

Start date: May 2024 // **Completion date:** June 2025

The transformation: The house went from 1960s cramped mid-century modern to an expanded open plan multi-generational home, with original character and modern updates.

The original garage was removed and rebuilt to change the direction of approach, provide more privacy with the neighboring house, expand the garage, and add visual interest to the front of the house.

The enclosed sunroom and half of the south-side exterior house wall was removed to expand the master bed/bath and family room area.

A structural wall was removed from the center of the house to create an open floor plan from the front to the rear of the house.

A new addition, including a bedroom, laundry room and a game room, also provided extra storage space and a larger guest bathroom.

The changes allow for better entertaining and living spaces for both adults and teenagers as well as larger bedrooms for each member of the family. Best of all, there are beautiful views of the lake from all the central living spaces.



Photo by Weston Imaging Group, LLC

Dark, Dated and Drab to Bright, Spacious and Effective

TIMBER INNOVATIONS LLC

PAUL DRIESSEN, MASTER CRAFTSMAN

BEFORE



Major challenges: The home had a very small crawl space. Besides running the mechanicals under the first floor, we removed an interior load bearing wall between the kitchen and the front living room. A beam was added to support the roof above. The load points had to be extended to the ground below the house. Hand digging a 4.5-foot crawl space and 12' footings for the new load points was challenging. Dirt was removed and carried out in buckets.

Pride points: As craftspeople, one of our favorite things is creating custom cabinetry;



in this home we used oak, maple, walnut and Honduran mahogany. Not only are they statement pieces, they bring warmth, character and a cherished beauty to the rooms.

The wood beams in the living room were original to the house. For design purposes, beams were added in the dining room and the kitchen, but we had to match the grain and patina of the existing 60-year-old beams. We also had to extend the wall between the living room and the sunroom, which had also aged in place for 60 years. As experienced woodworkers, we were able to match the finish on the new beams exactly to the old beams and wall boards. Even if you know that some of the wood is old and some is new, it's nearly impossible to identify which is which.

Fun facts: The use of large format tile on the new fireplace was an economical decision, but it provided a modern, sophisticated aesthetic.

From the homeowner: "We love the transformation from an original 1960s mid-century to an updated mid-century modern. With Paul's team's guidance we were able to keep the original feel of the house with new

home features. We particularly love the beautiful wood cabinetry. We have white oak, mahogany and walnut cabinets in the house along with a 1960s solid oak paneled wall, which was extended with Paul's team matching the color and finish exactly. The bathrooms have floating vanities keeping with the original style but enhancing the look.

"Beyond our original scope, cabinets were added to the hallway and dining room as well as built-in bookcases in the master bedroom. We appreciate the quality of the craftsmanship. Paul's team was able to find the source of the original exterior stone; the match is almost seamless given the 65-year-age gap.

"We welcomed the opportunity to participate in the build and design process. On the design side, working with Paul's team was a positive experience. We were guided with options for structural and decorative elements. Sometimes, we selected from these options, but more often they inspired us to look for something else that suited our style while still matching the mid-century modern theme. Overall, it was a collaborative experience."



BEFORE

Hay-Filled, Unused and Rustic to Warm, Functional and Livable

BCK PROPERTIES, LLC

BRYAN KIMPEL, OWNER

Start date: May of 2022 // **Completion date:** January 2023

The transformation: Transforming an unused but nostalgic barn into a living space. I suggested things to the homeowner, like the hickory end walls (knows the owner likes hickory) and black walnut bar top. I had artistic freedom for the finished work.

Major challenges: Got pre-hung doors (very expensive), where the header of the door frame was too long. They had to take it apart and make it correct. The homeowner was very angry, but we were able to fix it.

Doing the tongue and groove ceiling on three tiers of scaffolding that was stretched end to end with a limited crew.

Pride points: The pride of taking most of this lumber, all of the lumber used from the basement up to the finish trim, made by hand mostly on site. Most of the oak was taken from rough. Stair treads and risers, handrail—circle sawn on one side. Either hand made onsite or at the shop. The posts and railings were made onsite. All of the trim was made and finished right on site unless it had to be planned down. Hickory nickel gap, made at the job site up in the barn and then installed.

Fun facts: All made by hand and all sorted locally, local milled lumber.

From the homeowner: "We feel incredibly grateful and proud of how the renovations turned out. What was once a nostalgic but outdated space is now an updated, safe and fully usable barn for our family.

Growing up, it was where my brothers and I played hockey—back when climbing a ladder to the loft and the occasional rough fall felt like no big deal. But when we purchased the property from my parents in 2020, we knew we wanted to preserve those memories while making the space much safer for kids and more functional for us as adults. Now, it's a place where our family can play, gather and entertain comfortably, blending its history with a new sense of purpose." >>



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