Why Not Do It All at Once

A Complete Interior Overhaul

Most homeowners can paint a mental picture of what it would be like to remodel their bathroom or update their kitchen. Many often daydream of this day. But it does take time, money and a little bit of sacrifice due to the impact on your daily routine. In fact, some people even have to set up makeshift cooking zones and shower at the neighbors for a few days.

But what about remodeling an entire house—all at the same time?

Whole house remodels are quite an undertaking, to say the least. But with such a complete transformation from start to finish, the end result can resemble nothing less than an entirely “new” house—just ask the Ferrel family.

“Technically, our home has the same overall layout as before, but when I walk inside it feels completely different—it’s beautiful,” describes Dori Ferrel. “Many friends and neighbors refer to it as our ‘brand new’ house.”

Interior remodels can make a huge impact, because that’s where most people spend the majority of their time (inside the house, not looking at it from the street). And after all, they say it’s what on the inside that counts, right?

One of Potter Construction’s latest and largest remodel projects to date, the Ferrel whole house remodel truly showcases Potter’s breadth of experience. This project illustrates not only the ability to make major upgrades to each and every room in a sizable house (not just bathrooms and kitchens alone), but also the vision to focus on the big picture—assuring the entire house blends together well and flows beautifully while achieving the look and feel the clients are after, and exceeding their expectations beyond just their wish lists.
Where to Begin:
The History Behind the Remodel

“We felt like we could trust them at all times through the remodel.”

“When I think of the project as a whole I know it was the people that made it so successful.”

Dori Ferrel

Where did it all begin?

Don and Dori Ferrel had been living in the same Bellevue home for more than 20 years and were looking for an upgrade, in more ways than one.

“We debated what to do for a long time and little things just kept cropping up—from leaks in bathroom and floors badly in need of refinishing to simply being tired of the old kitchen cabinets,” reflects Dori. “So instead of doing things one at a time, which would have taken years, we figured why not do it all at once?”

Once their decision was made, over the course of the next three years, the Ferrels went to countless home shows and talked to handfuls of remodelors. But they were not yet ready to make the leap…until they met Gary Potter.

“When talking to Gary it just felt right, and after checking more references we knew Potter would be a company that would follow through,” says Dori. “We were really happy to hear about the two year warranty and knew they would be willing to come back if anything ever went wrong.”

Oddly enough, the Ferrel’s next door neighbors had just put their house up for rent, so the couple knew it was their opportunity to seize the moment. After all, how often can you be so close to overseeing your remodel without being in the way of progress? They simply rolled their furniture out the back door of one house and into the other.

“Not once did we have to use a moving truck,” smiles Dori.

But before ever swinging a hammer, Potter and the Ferrels had several meetings to outline the whole design process. With a “to do” list including four bedrooms, three bathrooms, an office, a kitchen, and dining, living, family, and laundry rooms (phew), all the major details of the remodel had to be determined ahead of time so Potter could start on everything at once and be ultra efficient.

“In the first week alone, all three bathrooms, the kitchen, and our carpet were completely torn out,” Dori still recalls in amazement.

And from that point on, it was full steam ahead.

What came next? For the details on this complete interior transformation, read on.

Just give us a call at 206-935-9696 to schedule your complimentary consultation.
How does one tackle an entire interior home remodel? Even total transformations have to start from somewhere. Here you’ll see how the Ferrel’s problems and frustrations with their “old” house turned into Potter’s artfully strategic plan of action for the “new” house.

To begin, the Ferrel family had a few ideas of their own, and it was our first job to listen. “There were some things I knew I wanted, like updated bathrooms and a new kitchen. I also wanted the home to be lighter and brighter while keeping to a traditional style,” explains Dori. “But then there were some things I wasn’t so sure of…”

Once we had a good feel for the Ferrel’s taste and their goals, Potter’s next order of business was to present innovative solutions, some of which they may have never considered otherwise. Then, we worked together to make decisions, and the transformation began. The following is a glimpse at each major area of the remodel. By breaking it down into digestible problems/solutions, the overwhelming idea of a whole house remodel suddenly becomes more manageable (not to mention, very exciting)!

