

HOMES

SECTION H
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PHOTOS FROM KANCOR CONSTRUCTION

Builder Ori Kantor's home literally has risen from a Colonial (above) to Tuscan-style digs (top) with poured-concrete walls and luxurious features. Only 2 original walls remain. **Profile on Page H13.**

2007 Parade of Homes

Take a tour, then . . .

TAKE A HOME

A GRAND DESIGN

The goal: Homeowner and builder Ori Kantor has one word for the whole-house renovation he undertook: luxury. The home near Orlando's Lake Adair started as a 2,800-square-foot, two-story Colonial. Now it's an 8,950-square-foot, three-story Tuscan-style home. Very little about it is modest, with its imported Italian marble countertops and a kitchen island with an African zebrawood, checkerboard chopping block. "My inspiration behind this house was timeless elegance with a Mediterranean flair," says Trisha A. Eckoff, who designed the interiors.

The plan: Only two original walls and about two-thirds of the original foundation remain. Everything else about the six-bedroom, six-full-bath, two half-bath house is new, including a three-car garage and an in-law suite. The new swimming pool has a waterfall on one end. The house is sturdy, too, built by poured-concrete. "We went all out. It's a good-size home," Kantor says, "for a good-size family."

The players: Builder Kancor Construction; interiors, Trisha A. Eckoff, T.A.E. Designs Inc.

Where: 933 Seville Place, Orlando.

Before and after photos of the Kantor house appear on Page H1

Time it took: Fifteen months.

The cost: The house is on the market for \$2.89 million.

Biggest hassle: Because the house is 42 feet tall, taller than allowed by city code, Kantor had to obtain a variance from officials. He also had to install an indoor sprinkler system and special vents, typically found in commercial buildings, which add fire protection.

Best decision: At first, Kantor simply wanted to renovate and update the existing home, then sell it. But his plans changed to build something grand. And he doesn't regret that one bit. "I just got really consumed by it and said, 'You know what? I want to do a larger home,'" Kantor says.

Don't miss: Pause in the foyer to take in the custom-designed, hand-forged wrought-iron chandelier framed by custom maple flying buttresses. The 2,000-pound piece is motorized. Tucked near a closet behind the kitchen downstairs is the control panel for GE Smart ConnectionCenter, a high-tech automation system that controls such things as the home's security system, Internet connections, audio system and cable television. There are other luxurious touches throughout, such as a salon sink, or shampoo bowl, in the master bathroom so a hairstylist could come to the house.

— MONICA SCANDLEN
SPECIAL TO THE SENTINEL