

 [Print Article](#) | [Close Window](#)

March 31, 2005

Couple's home remodel gets down to the finer points

EDITOR'S NOTE: Over the next few months, the Sentinel will be following Paul and Cheryl Johnson as they remodel their Pleasure Point home.

The remodel of Paul and Cheryl Johnson's home in Pleasure Point is continuing to move at a fast pace. The shell of the house that has existed over the past three months is starting to look more and more like a home.

The Johnsons began renovating in December and plan to remodel the interior to create a more spacious feel. Their old and outdated kitchen needed to be completely gutted, while their son Fisher's bedroom needed insulation to be usable. Their second bath had not been used in years and was due for an overhaul. The entryway to the home is also due for an update.

The Johnsons decided to redefine the 1400 square feet of space within the existing footprint of the home using James Hartje Construction as the contractor.

Remodel On Track

The progress of the remodel is on target and no major setbacks have stalled it. Sheetrock and drywall have been installed and texture has been added to the wall. The ceilings are in place, and you can get a sense for how the rooms are going to look. Everything is going according to plan.

The Johnsons are in the detail phase of the project. Every little detail must be decided and quickly.

James Hartje and Cheryl are still working as closely as ever. Cheryl, in charge of the finishes, has a continual list of decisions that need to be made. Her list includes selections of a front door handle, cabinet pulls, placement of light switches, placement of sconces, centering of the dining room chandelier, the amount of texture on the walls, shower floor tile size, height of the wainscot, trim for the windows, baseboard in the hallway, placement of lighting in Fisher's room and so much more.

Cheryl says she finds herself thinking "does it really matter?" because there are so many choices. Cheryl will then quickly regain her focus, realizing that in the long run, everything does matter. Hartje has helped Cheryl with many decisions by meeting often and providing samples of various materials so she can make an informed decision.

Two-tone Kitchen

The kitchen cabinets were hand-crafted by Ueberrhein Cabinets of Watsonville. Careful measurements were taken and several revisions of drawings were submitted to the Johnsons for approval.

Ueberrhein was able to provide Cheryl with several samples of wood species and stain to really visualize how the cabinetry was going to look. The Johnsons decided to go with a two-tone cabinet approach.

The lower cabinets will be made from an Alder wood with a stain applied. The upper cabinets are going to be paint-grade cabinets that will be painted a creamy white color. The two-tone approach will add character and interest to their small space.

By keeping the lighter color up top it will help the room appear slightly larger.

In both the bathroom and the kitchen, the Johnsons switched from granite countertops to Caesarstone countertops. Caesarstone is an engineered stone made up of 94 percent natural quartz aggregates and is virtually maintenance free. The color for the kitchen is carmel, which has warm rich brown and ivory tones and will provide a great balance for the two-tone kitchen.

The backsplash in the kitchen will be made up of a 3-by-6-inch creamy tile from Mission Tile. The tile will be installed in a staggered, subway pattern that will also add interest to the kitchen area. Her cabinet knobs are pewter to match the other fixtures in the home.

A Decorative Touch

The front living room and dining room will be trimmed in wainscoting. Wainscot is paneling that covers only the lower portion of the interior wall. It is mostly a decorative touch that adds character to a room.

Along with the panels, the Johnsons have to decide on the baseboard style as well as the molding along the top of the panel called a wainscot cap.

The Johnsons are having the wainscot panels custom made, and the height will be the same as the counter height in the kitchen.

Due to the thickness of the wainscot panel itself, Hartje is custom making the cap to be simple, straight edge cap that won't distract from the overall appearance of the room. The Johnsons decided not to carry the wainscot down the hallway in order to keep the already narrow hallway more open.

The kitchen cabinets were installed last week and the tile work in the bathroom has begun.

Ready To Move Back

The Johnsons are anxious to move back home. They are currently in a rental property that is close by, but the time away from their home is beginning to feel long. Cheryl is ready to be back on her own turf enjoying their newly remodeled home.

"I recognize the difficulty of working, raising two children and living in an unfamiliar house, and I appreciate Cheryl and Paul's patience during the renovation of their home," said Hartje. "I'm confident when the project is complete, they will realize that it has been worth the temporary inconvenience in their lives."

A few new change orders have been made over the past few weeks.

The Johnsons have decided to have hardwood floors installed in the kitchen, and the existing hardwood floors in the family room as well as the master bedroom refinished.

Hartje indicated that work under the original contract for the house project is still on schedule with an anticipated completion date of April 30. The new additions and changes have added 10 business days to the project, making the new overall completion date May 13.

The focus over the next four weeks will be the installation of the tile, adding paint color to the walls, and finishing installing countertop and wainscoting.

Jennifer Barley is a design student at West Valley College in Saratoga. She believes with the right use of style, you can make anything look good. Contact her at jenn_barley@yahoo.com.

 [Print Article](#)

You can find this story online at:

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/archive/2005/March/31/style/stories/12style.htm>

Copyright © Santa Cruz Sentinel. All rights reserved.