### The Overall Look & Feel

**Problem:** The 1980s home was full of dark millwork and outdated with features like wallpaper and textured walls and ceilings. The house had played out its style and was ready to live in a new generation.

**Solution:** Potter’s job was to bring the home up to the present day standards of Home & Garden Magazine resulting in lighter, brighter spaces with natural tones and a traditional look and feel.

### Reworking Walls & Ceilings

**Problem:** Outdated, heavy textured walls and ceilings.

**Solution:** To improve aesthetics by smoothing out texture on walls and ceilings as the new, flat surface reflects more light and updates the whole look of the house.

### Refinishing Floors & New Carpeting

**Problem:** Dark, medium stained oak flooring was in need of refinishing and the old carpet gave the home a tired look.

**Solution:** To install new carpets in the bedrooms and refinish the oak floors (and add more wood flooring in place of old carpet for the living and dining rooms) using a clear stain versus a medium stain to bring out the naturally bright wood color and reflect the light.

### Replacing Millwork

**Problem:** Dark, 1980s millwork.

**Solution:** To remove baseboards and casing then install updated, white painted wainscoting, crown molding and trim to lighten up the space.

### Recreating the Kitchen

**Problem:** Outdated kitchen with country motif and serious wear and tear on cabinetry, but good overall layout.

**Solution:** To keep original floor plan but install all new custom cherry wood cabinetry with intricate detail work, granite countertops, and new state-of-the-art appliances such as a beautiful new hood over the range. Potter also installed a large skylight to brighten the space considerably.

### Brightening Up the Bath

**Problem:** Dark, cramped, outdated and leaky!

**Solution:** To fix leaks (of course), add a skylight in the master bath, and use light and creamy marble in all three bathrooms to tile shower and tub surrounds and countertops as the polished stone reflects light significantly brightening the bath. New cherry cabinets were installed as were water-efficient toilets and new fixtures.

### Adding Visual Interest to Living & Dining Rooms

**Problem:** Tired carpet and a large, red outdated brick fireplace.

**Solution:** To tear out carpet and replace it with oak hardwoods to blend with the other refinished oak floors. Then, formally separate living and dining rooms with columns, an archway and wainscoting to give it more of a grand and formal appearance. Potter also removed the red brick fireplace and installed a traditional wood mantel with crema marble around the new gas fireplace insert to make the space feel larger and improve the overall aesthetic.

### Buffing Up the Bedrooms

**Problem:** Old carpet and millwork.

**Solution:** To buff up all four bedrooms with new paint, carpeting and finish work including baseboards, trim, closets and windows.

### Making the Office More Professional

**Problem:** Old carpet, in need of a refresh.

**Solution:** To install new hardwood floors and fresh paint to give it a high end, regal look.

### Recycling for the Laundry Room

**Problem:** Needed more storage.

**Solution:** To recycle the old cabinets from kitchen and install them in the laundry room for more storage.

When you break it down step by step, you can see a total transformation really is possible. In a matter of just 11 months, the Ferrel’s home interior went from a dark, outdated 1980s house to a bright and beautiful masterpiece filled with natural light, modern materials and appliances, and the traditional look they love.
Now that it’s done, we asked the Ferrels if they had to do it over, would they do it again? Here’s what they said:

“We have already recommended Potter to our neighbor across the street and they are now going to do a whole house remodel too!” smiles Dori “That’s saying a lot.”

But the thing that impressed the Ferrels most was Potter’s skilled team.

“Absolutely everyone we worked with was so professional in all aspects of the project from initial design up to the finish details at the end,” explains Dori. “Our designer Catherine was amazing, Harry did a wonderful job as a finish carpenter, Andy did an amazing job with the tile work, we loved the people who did our custom cabinets, the floor crew made our old and new oak floors a seamless match, and the painters were perfectionists!”

Perhaps one of the Ferrels’ most rewarding comments was:

“Potter has assembled talented and dedicated crews who strive for perfection—they take pride in their work as opposed to just doing it for a paycheck.”

But the good vibes went both ways (thank you, Ferrels).

“Working with Dori was great, we really got along well, and everything turned out wonderfully,” explains designer Catherine Thompson. “As a whole, the house has a beautiful flow, we accomplished the goals they were trying to achieve and we had a very happy client at the end of the day.”

Would You Do It Again?