

CalLEN Connection

Callen Construction met or exceeded my expectations with their workmanship, service, and clean-up.

- Barbara and Roger P., Franklin

SEPTEMBER 2022

A Place for Family and Friends

After a two-year search, an Illinois couple, Jodi and Eliot, found the perfect property to feed their passion for gathering people. "We love to bring people together, and we want other families to have the chance to do the same and make lasting memories," Jodi said.

This 6,000 square foot mid-century farmhouse constructed in 1985 on 38 acres would not only be for the couple's family and friends, but for their first business venture. A place to be used as a getaway with family and friends for a few days or a few weeks. However, the house needed a little TLC and updates, so the new and anxious property owners contacted Callen shortly after as a partner for their project.

With a large transformation to tackle, they first met with Senior Exterior Product Specialist, Christopher Wittmann, CR to jumpstart their property's transformation from the outside in. "The existing windows and doors were the typical offering when the house was built," Christopher said. "The wood frames and sashes had experienced years of moisture and wood degradation."

With many projects in store for the couple, Jodi said "Christopher understood our need to scale back on the budget to get the most value quickly as possible. He prioritized the windows that needed to be replaced right away and would focus on the remainder of the windows later."

When the exterior was close to completion, it was time to take on the interior. "The previous owners had made some updates since it



was originally built, but there was no information on specific plans or vendors, and they left behind many structural issues," Jodi said.

However, this was not an issue for Jeff Billstrom, Callen Designer. "As we are not experts, Jeff was easy to talk with, balancing what we wanted throughout the entire process," Eliot said. "The design ideas and Jeff's expertise intertwined seamlessly."

The existing kitchen and living room were designed for another area and was constricting with the new vision for how the rooms would be used. The kitchen received a complete remodel by opening the space that leads to the living room that was previously separated by a breakfast bar and two adjacent walls. The kitchen also leads to a newly installed wet bar around the corner, living space, and the sunroom. The sunroom was repurposed to be the heart of the home and true space to gather with a 12-foot dining table. This amazing table was crafted by a local Milwaukee artisan, Custom Cottage, specific to this space.

On the upper level, there was one bathroom in the main bedroom to serve the three bedrooms. The addition of a full bathroom off the hallway in place of what once was one of the two main bedroom walk-in closets was a much-needed improvement. The outdated main bathroom had a huge, circular whirlpool tub, as well as a large shower and double vanity. By removing the whirlpool tub and reconfiguring the layout, the new floorplan made better use of the space.

To carry on the theme of maximizing space, outside the newly improved master bedroom, you enter a kid-friendly, bunk-bed room. It is now a multi-functional area for sleeping, playing, and spending time in the reading nook.

Throughout the project, there was a "strong established trust, even when things got jammed up," Jodi said. The couple doesn't live close to the property, as Jodi and Eliot work full-time and their life revolves around three young children. They continued to have solid communication with the Callen team, as Jodi and Eliot indicated how Callen was a resource and a partner during the completion of the exterior and interior projects.

Now, the couple has an updated, highly functional property for family-style renters to enjoy as their own. The 600-foot driveway transports guests from daily life to a peaceful and comfortable getaway, while the path to country scenery continues with walking trails that run alongside a stream and forest in both directions. Best of all, there is a beautiful pool overlooking the stream-fed fishing pond to spend relaxing afternoons or enjoy the evening with a glass of wine.

Jodi and Eliot are thrilled about their new endeavor and have high hopes for guests to feel that it was a place made for them, too.



Out & About

You'll find Callen at the following area events:

- **NARI Home & Remodeling Show:** Friday, October 14 – Sunday, October 16, 2022, State Fair Park Exposition Center.
- **Callen Chef's Stage at the 79th Annual Holiday Folk Fair International:** Friday, November 18 – Sunday, November 20, 2022, State Fair Park Exposition Center.



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"The work they did on my siding and gutters was great, as was Mike Wood. I enjoyed the work and the crew. I couldn't ask for anything better."

Janine C., West Allis

"We purchased an Infinity patio door which is excellent, and the installation crew was exceptional."

Ann and Neil Z., Oconomowoc

"We love our windows, and we could not have asked for a better installation team."

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For complete program details, contact Christi Pryor at 414-529-5509 or christi.pryor@CallCallen.com.

