



The Art of the Craft



The Stark Home

GOSHEN, NY



THIS CHARMING ARTS & CRAFT STYLE HOME WAS UNDERTAKING A MAJOR EXPANSION AND ITS KITCHEN WOULD BECOME A MAJOR FOCAL POINT FOR THE NEW ENVIRONMENT. The owners needed a kitchen big enough to accommodate large gatherings, while still remaining a cozy and inviting environment that family and friends would feel at home relaxing in.

An airy and spacious floor plan was a must, as was the necessity for storage. A centrally located cooking island provided the opportunity for an extended tabletop and stools and maximized countertop space along the two back walls. Cabinets, stoves and a bookcase were built into the third wall, keeping the footprint to a minimum.

Ducts for the stove hood were turned into opportunities for inset lighting and a dramatic ceiling that unified and centered the large area. A second fireplace for the home, nestled between the kitchen and built-in banquette helped maintain a cozy and homey personality staying true to the home's core spirit of charm and informality. ■■

“Once we gave Joe our wish list, the ideas just never stopped flowing.”



The Stark Family
GOSHEN, NY

RENOVATING AND EXPANDING OUR ARTS AND CRAFT STYLE HOME WAS A MONUMENTAL UNDERTAKING. ACTING AS OUR OWN GENERAL CONTRACTOR, UNEXPECTED CHALLENGES AROSE EVERYWHERE. Happily, one of the most difficult and potentially problematic aspects of the entire project ended up the least stressful of all.

We had a wish list as long as your arm, but thanks to Joe we got it all, and then some.

Joe is an up front idea man and once he understood everything we wanted, it was like opening up a well of creative thinking. From a second fireplace to wrap around cabinetry that bridges the kitchen with the rest of the house, the ideas just kept coming — complete with blueprints so we could envision what he was thinking.

Any obstacles that stood in the way weren't just overcome. They were turned into novel and creative assets that actually complimented and enhanced everything else. And, once we approved the plans, we didn't have to think about it again. Joe and the entire Masterwork team were on top of the work from start to finish. The entire process was worry free and just got done. Period.

The compliments never stop coming, but more importantly, the kitchen has become the focal point we wanted. It's an area we and our family and friends feel completely welcome and at home in. ■■



Joe's Viewpoint

THE RENOVATION OF THIS GREAT ARTS AND CRAFTS HOUSE CAME WITH EXCELLENT ARCHITECTURAL PLANS THAT INCORPORATED SMART DETAILS AND MERGED OLD WITH NEW VERY WELL.

However, it was focused more from the outside in and nuances of the internal space didn't totally address the clients' functional needs.

The entrance at the front of the house leads in to the living room, but the most often used entry was the side door, leading directly into the kitchen. This made traffic flow a real consideration.

Joe and Mary were deeply involved in the design process and encouraged open box thinking for recommendations that would compliment the existing plans.

We opened up the space with built in cabinetry and added a large box bay window that afforded a better view and let more natural light in. Then we built a banquette [sp?] directly under the window so guests could be part of the food preparation without getting in the way.

It's always nice to work with people who are so involved in the process and have such a deep appreciation for the result. ■■