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ARCHITECTS



A HOME FOR PIZZA-LOVERS IN JUPITER



When a fire caused major damage to their 17,000-square-foot house in Jupiter, FL, the homeowners sought out David LaPierre for help in remodeling it. Not only did David salvage the residence, but he also took the opportunity to transform it into the family's dream home.

David was astonished by the extent of the damage. "It was crazy,"

he says. "I've never seen anything like it. Even metal finishes—metal mirrors, metal plumbing fixtures—were completely tarnished and destroyed from the chemicals and smoke." But he didn't let that intimidate him.

Before starting the renovation, David and his team had to strip the entire house. "This was a unique situation for me," he says. "I've never worked on a fire-damaged structure before. We had to remove all the



damaged items from the house—appliances, fixtures, finishes, furniture, everything—and then go down to ‘the gray box,’ which is just the cement shell.”

It wasn’t an easy project by any means. The family had to relocate during the renovation, and David stayed in communication with them the entire time, keeping them involved in the process.

The renovation allowed the clients to reconfigure several spaces. David first addressed the many closed-off, compartmentalized places in the home, including the pantry, breakfast room and family room. One of the goals was to open up these spaces so there was more interaction between them.

Another room the clients wanted to update was the kitchen, which presented a challenge concerning the pizza oven. The family loves to make





pizza, and initially had a commercial-style pizza oven built into the kitchen. They used it so much, however, that the kitchen became prohibitively hot. So, after much discussion, the homeowners decided to move the pizza oven to the outdoor area, which David was also redesigning.



The family had a separate pool house and some smaller terraces attached to it, but they wanted an outdoor space where they could entertain guests. David's solution was to design an outdoor loggia area, which included a sitting area with a four-sided gas fireplace, a full-blown kitchen, a huge grill and the pizza oven—everything needed to entertain outdoors, with a table big enough to accommodate 10 people. To keep the loggia cool, David installed both air conditioning and drop-down insulating glass curtains to block the sun.

Due to the renovation, which took two years to complete, the house grew from 17,000 to 21,000 square feet. "It's a big house," says David. "We had to file for all new building permits and document what was there. That took six months, and then the build time was about 18 months."

The effort was well worth it. This pizza-loving family is very happy with the renovation and thrilled to have a cool outdoor kitchen to entertain their guests on hot Florida days.

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