



## Vision Reimagined Dover Home Remodelers

**R**enovating an older home always comes with challenges. But that didn't stop Dover Home Remodelers from turning a 1928 Rocky River Tudor into a dream home for Michael and Dawn Lehnowsky and their three children.

The 4,500-square-foot home included an addition the previous homeowners had built, but it was not cohesive, says Dover Home Remodelers designer Shelley Bujdos. "The new portion of this home was extremely contemporary, and they didn't flow well together," she says.

Structural issues were discovered as the remodeling crew began opening up walls, particularly where the original mudroom and kitchen addition came together. "We had to restructure this area so it was done properly per code," Bujdos says.

In addition to improving the flow of the house, the owners wanted it to reflect their style, which is influenced by their love of New England. This meant adding custom millwork and painted cabinetry, with an emphasis on function and comfort.

To improve functionality, Dover used one of the upstairs bedrooms to create a laundry room large enough to house the homeowners' two washers and dryers, as well as custom cabinetry for storage. "In doing this, we had to re-support the floor joists beneath it, which are above the remodeled mudroom," Bujdos notes. "We have a tile drain pan below the washers and dryers that

are plumbed so that if there were ever a leak up above, it would be drained properly through the sanitary system."

The crew also relocated HVAC and plumbing lines to accommodate the home's new layout, and replaced the windows to reflect the home's original style.

A large, dropped header that had to remain above the kitchen window required a creative approach. "We customized the cabinets, building them around the header so that you cannot tell it exists," Bujdos says.

The team replaced the trim and installed custom, eight-panel doors throughout the home to match the existing 1928 design.

Creating the family's dream basement was a challenge, too. The floors of the 1928 portion weren't level, and the space was damp. Following extensive mechanical updates, Dover was able to create a pub room, an entertainment area, an office and a custom bathroom with a shower.

"Opening the staircase allowed the space to feel cohesive with the first floor — you don't feel like you're walking into a basement," Bujdos adds.

The homeowners are thrilled with the result.

"Dover was always able to create a solution that would remedy the problem and be pleasing to the eye, as well," says homeowner Dawn Lehnowsky. "The completed project is exactly what we envisioned the spaces to be and so much more."  
— AMV



### Nuts and Bolts

● **HOME ADDRESS:**  
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● **CONTRACTOR INFORMATION:**  
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● **PROJECT FOCUS:**  
Whole House Renovation

