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## A house in Arlington keeps its past on display

By [Kathy Orton](#)

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(Photo by Eddie Avenue) The ceiling medallion in the dining room was made from parts of the old oak flooring.

The split-level house was in need of an update, but Ahmad Khreshi of [Home](#)

[Perfection Contracting](#) did not want to airbrush away its history. Instead, he incorporated elements of the old house into the new design, paying homage to the past while taking it into the present.

“Basically, we were trying to keep the house alive by bringing all this stuff into the house [and] at the same time, giving it a lift,” Khreshi said.

Part of the roof became a feature wall in the great room. The dining room floor was turned into an eye-catching ceiling medallion. The old double-hung windows were used as a faux skylight in the library. Even medicine bottles from the 1800s to early 1900s discovered during excavation for the addition served as mementos for the Arlington home.

[\[Mortgage rates rise again and look to be headed higher in the coming weeks\]](#)

“We wanted to reflect that history of what was there,” Khreshi said.

To add a second level and expand the home into the back yard, Khreshi had to remove the old roof. Rather than trash its pine wood, he repurposed it.

His plan was to use the wood for an 18-foot wall that would be the focal point of the great room. But having never done something like this before, the concept evolved as he went along. He gave the wall depth by using pieces of different thicknesses and arranging them in a random, rather than symmetrical, pattern. Planing the wood produced interesting color variations. In a few of the protruding pieces, Khreshi carved out a channel to drop in LEDs, adding character and warmth to the wall.

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Perpendicular to the wood wall is the brick wall that formed the back of the original house. Khreshi added brick to raise its height to 12 feet and then whitewashed the wall to create a starker contrast to the wood.

The ceiling medallion was another of Khreshi's experiments. Using parts of the old oak flooring, he stripped some of the pieces bare, left others alone and stained the rest the color of the new floor. He and his design assistant Lesley McKnight played with different patterns on a computer before settling on a herringbone style.

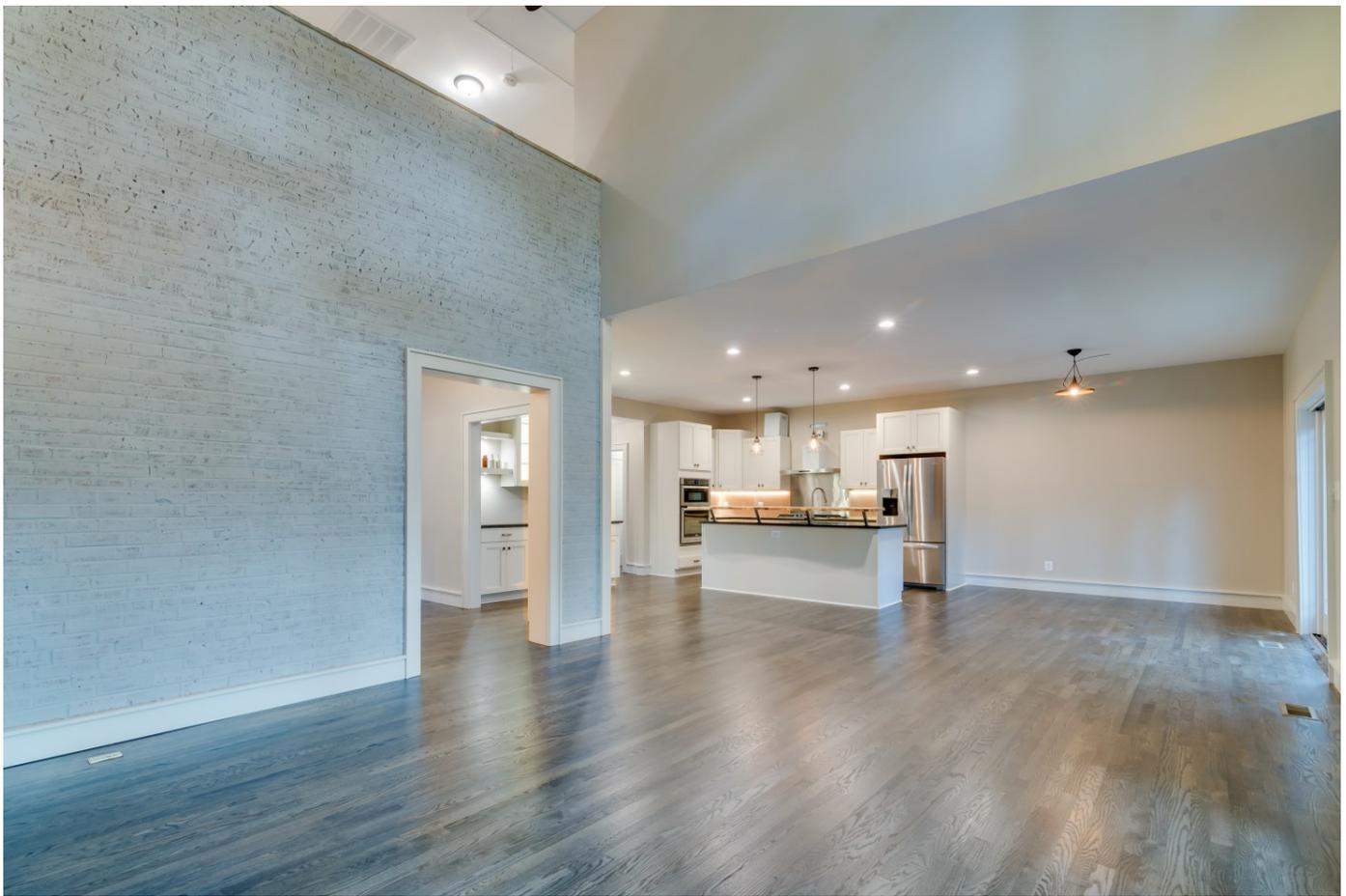
“It tells the story of the hardwood floors, what transformation the floor went through when you look at the ceiling,” Khreshi said.

When the plumbing in the master bathroom necessitated lowering the library's ceiling, Khreshi created an inset and turned it into a faux skylight.

Inspired by the Venetian Hotel in Las Vegas, he used wallpaper to mimic the sky, added LED lights around the perimeter and installed the old windows to frame the view.



(Photo by Eddie Avenue) The wood for this 18-foot feature wall in the family room came from the roof of the old house.



(Photo by Eddie Avenue) The main floor has formal living and dining rooms in the front of the house and an open kitchen and great room in the back.

“It makes you feel like you are looking at the outdoors, and we’re hiding the pipe at the same time,” Khreshi said.

Other special touches include refinishing and putting into the dressing area of the master suite an octagonal window that he had found in the attic of the old home. The gorgeous maple counter in the kitchen is a slab of wood from a maple tree.

The five-bedroom, seven-bathroom, 4,315-square-foot house is on the market for \$1.55 million. An open house is scheduled for noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Listing: [512 N. Littleton St., Arlington, Va.](#)

Listing agent: Ahmad Khreshi, [Home Perfection Contracting](#)