

# The Beautiful Swan

Philomont couple renovates home little by little transforming the once overgrown property into a beautiful homestead

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Looking at properties in 1999, Rob and Theresa Quallich happened upon six plus acres, wooded and overgrown, but full of potential, including a pond at the entrance to the parcel. Only the second home to be built in this spacious neighborhood, the couple decided to start modestly and customize over time.

Once the house was built, the home improvement list was put together and so began the search for the right contractors. Fortunately for the couple, a highly qualified contractor built a home on an adjacent neighborhood property. Jay Hemby of The 2H Group finished work on his own home as requests for work on the Quallich's began.

In 2000, hardwood floors were installed on the staircase and second level of the home to replace carpeting and reduce allergies. Installing a natural colored oak flooring to match the lower level of the home, the floors look original to the home and are a nice addition to a household which includes animals.

As the years passed, the projects increased in size. Deciding to finish the basement, the couple turned to Jay for ideas, advice and contractual services once again.

"Our laundry room used to be the room that you entered from the garage. It was a tight fit to get through there and always a mess. We knew we want-

ed to move that to the basement," says Theresa. Looking for more of a mud-room, the space is now void of appliances, tiled for ease and a great place for muddy dogs to enter and be addressed.

Relocating the washer and dryer to the basement allowed for a true laundry room, used solely for that purpose. No longer a walk through, Theresa is very happy to have a door to close when company arrives. A home gym and additional under stairs storage area was built in the space leading to the laundry room.

In a large hall type space that has yet to be defined, the couple has a large viewing wall of the many, many photos taken on journeys together across the world. Printed on canvases, the space has an art gallery feel, with natural light filtering through side doors leading to a side patio.

Complete with a flagstone floor and stone half walls, the beautiful outdoor entertaining area sits below a slightly arched pergola complete with wrapped vines. Although the couple enjoys a larger patio and porch off the rear of the home, this private, more intimate setting is perfect for a good book and glass of iced tea. It also offers a bit more sunshine to the occupant than the other outdoor spaces.

To finish off the basement, the Quallich's included "storage that was

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Photo Courtesy/Theresa Quallich

For this Philomont couple, finding the perfect property meant building modestly and making changes over time.



Photo Courtesy/Theresa Quallich

Leading to the finished basement, this quiet patio is a perfect outdoor space for enjoying time alone or entertaining guests.



Photo Courtesy/Theresa Quallich

A two-story unattached garage and loft gives Rob and Theresa a quiet space to work from home.



A kitchenette and half bath in the garage loft gives guests a mini-retreat when visiting. The views of the lake and horse pastures are pretty inviting as well.

Photo Courtesy/Susan Keller