

# The Story of a Home

## *How one builder brought a modern family dwelling to life*

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A house is just a structure. It is walls and windows and doors that provide shelter. A home, however, is something else entirely. Yes, it is comprised of all the elements of a house but it is a living space. It bears the marks of family and life well lived. Its beauty isn't just in its physical adornments, but in the memories and emotions it represents to those who inhabit it.

When it came time to remodel their home, the Denny family of Stroudsburg recognized this difference and sought out a builder who recognized it as well. A builder who would be a partner in creating through architectural design and quality craftsmanship a structure that exemplified the Denny's modern lifestyle while honoring tradition.

### **A Home with Roots that Run Deep**

The history of the Denny family home stretches back to the early 1950s. The original house was built by Amanda Denny's grandfather on a land parcel in Stroudsburg, PA. The family named the property "Happy Acres" because of all the wonderful and happy memories they shared there together with their 6 children, and eventually with their 13 grandchildren.

"I remember coming here as a child for all the holidays with my aunts, uncles, and cousins," expresses Amanda Denny. "In summer I would spend so many days here."

Amanda continues, "When my mother was a girl, they had horses on the property. Although the horses were gone when I was a child, we would envision that the apple trees throughout the yard were horses that we could climb onto, using our imaginations to create adventurous rides."

Amanda and her husband Allen purchased "Happy Acres" from Amanda's grandparents 15 years ago and built upon the generations of family memories by forging new ones of their own with their children, son A.J. and daughter Sarah.

Time passed and the original hardwood floors gained new marks of vibrant family life. A.J. and Sarah's heights were notched into makeshift door jamb growth charts and Amanda's children now rode the mythical, imaginary apple tree horses which dot the landscape.

### **A Season for Change**

The Denny family loved their home and the memories they had created there together. As their children grew into adolescence, however, the one thing that didn't grow was space. Contemporary family living brings with it many commitments to children, their activities, and all of the general accoutrements that accompany such a time.

“When we first considered remodeling our home, our main goal was creating space,” explains Amanda. “With two children, their toys and stuff were everywhere. We basically had no storage and our dining room became a collection area.”

Amanda continues, “Our home was also very dark. Very little light came in, so we wanted to open it up and brighten everything.”

Although the Denny’s sought aesthetic changes to complement their lifestyle, they wanted to retain those characteristic features that told the story of their history and that of generations before. This meant insuring space for a dining room to accommodate the dining room set inherited from Amanda’s grandparents, retaining the original hardwood floors – creaking floorboards and all, and preserving the precious doorjamb growth charts.

“Our home was my grandparent’s home,” conveys Amanda. “It was an old cape cod that my grandfather built. While we wanted to remodel the space, it was most important to me to ‘keep’ the home.”

With those goals in mind the Denny’s sought about finding the right builder to partner with in creating their revitalized home. With a short list of five builders to whom they would send out their project bid, they started their quest.

### **One Builder Sets Themselves Apart**

When Bob Buff and Joe Holbert of RW Buff Construction Inc. met with the Denny family, right away Amanda knew they were different from other area builders.

“Bob Buff is about his clients,” enthuses Amanda. “He builds custom homes to fit personalities and lifestyles. RW Buff also has the most experience by far of any local builder and has developed a successful history of doing extensive remodel projects.”

What sealed the deal for the Denny family, however, went beyond pure craftsman expertise to something far more important - RW Buff’s true commitment to customer service and their team’s ability to listen.

Amanda explains, “Some of the other builders up for the job were strongly suggesting a full demolition of my family home. Others also suggested that keeping a formal dining room wasn’t necessary even though they were aware I had my grandparent’s dining room furniture. They weren’t listening to what mattered. Bob and Joe did.”,

Working with the Denny family and their architectural draftsman Howard Browning, RW Buff’s team crafted a home that streamed with light throughout well defined, spacious living areas. Each mark of Denny family history was retained, such as moving the growth chart door jams to the new laundry area, or using the exposed brick from the original home’s chimney as the wall of the guest bath. Each creaking floorboard remained intact. And, as the final detail, the dining room set from Amanda’s grandparents took the place of honor in the new family dining room.

## **Putting Customers First**

“It’s our philosophy to listen carefully to our client’s objectives,” explains Bob Buff, owner of RW Buff Construction Inc. “We don’t just want our customers to be happy, we want our clients to be delighted with the project and with us.”

To the RW Buff team this means understanding both the necessary requirements of the build and the more subtle aspects that make each project unique. Regardless of client requests, be it modifying designs during construction to achieve evolving project goals or using creative building and design techniques for special custom details, RW Buff is committed to partnering with each and every customer to bring their unique home into reality.

“RW Buff handles construction on everything from custom homes, to remodels, historic restorations, and renovations,” continues Bob. “We enjoy being challenged. Every project we do is different and that is exciting for us.”

Essential to achieving success for such a myriad of project types is the client relationship between RW Buff and each of its customers.

“Good communication is absolutely critical,” expresses Bob.

Reflecting back to the Denny family project and its unique building requirements, Bob remembers, “None of Amanda’s requests for her home were technically difficult. Carrying out her vision simply required hard work and commitment from the RW Buff team. This commitment has been and continues to be the cornerstone of success for RW Buff Construction Inc.”

## **Choosing For Yourself**

When it comes time to offer recommendations of a builder to family and friends, the Denny family never hesitates in giving out the names of Bob and Joe from RW Buff.

“There are lots of little things that add up to why RW Buff was the right choice for us,” expresses Amanda. “They all revolve around RW Buff’s outstanding customer service which, when coupled with their high standards, make them the top in their industry.”

Reflecting further, it seems one element above sheer business success makes RW Buff the right choice as builder.

Amanda summarizes, “In the end, RW Buff puts their heart in their work. It really is just as simple as that.”

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*capabilities, and thoughtful architectural details for finished projects suited to the most discriminating tastes. The company offers service lines, which include custom home construction, remodeling, commercial construction, and commercial renovation. A dedication to client satisfaction and a reputation for integrity are the hallmarks of success for RW Buff Inc. To learn more about RW Buff Inc. and their many notable projects, visit [www.rwbuff.com](http://www.rwbuff.com) or call 570-476-5437.*