

HELFFENSTEINS

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Upstairs, the Helfensteins have three bedrooms, one for each girl, a bonus room above the garage, which is used as the toy room, and a bathroom. Shelly wanted a jack-and-jill bathroom, but with three bedrooms, not two, this wasn't a functional option. Instead the upstairs bathroom is divided into two rooms: one with two sinks and two vanities and the other with the shower and toilet. Dividing the bathroom for use by multiple girls was the next best option, said Shelly.

The basement is unfinished but will eventually include the mechanical room, a guest bedroom and bathroom, a family room with a large entertainment area (for games, etc.), and a walkout patio. Additionally, there is a tuck-under garage in the basement, a single-stall garage running the length of the house, to store snowmobiles and other outside gear, with room for a work bench, too.

The main three-stall garage is also double deep. "This is enough garage," said Matt.

The Helfensteins, who moved into their new house on Dec. 7, 2012, still have landscaping to do, a concrete driveway to add, a patio out the back of the house to build, screen to install on the screen porch, and furniture to buy. (They sold most of their old furniture, as well as their old house.)

All their friends tell them that this is their nicest house yet. "It is by far my favorite," said Shelly of its warmth and character. "My desire would be to stay here until the kids are grown," she said, adding that someday she and Matt might want to downsize.



Photo by Michael Jacobson

The bonus room, above the garage, is used by their daughters as a toy room.



Photo by Michael Jacobson

The upstairs bathroom is divided into two rooms: one with a double vanity and center cabinet (near) and the other with the toilet and shower (far).



Photo by Michael Jacobson

Matt and Shelly Helfenstein liked the flow of their previous house, especially the mud room (with cubby) off the garage with a walk-in closet (shown) and adjoining bathroom and laundry room (not shown).



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