

Backyard Bliss in a Beloved Neighborhood



Photos courtesy of Trendmark, Inc.

The cost of an extensive remodeling project can sometimes approach the price of a new house. But homeowners like the Bakers wanted to remain in their home and in their traditional upscale neighborhood on Oberlin Road in Raleigh. “There was no question about moving,” Joan Baker stated emphatically. “This had been my parents’ home, and we loved the neighborhood.”

In an earlier remodel the couple had added a second story to the original ranch-style house. This time they worked with Wallace Baker of TrendMark, Inc. and designer Michael Heath in a major remodeling to their first floor and backyard, and included the addition of a sun room behind their kitchen. “Michael and Wallace were wonderful to work with,” Joan said. “Michael was so full of ideas, and Wallace made them all come to life. I enjoyed working with them and love the result.”



Photo courtesy of Trendmark, Inc.

The sunroom opened up the kitchen area, creating a marvelous open space, great for entertaining and for overseeing backyard activities. The rounded outer wall is filled with casement windows, giving full view to the new terrace, pool and fountain. A sliding glass door leads to the adjacent covered porch. The light-filled room practically begs you to sit there and enjoy the view and the sunshine.

The elegant tone of the room is announced by the decorative column mounted on a half wall at the entrance and is maintained by the crown moldings, the recessed lighting and the grass cloth wallpaper. Joan Baker’s favorite color—turquoise—is featured on the wall coverings and is picked up in the upholstered furniture and decorative items throughout the room.

The wood floors come from beams reclaimed from a tobacco warehouse. The random widths of its planks show the original nail holes and scars of the former beams, which create great character for the space. The room is warm and comfortable and will be much used by the couple and their guests. Wallace Baker of TrendMark, Inc. has truly succeeded in creating another family friendly redesign, noted among his many STAR award winning remodeling projects.