

Callen CONNECTION

Unusable Attic Space Becomes a Private Bedroom Retreat

It's always nice to have more room in the house. Tucked under your rafters may be a hidden treasure of usable space. Whether you need a bedroom, an office, a study room, or a game room, if you own a house with a large attic space, it might be the perfect place to add another room.

That was the situation for the homeowners of a Milwaukee Cape Cod who were not fully utilizing their partially finished attic. A portion of it was a sewing room, but the homeowner didn't use it much because it was dark and cramped and just not a very pleasant place to be. In addition, the homeowners were yearning for a master bedroom and bath retreat. Their existing bedroom on the main floor was only 10 ft. x 10 ft. and lacked a private bath. Because it wasn't feasible to bump out or reconfigure the main floor, the attic provided the perfect location to give them the master suite they desired.

Callen designer Paulette Willms took charge of the project. "The challenge was the sloped walls and ceiling, plus accommodating the customers' number one priority, which was a steam shower," Paulette said.

Because the walls were angled, the placement of fixtures in the bathroom had to be planned carefully to ensure appropriate height by the toilet, vanity, and showerhead. The 5 ft x 4 ft. steam shower was placed on the angled wall with the showerhead at the highest point on the wall and a shower seat was placed under the showerhead. Recessed cubbies provide convenient resting spots for shampoos and soaps and a glass door kept the feeling of spaciousness.

The color scheme was chosen to have a soothing effect. The shower walls are 12x12 ceramic tiles in swirled tones of brown and cream with a solid cream color chosen for the floor. Outside the shower, the floor featured radiant heating for additional comfort. Maple cabinetry was finished in a shade of cappuccino and Corian® countertops were chosen in a complementary Clam Shell color. Satin nickel hardware and faucets completed the modern, fresh look. Sconces flank the vanity and recessed lighting provides additional illumination.

The bedroom itself is a 22 ft. x 12 ft. space, designed to be open and airy. Although there was a dormer and two windows, two Velux skylights were installed for additional lighting. The skylights were installed with electric openers and room darkening blinds. To maximize space, pocket doors were selected for the bedroom and walk-in closet. A window seat with storage capacity was created under the dormer window.

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Converting the attic to a beautiful bedroom suite also enhanced the main floor, as the doorway to the stairs leading up to the new bedroom was removed and the entrance configured to an arch that complemented the home's architectural elements. Opening the entranceway also created a natural flow from the main floor and gave a more spacious feel to the area. Carpeting on the stairs matched the bedroom carpeting. Balusters, previously in a dark pine, were changed out to a mission-style in maple, keeping with the design of the main floor.

The homeowners at last have the bedroom of their dreams. The sewing room also now has more functional space, with its new home in the previous bedroom.



MU Playhouse

The Callen Design Group's Marquette Golden Eagles playhouse made its debut at the Bradley Center on Saturday, December 11, with attendees of the Marquette vs. Wisconsin game getting an opportunity to register to win the playhouse.

You can register to win the playhouse by visiting the www.callenconstruction.com home page. Good luck!

1 Home. 1 Day.

31 Windows.

Callen Gets the Job Done.



Installing new windows can do wonders for your home. It can add beauty while also providing lower heating and cooling costs. Window installation is a major project and a big investment, so homeowners need to make sure it's done right the first time.

Windows need to be installed correctly for not only a secure fit but to prevent water and moisture infiltration. Because many homeowners are curious about the replacement process, the company offered a One-Day Window Installation event at a home in Menomonee Falls. The homeowners graciously allowed the Callen team to personally invite the entire neighborhood, as well as advertise the event.

A total of 31 Infinity® Fiberglass Replacement Windows from Marvin – casements, picture, and awning – were installed with Callen's entire professional window replacement crew on hand. Wade Avinger, Callen production manager, organized seven two-man crews to work on the house. On a September Saturday, they were poised for action at 8 a.m. and finished the project, complete with trim, by 5 p.m.

A cookout enhanced the festive atmosphere as people stopped by to watch the process. Plenty of Callen staff was on hand to answer questions and offer support when needed. Also on hand was Infinity representative Molly Carr, who drove in from Marvin's Minnesota headquarters for the day.

"The homeowners were thrilled," said Callen sales representative Christal Gabriel, who helped out with window washing. "They thoroughly enjoyed the day. The homeowner told me she had so much fun, she was sorry to see it all come to an end."

"The most interesting thing was to watch the crew work together," Christal said. "Typically they are all out on separate jobs so this was a bonding experience for them and an opportunity to share installation tips and stories."

Replacing that many windows at once is a huge undertaking and the homeowner had been looking at a variety of contractors for months before deciding on Callen.

Why Callen? A relative of the homeowner works at Marvin Window & Doors headquarters in Minnesota. When the relative asked Susan Marvin, the President of Marvin Windows & Doors, who she would recommend for the job in southeastern Wisconsin, Susan referred them to Callen. Now that's a recommendation!

Callen's Infinity® Fiberglass Replacement Window showroom in Sendik's Towne Centre, 18905 W. Capitol Drive, Brookfield and its 2,200-square-foot Muskego showroom, S63 W13131 Janesville Road, showcase the company's exterior product lines. At both showrooms, friendly, knowledgeable staff is always on hand.



Weathered Home Becomes a Lustrous Standout with New APEX Siding

Tired of maintenance, tired of painting, and tired of wood rot, the homeowners of this Elm Grove classic wanted a finish that would not only be durable, but also have a very high curb appeal. The solution from Callen Construction was to install the most recent innovation in siding systems – APEX from Marvin® – a fiberglass material offering high performance characteristics and distinctive color offerings. The APEX Siding System utilizes the same Ultrex® technology that is used in Marvin’s highly successful Infinity® line of windows and doors.

