



February/March 2010

Crosscuts

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WINTER HOURS

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We will be closed Monday, February 15th for Presidents Day

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Rand Customer Gets Creative with a Basement Getaway

The Barter family home in Rowley, Mass., is a busy one. With three young children under the age of 7, parents Bill and Lisa knew they had to get creative about where to store the assorted toys and gear the family has accumulated—while also creating a quiet getaway in their single-story ranch.

Their solution: Finish the basement.

Today, the warm gathering space features unique details and creative workarounds that even the most experienced handyman would appreciate.

The first thing that's noticed is the angled tongue-and-groove pine boards running along and underneath the stairway. While the angle sparks interest, Bill put another spin on the installation

by reversing the interlocking boards for a smoother, planed finish.

He also reversed the boards on the two end walls, as well as the entire ceiling. There, only the middle board is fixed; all others can be removed, allowing easy access to various pipes or wires. "This worked out great when we decided to install speakers," Bill notes. "Even though everything was already up and fit together, it was nothing to pop the boards and run the wire."

Bill shored up the two existing ceiling beams by attaching an LVL beam to either side, then boxing in each unit and running lally columns down the side walls for additional strength. "This has been a huge benefit because it also firmed up the floor upstairs," says Lisa. "When you're

down here, you really can't feel the kids running around upstairs, or even an adult walking across the floor."

A fireplace with surrounding entertainment center dominates the end wall. Bill crafted and installed the two-inch wood mantel, and replaced the brick façade with painted steel for a clean, wrought iron look. A hideaway closet for the myriad TV and stereo components features roll-out shelves, allowing access to cables and hookups.

On the opposite wall, behind the sitting area, the kids' playthings are organized along built-in shelves and benches. Bill says that the shelf design came about accidentally: He had planned to build the wall out 12 inches in order to

Continued on back...



Left: Angled boards follow the upward lines of the stairway. **Center:** A hidden panel tucked under the TV stores remotes and other everyday items. **Right:** Built-in shelves offer the BarTERS plenty of storage for the kids' games and toys. **Inset:** A slatted door keeps the Barter's curious dog away the speakers in the entertainment center.

Continued from front...

accommodate a pipe chase, and immediately saw the potential for more storage.

Instead of staining the wood, the couple chose to go with several coats of polyurethane, which adds brightness to the 26-foot by 13-foot room. New double-hung windows bring in the



Bill built the "Harry Potter closet" for his oldest son just two days before Christmas.

daylight, plus 23 recessed lamps provide controlled lighting options.

Bill says that before taking on the project, "I was very glad I'd found Rand Lumber." He recalls that a local business recommended us when Bill was looking for rough-cut boards to fix a fence in his backyard. "Since then I've gone back again and again.

"It's like taking a step back in time because everyone there is pleasant. It doesn't matter if it's the owner or the guy in the yard; I can tell them what I'm doing and they'll say, 'Let's see how we can help you out.' And if I ask for something that's hard to find, they'll have it. You can't find this quality of service—or lumber—anywhere else."



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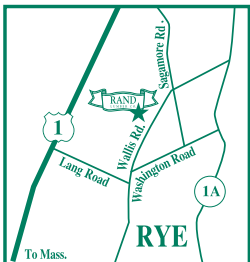
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