



the HOUSE *that*
GREW...
and GREW

ALL THEY WANTED WAS TO
DOWNSIZE, BUT 7,200 SQ. FT.
LATER, THE BEASLEY HOME
JUST WON'T QUIT

PHOTOS: Kendall Reeves, Spectrum Studio

By JACKIE SHECKLER FINCH, *Homes & Lifestyles*



Marge & Charles Beasley decided it was time to downsize. With their children grown, the couple thought they would trade their huge home in Hoosier Acres for something smaller.

Shopping around, the Beasleys found “the perfect little home” off Ind. 46. What happened next was a total surprise.

“The first thing we did was change the kitchen counter. I just didn’t like that dark green laminated counter top,” Marge says. “Then we decided to change the windows. Then the wallpaper needed to go.”

To open up the kitchen and add a cozy dining nook, the Beasleys decided to “push out” the exterior of the house. While they were at it, they took out the deck and added larger decks plus an oversized gazebo with a hot tub. The result is a sunny informal dining room with a great view of the backyard, birds and trees.

Thinking they could change the “plain old white fireplace” in the living room without a great deal of work, the Beasleys removed the fireplace mantle. “But the whole thing just fell apart,” Marge says.

That turned out to be a blessing in disguise. Working almost from scratch, the Beasleys converted the fireplace to gas logs and added a mahogany mantle with a black, gray and white Uba Tuba granite base. Liking the mahogany fireplace so well, Marge decided to put mahogany cabinets in the kitchen.

And so it started.

By the time they finished, the Beasleys had almost tripled the size of their new home. Starting with a 2,700-square-foot house, they added 4,500 more square feet for a total of 7,200 square feet.

“That is more than twice the size of our house in Hoosier Acres,” Marge says. “The plan just kept on growing. Our intention was not to do this but one thing led to another. Suddenly, our downsizing wasn’t small at all ... Oops!”

Since they were making such drastic changes to the 4-year-old house they had bought, the Beasleys decided to go ahead and create their dream place. That meant plenty of open living space, walk-in his and her closets, another two-car plus garage, storage galore, an exercise room, a room-sized

shower with multi-angle water nozzles, and a master bedroom and bathroom with “Wow!” power.

That’s exactly what they got. With the help of Larry Routen at Lifestyle Kitchens and Baths, Betty Applegate at Gateway Interiors and other experts, the home has been lovingly finished. It is also just a short 10-minute or so drive from work. Charles is owner of Beasley

Food Service. Marge is Director of Environmental Services at Bloomington Hospital.

“Marge has exquisite taste,” says Larry Routen. “I just listened to what she wanted and helped her put it on paper so it could become reality.”

The project expanded the house up and down and out. It now has a basement, second floor, back

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Marge Beasley, Homeowner





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addition and side addition. But a visitor would be hard pressed to see just what had been added. It all looks as though it was meant to be.

“We found the same brick for the exterior, used the same windows, same degree of slope,” Marge says.

“We did have to reroof but the side of the house that we added on is the mirror image of the side that was already here.”

Opening the front door of the Beasley home, guests might feel as though they are walking on art. The carpeting was removed and an exotic cherry floor in a Redland Rose color was installed in the entryway and living area. An unusual star-effect design with various shapes and shades of wood is inset in the entryway floor. Liking the warmth and color of the wood floor so much, Marge also had it carried on into the kitchen.

A Lennox chandelier in the dining room and matching Lennox wall sconces in the living room add a soft glow. The cherry dining room

table in the formal dining room had belonged to Marge’s mother and was the center of many happy family dinners when Marge was growing up. Displayed on the walls of the formal dining room and informal dining room are part of a

collection of spoons that Marge’s mother and father had gathered in their world travels.

“My mother died in 2000 and I just couldn’t bear to part with her things,” Marge says, pointing out a living room suite that

had belonged to her mother in the basement and a horse collar mirror that had been her father’s on the new garage wall.

A well-lit storage area as big as two rooms in the upstairs provides plenty of space for keeping things. “Before I had to crawl around under the eaves with a flashlight,” Marge says. “I really wanted a storage area that I could use.”

As for that extraordinary master bedroom, it is all there. A fireplace with a hand-carved mahogany mantle and Uba Tuba granite insert

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Marge Beasley, Homeowner



is topped by a built-in television. In one corner, a little snack nook designed by Larry has a microwave oven and a small refrigerator and sink.

One of the finishing touches for the home was a statue that Marge saw in a Naples, Florida shop. About 4-foot-tall, the artwork is of a little boy with a knapsack on his back and his baseball hat on backwards. He is happily swinging on a light post.

"I fell in love with it but when I went to get it, it was gone," Marge recalls. "They said they didn't have any more and couldn't get any more."


Not giving up, Marge returned to the shop again. This time, the owner said he thought he could track one down. Today, the little boy statue greets guests as they pull into the Beasley driveway. Now, Marge says, her home is complete.

"When we bought the house, we loved the setting more than the house," Marge says. "Now that we're done, we love both the setting and the house."



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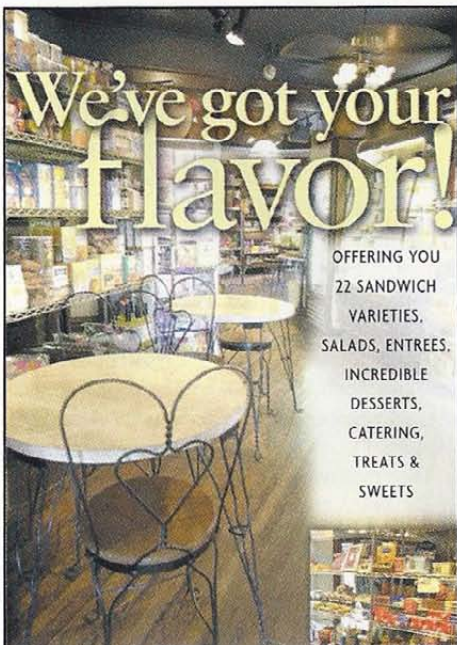


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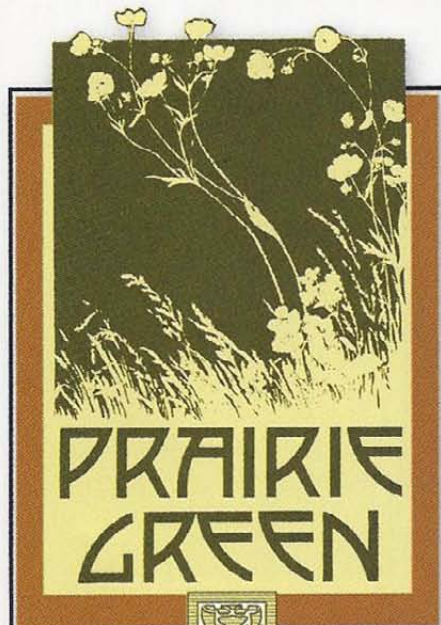
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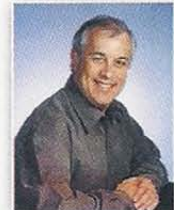
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