

News Release

HGTV Features Renovation of 225 Year Old Cumberland Farmhouse

Cumberland, RI - January 9, 2006 - The renovation of a local 18th century farmhouse will be featured on an upcoming episode of HGTV's popular *Generation Renovation* program which spotlights home enthusiasts who put in the hard work to bring new life to unique old homes. The farmhouse, owned by Joe Cracco and Amy MacKenzie, was remodeled shortly after they purchased it three years ago.

Last June, a film crew from High Noon Productions visited Rhode Island and spent a day filming at the Cumberland home for the HGTV program. Amy and Joe talked with the crew about the ups and downs of the renovations. Joe, who owns Modern Yankee Builders of Cumberland RI, a residential remodeling company, shared the details of the structural and finish carpentry work required for the extensive bedroom and bathroom renovations as well as the philosophy behind designing the renovations to keep the feel of the old farmhouse style. "Through careful planning and design," Joe said, "we were able to create a tenfold increase in closet space, raise the second floor ceilings, and put in a new bathroom, yet still keep the simple feel of the old house."

The central concept behind the renovation of the farmhouse was to restore the simplicity of the original home while incorporating modern conveniences. The homeowners started out with the discovery of original wide-plank flooring which inspired them to save and refinish as much of the original flooring as possible. A tilting toilet in the upstairs bathroom revealed a severely rotten floor which led to the opportunity for a complete bathroom remodel. Low-ceilinged bedrooms were transformed by raising the ceilings and constructing closets with built-in dressers and window seats. Period wainscot details, matching raised panel doors and re-use of the original flooring dovetail seamlessly with modern conveniences like full-extension drawers and hidden lights that turn on when the closet doors are opened. Even the mahogany bed and nightstands were custom designed and built for the bedrooms. The end result was a dramatic transformation from uncomfortable and non-functional to welcoming and striking rooms with plenty of storage space.

The couple is very pleased with the results of their efforts as they now have an updated home which captures the simplicity of the original farmhouse. The episode, which features the farmhouse renovations, airs on February 5th at 6:30pm and February 14th at 6:00pm on HGTV.