Don and Dottie Knutson had fallen in love with their home nearly 20 years ago. “We hit the jackpot with our neighbors, and the community is absolutely wonderful,” Dottie said. “We loved our home’s open floor plan, walk-out basement, and having all four bedrooms together on the top level.”

After the youngest of the Knutson’s three sons grew up and graduated, they wanted to create a relaxing environment to come home to each night. “After 18 years of kids and a rambunctious yellow lab, our house was well-loved and a little frayed around the edges,” Dottie said. “We also noticed that while our home had adequate square footage, it seemed we didn’t use it as well as we might, and controlling clutter was a near-constant challenge.”

After considering whether to downsize or stay in their beloved neighborhood and make an update, the Knutsons decided to update their current home. After asking several friends for remodeler recommendations, they kept hearing a common name – James Barton Design-Build. “A co-worker of mine had contracted with JBDB years earlier … and were thrilled with not only the newly remodeled home afterward, but with the professionalism and integrity every step of the way.”

A Relaxing Retreat
A family home gets a refreshing update

Don and Dottie Knutson had fallen in love with their home nearly 20 years ago. “We hit the jackpot with our neighbors, and the community is absolutely wonderful,” Dottie said. “We loved our home’s open floor plan, walk-out basement, and having all four bedrooms together on the top level.”

Time for a Change
After the youngest of the Knutson’s three sons grew up and graduated, they wanted to create a relaxing environment to come home to each night. “After 18 years of kids and a rambunctious yellow lab, our house was well-loved and a little frayed around the edges,” Dottie said. “We also noticed that while our home had adequate square footage, it seemed we didn’t use it as well as we might, and controlling clutter was a near-constant challenge.”

After considering whether to downsize or stay in their beloved neighborhood and make an update, the Knutsons decided to update their current home. After asking several friends for remodeler recommendations, they kept hearing a common name – James Barton Design-Build. “A co-worker of mine had contracted with JBDB years earlier … and were thrilled with not only the newly remodeled home afterward, but with the professionalism and integrity every step of the way.”

An Unfinished Basement Gets a Rustic Transformation

JBDB recently finished a basement for a young Eagan family. The new lower level features a bar area with chalkboard walls and porcelain tile flooring, with in-floor heating beneath. The wood-look tile flooring is in the bathroom as well, where a custom floating shelf and mirror add a modern touch. The great room showcases a barnwood wall and floating shelves, giving the space a cozy, rustic and inviting feel.
Just like that, summer’s almost over! While it’s sad to see another summer come to a close, here at JBDB the end of summer also signals that the Parade of Homes Fall Remodelers Showcase is right around the corner. We love this time of year, and one of our recent projects will be highlighted on this year’s tour.

In their initial meeting with JBDB, the Knutsons discussed their needs. “They listened carefully to our dreams for the home, and gave us reassurance that JBDB could make this dream into a reality.”

The JBDB team widened the opening between the formal dining room and kitchen to create a more open-concept plan. The Knutsons wanted a coastal feel in the kitchen, so with the help of JBDB designer Emily Thull, they found a colorful glass backsplash to serve as an accent in the kitchen. Don and Dottie also loved a Cambria countertop with a lot of movement and pattern. Emily said, “We wanted a kitchen that was relaxed, simple and casual. In order to highlight both the countertop and the backsplash, we used the opportunity of a large island to showcase the beautiful pattern of the quartz. We then offset that and created a backdrop for the island by using a simpler, honed Cambria quartz color. This was the perfect complement for the backsplash...we layered textures and patterns to create interest.”

The result was a kitchen that is open, updated, and family-friendly. Custom cabinets maximized storage and the 10-foot island provides plenty of space for entertaining. “The kitchen has truly become the heart of our home for family and friends to gather,” Dottie said. "Friends have commented that it is beautiful, and yet at the same time not at all formal – a place where you can kick off your shoes and feel at home.”

The entire project took less than eight weeks to complete. “While our entire middle level was under construction, family life continued upstairs and in the basement,” said Dottie. “Each and every person in our home was kind, professional, and did outstanding work.”

“Our space works well for our family, and has become a peaceful and relaxing retreat,” she said. “JBDB is an incredible company with an incredible staff. I believe this is because each and every person involved from start to finish cared about our family and our home like it was their own.”

The Final Result

In addition to the kitchen, the JBDB team remodeled the mudroom and laundry area, reconfiguring the space to make it more organized and functional with custom cubbies and a command center. A new home office was created from an unused living room area, and the main floor powder bathroom got a fresh update.

“The vanity is a custom design built specifically for the porcelain console sink,” Emily said. “And the shiplap wall creates a subtle, coastal feel with the mixture of the wood vanity and the metal of the mirror and fixtures.”

The entire project took less than eight weeks to complete. “While our entire middle level was under construction, family life continued upstairs and in the basement,” said Dottie. “Each and every person in our home was kind, professional, and did outstanding work.”

“Our space works well for our family, and has become a peaceful and relaxing retreat,” she said. “JBDB is an incredible company with an incredible staff. I believe this is because each and every person involved from start to finish cared about our family and our home like it was their own.”

The kitchen has truly become the heart of the home for family and friends to gather.” - Dottie Knutson

“Friends have commented that it is beautiful, and yet at the same time not at all formal – a place where you can kick off your shoes and feel at home.”

JBDB Offers the Following Services:

- Full House Remodel • Kitchen Remodeling & Updates
- Bathroom Remodeling & Updates • Garages
- Interior/Exterior Stone & Tile • Additions
- Lower Level Finishing & Updates • Outdoor Living Spaces
- Decks/Screen Porches/Three- Four Season Porches
- Siding/Roofs/Gutters • Windows/Exterior Doors/Patio Doors
- Structural Repairs • In-House Design Team & Carpenters
- Home Maintenance Items (8 hours minimum)