

MODEL REMODEL

For Victor Farina, Farina and Sons, Inc., renovating a home to give owners just what they want is all in a day's work. And this project required more than just interiors.

Remodel photographs by Everett & Soulé



It was an existing home on a narrow lot. It needed to be completely remodeled inside and out — new roof to flooring — really top to bottom, A to Z. And the owners also wanted bedrooms added.

“We really needed to redevelop and redesign the interior. There was no master suite so they wanted a large space included in the plans. Of course, it also needed all new finishes, new tile floors, new kitchen, and updated windows. We used a versatile finish that we call American living clay, a plaster-type finish that’s breathable. It can be repaired easily by remulsifying it,” Victor explains.

All in all it was an update with an enlargement of a decades-old home. A plan had been designed with an architect and then Farina and Sons was called in to implement the extensive and intensive changes.

“We worked with the homeowner throughout the process. She knew what they wanted and had done a lot of research, but I was able to introduce her to a lot of new ideas like the plaster, or how we finish trim work. We collaborated on the exterior details,” he adds.

About 400 to 500 square feet was added to the home, but that included a lot of interior structural work like moving walls. Opening up the living area was key, with the kitchen now flowing into the breakfast area and family room. The existing wrap-around built-in shelving in the



Wendy Williams Crumit

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Fannie Hillman + Associates
205 West Fairbanks Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789
www.fanniehillman.com

Wendy Williams Crumit
321-356-8590
wendy@fanniehillman.com



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breakfast room was taken apart and rebuilt and reinstalled. Virtually everything else was replaced — from custom cabinets and appliances to counter tops, fixtures and hardware.

And the details can be seen everywhere — even in the dramatically remodeled powder bath that features a brick floor, a stepped ceiling and heavy glass sink that appears suspended in the corner.

The backyard pool deck was beautifully redone and is perfect for entertaining. There's a porte cochère that covers a summer kitchen, and expansive brick pavers

and built-in planters surround the open space. The existing pool was also renovated.

It took about a year to complete the house. "It's always interesting to work with the owner and share ideas. It can be challenging, especially with a smaller site. With a project like this it's a matter of keeping up with all the details. This is not the world's biggest house, but it's a cool house," Victor says.

He's noticed that there has definitely been an increased interest in renovations since last summer.

