

Standout home renovations

A Downtown firm turns Southwest homeowner's visions into realities

BY AYISHA S. YAHYA

Since the caveman era, humans have exhibited an instinctive desire to nest — to make their house their home. To accomplish this today, some hang family pictures and paint the walls vibrant colors, while others spare no expense to create dream homes.

The firm of Vujovich: Architects, New Homes, Remodels, in Downtown's International Market Square, 275 Market St., works to turn homeowners' unique visions into individualized realities.

From Zen-inspired master suites to an English pub basement to décor matching the eras in which homes were constructed, the company is building a reputation for specializing in the imaginative.

Last year, Vujovich remodeled John Doepke's house on the 4600 block of Abbott Avenue South. Doepke said the company transformed two porches into year-round spaces, created a bedroom upstairs and a new bathroom, kitchenette and entryway on the lower level.

Doepke said the house had been built in 1913, and the builders were able to match almost exactly unique features that existed previously in the home. He described the finished product as "incredible."

But getting to an extraordinary finished product with a specialty home renovation is a long planning process.

PROJECT PROCESS

Ed Roskowsinski, the company's general manager and co-owner, said the company, which also has offices in



SUBMITTED PHOTO

A Vujovich kitchen renovation.

Afton, aims to help clients' visualize their project, whether it's in a new home or a remodel, by combining creativity and organization.

"A lot of time, people have a vision of what the project is [going to look like]," Roskowsinski said, adding that the company project managers work with clients to help shape those visions.

He said the project managers also work to create projects that are not only creative, but also realistic. "A lot of it is creating value in the project," Roskowsinski said.

The company helps owners to set

goals and presents them with different design alternatives based on a proposed budget. "Most of it is listening to what they're looking for," said Roskowsinski.

"[Vujovich projects] range from \$300 storm doors to multimillion-dollar custom-made homes," Roskowsinski said.

Clients meet with a project director and discuss design ideas, and fill out a questionnaire, giving insight into their lives and their renovation visions. The architects then explore a variety of

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Unique home transformations

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renovation options before presenting the client with a final design package that includes an itemized estimate and a "project scope" document outlining goals.

EXTRAORDINARY TRANSFORMATIONS

In 2005, architects completed the "gateway home" on the Lake of the Isles Parkway; the first new home in the area in the last half-century, Roskowsinski said.

The new home, which bears little resemblance to its 1950s rambler predecessor, sits right at the edge of the parkway, flanked by a church and the lake.

"There were significant foundational problems with the existing structure that could not be fixed by repair work," said Taunya Nelson, Vujovich Architect. "In order to do all



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Vujovich transformed this Mount Curve basement into an English pub.



MAGNIFICENT RIVER OR CITY VIEWS

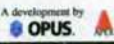
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