

PLATEAU

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MOUNTAIN LIFE IN HIGHLANDS-CASHIERS NORTH CAROLINA

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WELL STYLED
home



Restoration to Transformation

Two ways to reimagine home

By CHRISTINE HENNESSEY

After

A home is meant to be a solid, permanent thing. Strong and sturdy, made from concrete, brick, wood and glass, they're built to last, passed down from one family to the next, silently bearing witness to our dramas and dreams. But, much like the people who live inside them, houses can also change and shift. They require constant upkeep and occasional updates, whether it's old wiring that has to be replaced or a shag carpet from the 70s that's seen better days. A growing family can stretch a house to its limits, while style can evolve with new owners or in new decades. When a home isn't serving its current owners, the answer isn't always to buy or build a new one. Sometimes, it's better to fix what you have—preferably with the help of local architects, builders and interior designers, of which the Highlands-Cashiers Plateau has plenty. Whether you're considering a complete transformation or a thoughtful renovation, the following two homes offer inspiration, imagination and motivation.



Before

A Total Transformation

PLATT

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Rusticks

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When Chucki and Curt Bradbury of Little Rock, AR, bought their mountain home in Cashiers, it was a little rough around the edges. The home was originally built in the 1980s and had not been updated since. "It was a one story, two-bedroom house," says Parker Platt, architect and president

at PLATT, a full-service architecture, construction and interior design firm located in Brevard, NC, that prides itself on connecting families to the beautiful world of Western North Carolina. "PLATT was brought in to help transform their house into a warm, welcoming and bright home for an expanding family."

The house was located on a beautiful lot with a picturesque pond and a small guest house. The Bradburys wanted to expand the main house's footprint, adding two additional bedrooms and a number of other updates to make it lighter and brighter and provide a more modern feel.

BEFORE PHOTOS KEVIN MEECHAN

The first thing PLATT tackled was the guest house, a one-room house with a sitting area and a kitchenette that the Bradburys referred to as “The Love Shack.” The benefit of beginning there was that the couple could live in the guest house while their main home, which they gave the more stately moniker “Mountain Abbey,” was essentially gutted. “This wasn’t just a renovation,” Platt says. “It was a total transformation.”

That renovation included building three new bedroom suites in the house, as well as refreshing the interior finishes. “It’s an eclectic mix of styles,” Platt says. “A nice balance of transitional and contemporary, with casual mountain elements.”

Pre-renovation, the house was all wood, with dark ceilings and wood paneling on the walls. To make it lighter and brighter, PLATT introduced dormer windows and skylights, including a large skylight over the middle of the kitchen, to bring in more natural light. They also installed large, oversized windows, placed strategically to open things up and take advantage of the beautiful views.

One of the most striking additions of the renovation are the ceilings. “They’re our all-time favorite feature,” Platt says. “The ceilings are brushed hemlock. Originally weathered barn boards, they’ve been brushed to freshen the face while maintaining the aged patina. And the timbers are reclaimed Douglas fir.” This combination of old wood brings a distinct warmth to the home, while adding just the right amount of rustic beauty to the space.

Of course, a house isn’t truly a home until the owners put their own spin on it, and the Bradburys had the perfect way to do just that. “They’re art collectors,” Platt

says, “and they have a wonderful collection in their Little Rock home, which they expanded to this house. As part of the renovation, they worked with Ann Sherrill of Rusticks to incorporate new furniture and these very interesting, contemporary art pieces throughout the house.”

The final result is a mountain retreat that truly reflects the Bradburys, a place where they can relax with their family and enjoy the beauty of their surroundings, inside and out. **P**

(Left) In the great room, PLATT dramatically increased the window size to allow for a more substantial view and daylight.

(Below) PLATT modified the floor plan to create a better connection between the great room, kitchen and screened porch.

The addition of a light well and an opening to the new stair windows beyond fill the space with natural light.