“The homeowners were not fans of vinyl and wanted fiber cement to replace their old, vertical wood siding,” explained Mike Wood, Callen Sales Manager. “Their priorities were they wanted it to be maintenance-free and did not want to be bothered with painting. They also wanted something a little out of the ordinary for their corner boards. We could do the fiber cement, but we suggested they might be interested in APEX fiberglass siding, which offered more options and details that met their needs.”

Among the features of APEX that appealed to the homeowners was the choice of individual beveled corners, not found on other sidings. They also liked the durability of APEX, including a built-in water management system to reduce rot and mold and its endurance to temperature changes from below zero temperatures to very high heat levels. “That’s a benefit other siding materials don’t offer,” Wood said. “APEX siding has a very low expansion and contraction rate, induced by temperature changes.”



AFTER

“Not having to paint again also factored in,” Wood said. “APEX has an acrylic finish four times thicker than paint and is integrated into the material during the manufacturing process, so it is resistant to fading, warping, and chipping. “On the cosmetic side, they also liked the deeper color offerings of APEX.”



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Because the re-siding would conceptually change the home, Callen offered a preview of the finished project using computer software. “Once they saw what it would look like, they were sold,” Wood said.

The homeowners chose a seven-inch lap siding in Earthtone and CertainTeed Perfection Natural Clay for the decorative gables. The soffits had some damage, which Callen repaired, and they and the fascia were finished in white.

The customer also contracted with Callen’s painter to repaint the shutters in dark brown and chose a deep red to pull out the front door.

This home is more than refreshed – it’s vibrant and beautiful.

New Siding Makes an Older Home Sparkle

Callen Construction understands home remodeling projects are not an inexpensive endeavor. So when customers prefer windows, doors, siding or other improvements be installed in phases over time, Callen is happy to accommodate them.

Such was the case of the owners of this charming Waukesha home. They had talked with Callen exterior specialist Tim Leigler some time ago about total window replacement, but had to put that project on hold. In the meantime, their wood cedar shake siding was falling into disrepair and the homeowner did not want to repaint any more. Tim was called into the project again. “Although they still wanted window replacement, the siding had to take priority,” he said.

Important to the homeowners was retaining the style and look of the home that was built around the turn of the century – 20th Century that is. After consulting with



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Tim, they chose Mill Run® Cedar Shake vinyl siding in the color of Rye. Mill Run siding replicates the look of wood shake, yet requires no painting, scraping, staining, or maintenance. Because they also wanted some visual “pop,” the upper half was sided with Mill Run vinyl half-rounds in Lighthouse Red – a pleasing contrast with the Rye. The homeowners were so happy with the red color, they found matching paint for their front door.

The homeowners also decided to have one of two kitchen windows replaced. The window that was removed had an unusual length, which didn’t match the other window. But with the old siding off, it made sense to replace the window at this time.

“Working with our customers to meet their goals is what we always strive for,” Leigler said. “Building relationships with customers is one part of what makes us a successful company.”

A Holiday Greeting

As we approach the eve of Callen Construction's 25th anniversary, we are surely thankful to all customers who have demonstrated their support to the company over the years.

The Holiday Season is a time of renewing time-honored family traditions. All of us as well cherish those who will be missing this Holiday Season. The Callen family will celebrate their first Christmas without either Mom or Dad.

The family traditions however that have been practiced for all these years will continue. Decorating the house, the Christmas tree, cookies and milk for Santa, the stockings on the chimney, church services, and exchanging presents will always be part of our Holiday traditions.

We wish all of you and your families the very best for this Holiday Season. We sincerely hope your Holidays are full of rich memories and happily honored traditions.

Sincerely
Tom Callen, Phil Callen,
and all of us at Callen Construction



Out and About

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

MBA Home Builders Expo:
Thursday, January 6 – Sunday,
January 9, Frontier Airlines Center

Milwaukee/NARI Home Improvement Show: Thursday,
February 10 – Sunday, February
13, Wisconsin Exposition Center at
State Fair Park

Greater Metropolitan Association of Realtors Home & Garden Show: Friday, March 25 – Sunday,
April 3, Wisconsin Exposition
Center at State Fair Park

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

Holiday Recipe

The following recipe is one of Bonnie Callen's favorite recipes from the *Better Homes & Gardens Cookbook*.

Gumdrop Cookies

Ingredients:

- ½ cup shortening
- ½ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1 egg
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- ¾ cup sifter all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon baking soda
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup quick-cooking rolled oats
- ½ cup flaked coconut
- ½ cup gumdrops cut in small pieces

Directions:

Heat oven to 375°. Thoroughly cream shortening and sugars; add egg and vanilla; beat well. Sift dry ingredients; add to creamed mixture. Add oats, coconut, and gumdrops. Drop from teaspoon onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake about 10 – 12 minutes. Makes three dozen.





A newsletter for Callen Construction customers.
Your business is greatly appreciated!
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Overhang & Trim
Gutters, Downspouts & Gutter Topper®



Kitchens
Bathrooms
Lower Levels
Attic Conversions
Interior Living Spaces



Cooking Demos and Design Seminars Scheduled for Spring 2011

The Callen Design Group will once again sponsor cooking demonstrations featuring chefs from the Bartolotta Restaurant Group in the Spring of 2011. In addition, a series of design seminars will also be held.

Visit callendesigngroup.com often to see upcoming events schedule and look for information in the next issue of the *Callen Connection*.

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 home page to sign up.

Dine on Us

You'll receive a \$50 Bartolotta's Restaurant Group dinner 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:

August: Jackie and Richard Roman,
Brookfield

September: Heather and Dave Schuster,
Muskego

October: Sandra and Roy Uelner, Brookfield
November: Maureen and Trent Otto, Grafton

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).