



Classic Grace and Precision

A classically traditional
home gets a classically
traditional makeover



The van der Lee Home

TUXEDO PARK, NY



REATING A NEWLY RENOVATED ENVIRONMENT IN A CLASSICALLY TRADITIONAL OLDER HOME HAS TO BE HANDLED DELICATELY. While the whole point is to freshen up the environment and enhance functionality, it's critical that the rest of the home's style and details be included in the new designs.

The kitchen's location and placement just off of the foyer made a communal open floor plan impossible, but the area had to be airy and conducive to family use. The end result included custom crown molding blended seamlessly into the cabinetry, a classical ceiling canopy and hanging light that defines the informal sitting area with its custom island.

The upstairs bathroom was narrow and cramped. By converting an underutilized closet into a marble lined shower and re-visualizing the area's floor plan, a very usable and inviting space was created.

Downstairs, a recreational area including a wet bar, family room, shower and bath and exercise area were installed in the unfinished basement. The area quickly became the hub of the children's social and recreational needs and has served well as they've grown. ■■



The van der Lee Family

OURS IS A CLASSICAL HOME BUILT IN THE TRADITIONAL STYLE. It's rooms are large with high ceilings and filled with elegant architectural details that you rarely see today.

The kitchen is located just off the entry foyer so the space had to be both functional as a kitchen and family area and still communicate a style and grace that matched the rest of the house.

We'd done a great deal of research and knew what we wanted, but needed someone with an understanding of scale and architectural details to make it a reality.

Joe, quickly understood what we were trying to do and never lost sight of our needs. He developed a functional plan with a comfortable feel and sophisticated style. The mantel hood, along with several well appointed architectural elements and warm finishes reflect the character of our home while providing all the modern amenities.

There's no doubt we were happy with the designs, but the precision in planning and execution is what inspired us to ask him back on multiple occasions as our needs evolved.

Whether it was the upstairs bathroom conversion or the kids' recreational and entertainment area downstairs, the end result has always been smart use of space, great looking design, a quality that lasts and extremely efficient work with a minimal amount of disruption.

Our relationship has spanned over a decade and will, I'm sure, continue for many years to come. ■■

"A tremendous sense of spacial perspective along with precision in execution are why we continue to come back through the years."





Joe's Viewpoint

THIS HOME WAS ORIGINALLY DESIGNED AND BUILT IN A DIFFERENT ERA AND SERVED AS A PRIME EXAMPLE OF THE TERM 'STATELY MANOR.'

When you start with a foundation of quality in character and detail, it defines a part of the design process and you know where you want to go, creatively. The challenge in this case was that the house was built for a slightly different purpose and function — accommodating a fairly large staff.

The needs of this professional couple and three young boys meant that the social aspects of congregating and cooking in the kitchen demanded a different way of looking the space.

As always, great clients result in great projects. The van der Lee's had a fundamental understanding of their needs and wants which enabled me to fill in gaps and provide necessary refinements. The end result was a highly successful blending of the new aesthetics with the character of the original home providing functional efficiency in a warm, stately environment.

It was a great collaboration and I've been very pleased to be invited back several times through the years as their needs evolved. ■■

