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Farina and Sons

Nostalgic But Functional



In the 1940s, homes typically were built with kitchens that were closed off from the main living areas. That approach may have worked for families then, but it's not how we live today. We want open, airy, modern spaces that are as user-friendly as they are

appealing. So Orlando-area contractor **Victor Farina of Farina and Sons** transformed this Truman-era home, which was originally built as a fishing camp, into a sweet retreat that works for Obama-era families. Adapting a 60-plus-year-old structure to comply with current building codes was a challenge, but not one that Farina hadn't faced many times before. The home was totally renovated and about 1,300 square feet added, which opened up the view to Lake Conway. New insulation increased the home's energy efficiency and dehumidifiers were installed to counter the effects of the exposure to the weather. The kitchen, which had undergone cosmetic changes about 20 years ago, was clearly in need of more than just a facelift. The existing cabinets and appliances had to go. In their place new cabinets with earth-tone granite countertops and energy-efficient appliances were installed. **Grant Gribble of Gribble Interior Design Group** was the designer, cabinets by **Central Kitchen and Bath** and appliances were provided by **Milcarsky's Appliance Centre**.

This captivating 1947 home is considered a bit of a local landmark in Belle Isle. One of the challenges of this renovation was how to retain the home's historical charm while creating contemporary function. The homeowners were concerned about the worn and rotting wood on the home's exterior but they were adamant about saving and/or matching the home's existing woodwork and detailing. So the contractors chose durable building materials to solve the weatherization problem. Then, the remodeled home was dressed up with a vaulted tongue-and-groove wood ceiling and the original interior and exterior wood details. Individual "quarry" tile pieces were set by hand to add warmth to the home's floors.



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