

STYLE

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Northern Colorado's Growth

2017 Wedding Guide

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Ian and Lynnette Struggles

Reinvent, Refresh, Remodel

By Lynette Chilcoat

Buying an existing home in order to remodel the dated features is an intriguing and sustainable way to delve into an ultimate recycle project.

Just ask Ian and Lynnette Struggles, who, serving as their own contractor, took a lovely, traditional house near Linden Lake, north of Fort Collins, and transformed it into a modern abode resonating with suffused light. Going from a classic color scheme of formal dark brown and amber accents, the Struggles brought the interior of the structure into a contemporary palette that speaks of cool, crisp comfort.

The fleece gray walls trimmed in white are reminiscent of the translucent quality of a winter's walk as sunlight glistens on freshly fallen snow. Silver highlights and cut glass chandeliers throughout sparkle like brilliant stars.

Airy and open with vaulted ceilings in the main living area, the atmosphere is vibrant yet cozy. Stepping away from somber and stuffy, the Struggles have added invigorating new life to the 26-year-old residence.

"The floor is constructed of five-inch wide hickory planks," notes Jay Janicki, owner of Select Wood Floors in Fort Collins, of the stable, sensible base. Light in color, the flooring sets the tone with rich, naturally variegated elements woven within the grain.

An original curved staircase rising from

the entryway to the second floor was replaced with linear, distinctive lines, a theme also repeated in similarly-shaped archways and transom windows.

On the upper level, an inviting guest suite awaits, as does a special room just for the grandchildren — complete with a secret cubbyhole perfect for little ones to play in.

There are a multitude of reasons to go to all the trouble of remodeling, instead of building brand new.

According to Lynnette Struggles, "We did search and almost bought a piece of land at first, but we'd been land owners previously and knew it can be a lot of work. Plus, putting utilities in place is quite costly. As soon as I saw this house I knew that the quality was obvious. It's a beautiful home, the neighborhood is good, with a perfect location. Old Town is only a few minutes to the south of us. Yet, there is an isolated feel here, as well."

In addition, since she and Ian are both practical, hands-on folks, doing some of the work themselves became a cost-effective way to tackle a stylish refurbish.

Originally from Scotland, the Struggles moved to the states when Ian was transferred to the heart of Cajun country in

southern Louisiana. They then initially moved to Colorado nearly two decades ago, where they've lived off and on ever since. Now proprietors of their own business, Pro Tech International, they're able to enjoy a refined lifestyle.

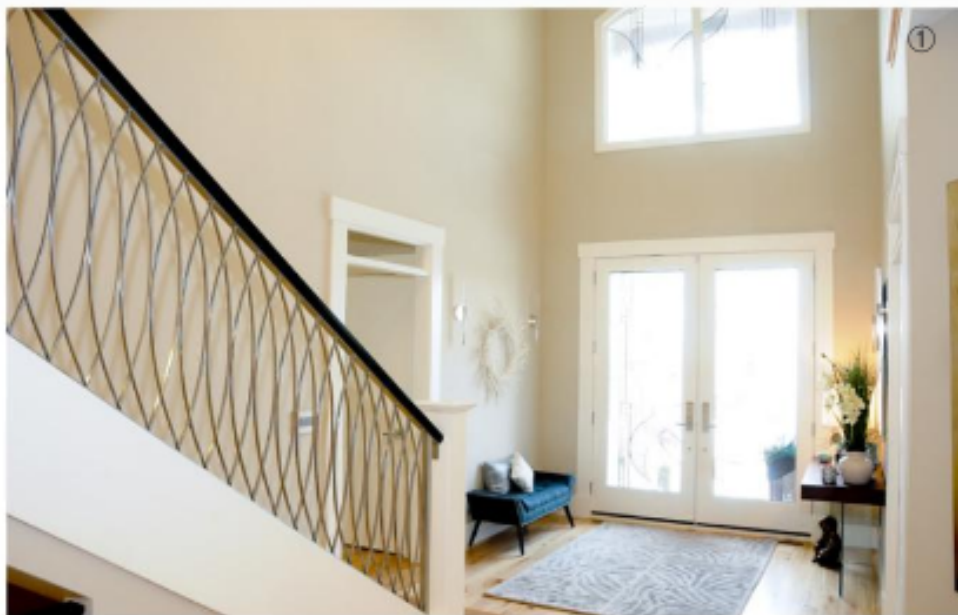
"It's the simple things that make all the difference," says Struggles, referring to some of the amenities they've chosen to include within their new residence.

