10:00 a.m.: “How to Save Thousands on Your Next Kitchen or Bathroom” and 11:30 a.m.: “Countertops- The ‘Star’ and ‘Workhorse’ of the Kitchen and Bath”

MBA Home Builders Expo: Thursday, January 5 – Sunday, January 8, 2012, Frontier Airlines Center

Stop by to see us to talk about how we can assist you.



A newsletter for Callen Construction customers.
Your business is greatly appreciated!
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Siding
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Storm Windows & Doors
Gutters, Downspouts & Gutter Topper®



Kitchens
Bathrooms
Lower Levels
Attic Conversions
Additions
Closet Organizers
Interior Living Spaces

Updated Callen Website

Callen Construction recently updated its website – www.callenconstruction.com -- to make it easier for clients and prospective customers to get information on the company's Design Group and Home Exteriors divisions.

In addition, there is an enhanced Photo Gallery, much larger Product sections, a more complete explanation of the Design Group Process, a Callen blog on industry trends, and downloads of planning guidelines for kitchens and baths are available.



We invite you to spend a few minutes on the site and see how Callen may assist in enhancing your home's beauty and functionality.

E-mail Updates Available

Callen Construction continues to offer updates via e-mail to customers. If you'd like to receive these periodic updates on events, new products, and home improvement tips, please visit the callenconstruction.com homepage to sign up.

Also, visit Callen Construction and Callen Design Group on Facebook and follow Callen on Twitter!



Dine on Us

You'll receive a \$50 gift certificate when you refer a friend or neighbor to Callen Construction and it results in a sale.

Thank you to all our customers who have been kind enough to recommend Callen Construction to their neighbors, family, and friends. We are pleased to announce our most recent monthly \$50 Bartolotta's gift card winners:

April: Cindy and Russ Szymek, Muskego

May: Lisa and Mike Mihlbauer, Milwaukee

June: Pat and David Evans, Pewaukee

July: Dawn & Todd Vogelsang, Waukesha

Congratulations, and thank you for showing faith in Callen Construction. We appreciate all the customers that share our name with others and look forward to doing work for them (and giving you an opportunity for a night on the town).