Dan and Barb Thornton loved the two-story colonial house where they raised their family. As their kids moved out and had children of their own, the couple realized the house was no longer meeting their needs. Built in 1984, it started to feel outdated and, as the number of grandchildren grew, the family’s traditional Sunday dinners were more and more cramped.

After deciding to have some exterior work done, the Thorntons began interviewing remodeling firms. “James came out to our home, and I was immediately impressed with him,” said Barb. “He was so professional and enthusiastic!”

An exterior renovation and landscaping were the first of many projects that James Barton Design-Build completed for the Thorntons. “We started with them and we just loved what they did, so we continued to do projects with them,” explained Barb. During the next six years, JBDB renovated the home’s exterior and windows, updated each bathroom, opened up the main floor living areas, and ultimately modernized the house.

Outdoor Curb Appeal
The first project for JBDB was the Thornton’s yard. Armed with plenty of ideas, the team completely reoriented the couple’s outdoor living spaces. Stylized railings compliment the newly stained deck, while stonework paths lead to a stunning pergola and smaller patio.

Striking iron window boxes completed the exterior creating a slice of paradise in their own backyard.
A Note from James

It’s hard to believe that fall is almost upon us! 2014 is turning out to be one of our busiest years yet. Indeed, we feel fortunate that a large portion of our success this year can be attributed to repeat business and referrals.

To us, quality service simply means going the extra mile to create a happy customer. Our reward in doing so is the repeat business and of course referrals from satisfied customers.

This year our Fall Showcase falls into the “repeat business” category. We began working with the Thornton’s back in 2008 on an exterior renovation, and have continued throughout the years doing several additional remodeling projects for their family.

Repeat customers and referrals are really the highest praise we can receive. The JBDB team believes developing lasting relationships and creating loyal clients is the way to continue to build sustainable, long term growth in the future.

It’s Good To Be Home!

Best regards,

James Madsen
President – James Barton Design-Build

While contributing to the charm of the colonial style, the house’s windows needed to be replaced. James Barton Design-Build replaced all of the original windows with easy to care for, energy efficient windows.

Rejuvenated Bathrooms

After having their windows replaced, the Thornton’s turned their attention to their outdated bathrooms. Updated flooring, new vanities, granite countertops, stylish lighting and hardware were used to freshen and update the bathrooms.

Tamra, JBDB’s Senior Designer, was a much-appreciated resource. “There are a million faucets. It overwhelmed me,” said Barb. “Tamra would say, ‘One of these three would look really nice – which do you like?’ It made it much easier for me to make choices.”

The Heart of the Home

From 2013 to 2014, the largest project took place. Additional grandchildren meant that more space was needed to accommodate family gatherings. To create a larger kitchen the wall was removed between the formal living room and kitchen.

This change immediately made the main level feel larger and brighter. The new kitchen peninsula creates abundant seating and additional kitchen prep space. The kitchen has long been considered the “heart of the home”, so creating a large, functional, flowing space completely enhanced the main floor.

Additional main floor updates such as extending the kitchen wood floors into the dining area, replacing old popcorn ceilings and installing a new gas fireplace with beautiful stonework in the den gave this home a stunning update.

Enjoyable Spaces Redefined

Continuing with the work on the family living areas the lower level had updates done to enhance their entertainment space. An airy feeling was created by replacing part of the wall along the stairway with railings. A new bar with wine refrigerator and storage made for the ideal serving space.

The lower level bathroom was revitalized with high quality tile, new shower and shower door, stylish vanity, mirror and lighting.

Meet New JBDB Team Member Pete Johnson!

Joining the JBDB team is Pete Johnson, a Cottage Grove native. Pete graduated from Northwest Technical Institute in 2009 with a degree in Architectural Drafting, and brings five years of industry experience to the team. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time outdoors in Minnesota.

“The JBDB team has helped us transform our lifestyle today and incorporated all our needs for us and our extended family.” Barb Thornton