Smart technology has been a big plus.

"Control 4 is just a phenomenal system. I love music and there are speakers in all the rooms. The lamps and blinds are also remote controlled from the main hub, a computer or iPhone. The security system records who is here. I never thought I would have remote control like this. It's nice to get to this point in life."

Shelly Endres, a certified category manager for Hunter Douglas Blinds and a lighting designer working with Imagine More, expounded on the modernized technology.

"In the case of the Struggles residence, they wanted the entire main level motorized for privacy and controllability when they're gone. The blinds we installed are Hunter Douglas PowerView Silhouettes. They have their own little brains that



communicate with the main system," says Endres.

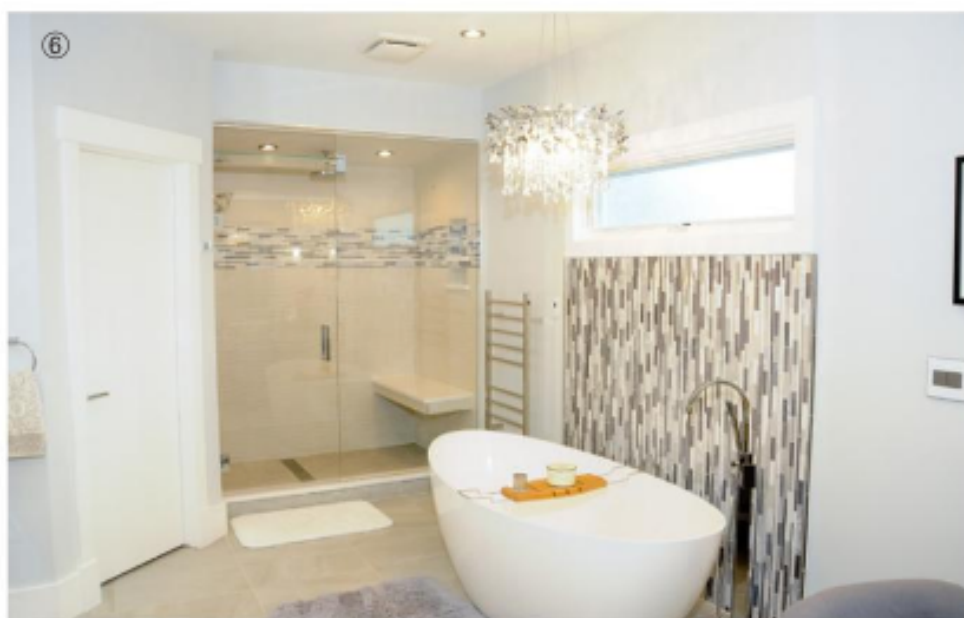
"It can either be hardwired, which is a little easier installation, but all run on batteries so we're still able to integrate it without having to tear out the walls."

An example of how the high tech works is that by touching an Entertainment button, the shades drop, the music comes on and lights dim all at once.

Endres' observance of the overall enterprise is that, "the house is just gorgeous. The Struggles' vision was just perfectly executed with clean, elegant lines. The window coverings add that final touch."

Early on, Lynnette realized she wanted to remove the wall between the spacious kitchen and formal dining area. After consulting with experts to ensure all would be okay, she donned work gloves and knocked the partition out by herself. The end result was an expansive section ranging from the front sitting room, into the dining and kitchen space, and onto an informal eating nook. This sweeping portion of the house ends finally in a sunroom, once seasonal, but now enclosed to capture the inviting view of an outdoor courtyard.

"One huge change was that we practically had the whole house rewired," adds Struggles. The hard-won lesson she'd impart to others is to peel off the drywall first. "Then you can use whole sheets rather



than patch. The electrical took months, as well as much patience."

"If you're going to be your own contractor, look at all your strengths and weaknesses together as a team," continues Struggles of the tribulations such an undertaking involves. "You are pushed to the limits, but my husband and I would bounce off each other. We'd find that balance of, if I was having a rough day, he'd take over, or vice versa.

"One of our biggest challenges was going from traditional heavy and dark to light and modern. I knew I wanted white, with metal components. The design is unique here, but more common in Europe," says Struggles.

According to Natalie Lynch, of Natalie Ann Designs, who was instrumental in helping out at the beginning with a CAD program for the floor and lighting plans, "It was wonderful to help someone in this process and to make it their home. The Struggles were great clients; we did go shopping together. What made it interesting was sort of melding the bones of the house so that it appears seamless."

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