To make this 900-square-foot addition look as though it had always been a part of the home, architect Rosemary McMonigal took care to ensure the roof pitch and other exterior details all matched perfectly.

Great view, attractive decor, all the amenities of home—this honeymoon suite has it all. For Jim and Susan Erlandson, who built the suite addition just four months after they married, there’s never a checkout time.

BY AMBER DAWN BARZ

Honeymoon
Suite

The suite's high ceiling, the result of matching the existing roof's pitch, makes the bedroom seem even larger than the actual dimensions.
Honeymoon Suite

When Jim and Susan Erlendson decided to tie the knot, Jim sold his ranch-style home, planning to move into Susan’s two-story. Her 60-year-old home was not without flaws. The roof of the attached garage was near collapse, and there was no way the structure could accommodate two cars.

But they loved the home’s location. Adjacent to a prestigious country club, the Santa Fe-style home offers sweeping views of the golf course and is very convenient to downtown. The garage, they figured, could be fixed.

But when Jim moved into Susan’s cozy 1,600-square-foot home, he discovered another problem—there was room enough for him, but not his wardrobe. “There was literally no place to hang my clothes,” says Jim. “Every closet was already filled. My clothes hung in wardrobe boxes from U-Haul.”

The second-floor bathroom was also on the small side, making it tough for the two to get ready at once.

An immediate remodeling, they decided, was in order. Their plan was to replace the old dilapidated garage with a two-story structure that would not only accommodate both cars on the ground floor, but also provide Jim and Susan some additional closet and bath space on the second floor. They got even more than they bargained for.

Because of the size of the space needed for the garage, there was ample room to create an entire master suite, complete with a bath for two, a separate walk-in closet, and a dressing area.

Recessed areas on either side of the tub right offer an attractive way to display plants and provide easy access to the whirlpool’s motor.

The entrance to the shower left marks where the original structure ends and the new one begins.
Honeymoon Suite

Architect: Rosemary McMonigal designed the 900-square-foot addition, working closely with Jim and Susan to create a space to best meet the needs of the Erlandsons' busy lifestyle. Jim, a pilot, is on a different routine than Susan, who freelances from home, so McMonigal designed the bath and dressing area away from the sleeping quarters.

Thanks to McMonigal's design, sharing a cramped bathroom has become a thing of the past. Double pedestal sinks, an oversize whirlpool tub, and a large walk-in shower provide plenty of room for two.

The suite's high ceiling, the result of matching the existing roof's pitch, makes the bedroom more voluminous.

A single French door leads to a small outdoor terrace, a perfect spot for breakfast or brunch during the summer months. Opposite the bed, a large round-top window (not shown) provides an attractive view of the golf course. A double French doorway leads to a small iron balcony designed to hold flowers.

To solve Jim's storage problem, McMonigal designed a walk-in closet that is larger than the guest bedroom, providing plenty of room for both Susan and Jim's clothes.

In addition to making the suite fit the Erlandsons, McMonigal made sure the suite fit within the character of the original home.

"The patterning of the archways around the doors and windows are all replicated in the addition," says McMonigal. Even the suite's radiators, salvaged from another old home, match those found elsewhere in the home.

Window sizes and types were selected to complement those of the original structure. Once the addition was complete, the entire home was covered with fresh stucco to ensure a perfect match.

Now, when Susan opens up the windows and doors, she feels more like she is out in the country rather than in the heart of the city. "It's like having a house in the woods," says Susan. "The view is of the tree tops and from one window, a beautifully manicured golf course. I love to come up here and read or watch TV."

Architect: Rosemary McMonigal, AIA, McMonigal Architects. Photographer: Susan Gilmere Regional Editor: Lisa Cloatte

Between the two sinks, left, niches in the tile provide the storage that is often lost when pedestal sinks are installed. The arched mirror matches the arches found elsewhere in the home.