

Customer Success Story

ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION: CARR-JOHNSON FAMILY



“Working with John Heltzel was a pleasure. Our experience with Heltzel and Heltzelhaus was significantly better than our prior experiences with architects/contractors. There were no surprises, they always showed up, and they were great about communicating any changes and add-ons. The result was beautiful—a much more open floor plan that provided us with added functional, practical space, making our house much more livable.”

— Maureen Carr,
Homeowner

Challenge

The Carr-Johnson family had made several attempts to renovate their 1950s brick rambler in Arlington, VA, but just couldn't seem to find an architect who could translate their needs and ideas into design concepts. The family also had a very specific budget, along with a list of priorities. They needed to determine what they could do with the money they had.

Overview

In early 2011, the Carr-Johnsons were hoping to expand their kitchen onto an existing porch area, and redesign it. To streamline the process, they were looking for a firm with both architectural design and construction experience. With extensive expertise in both design and construction, Heltzel and Heltzelhaus offer the unique ability to provide the necessary knowledge about the type and complexity of construction required, while keeping costs in check. This seamless approach from design to construction offers clients the added benefit of dealing with just one Point of Contact (POC).



Solution

The project design for the Carr-Johnson family encompassed expansion of the kitchen onto the porch foundation, and opening up the dining room to the family's lovely backyard. A mud room was added to provide a transition from the outside. The family was delighted with the end result. Maureen noted, "Now, the kitchen and dining room feel like part of the same room. We also have more cabinets and storage, and an island. The whole family can now be in the same space, and I love the vaulted ceilings."

Before

- Small, closed-off kitchen
- Limited cabinets and storage space
- No transition space to enter house from outside

After

- Open, spacious combined kitchen and dining area
- New design included additional cabinets and storage space
- Functional, connected, cooking, dining, and living space
- Mud room provides transition from outside

Benefits

- Open design provides more attractive cooking and dining area
- Entire family can now share cooking, eating and living space
- Additional storage space reduces clutter and enhances functionality
- Vaulted ceilings provide added design effect