



THOMPSON REMODELING

Love Where You Live



Love  
Now Lost



## Why We Love What We Do

At Thompson Remodeling, the bulk of our clients live in beautiful, custom homes that no longer fit their lifestyle. Like most 'love is now lost' stories, these clients once loved their home.

Time has simply made parts of their home outdated or in need of repair. They still believe that changing their home is more appealing than changing their address, but they have lots of unanswered questions. Our firm is here to help you get what you want.

We help busy professionals, like you, Love Where You Live. Please join us as we take you along on a little life journey that we believe is very similar to many of the clients we serve. Here is a factious story that embodies the experience many of our clients embark on.



## Why We Love Where We Live

I was born on a crisp fall day in October in 1968. My parents, Robert and Millie Huizenga, named me Marcy Renee after my Great Grandmother. I was raised in the small suburban area of Ada, which is a suburb just outside of Grand Rapids, Michigan.

I would describe our family as pretty "middle class" as we didn't have a lot of anything, but never hurt for much. After my youngest brother was born, my Mom left her career in retail management to run our household. My Dad then supported us solely by working long shifts at a nearby furniture factory.

Although I didn't realize it at the time, growing up so traditionally was what helped me to realize the importance of the family home and all that happens inside of it. The home is where so much happens, and because of this, I truly believe in loving where you live.





## The love story begins with building your life and your home together.

I knew I wanted to marry Paul Seitsma so much that I think I probably had the entire wedding planned before he even got down on one knee.

He was everything I had ever dreamed of, he loved children, had the work ethic of my father, not to mention he was also very handsome. His family life wasn't as happy and somewhat picture-perfect as mine was, but he had two parents that loved him and instilled great morals and values in him.

I believe that because of his parents' separation, Paul knew he wanted to create a wonderful home for his own family someday, and would stop at nothing to be a loving provider. He was very successful in that goal, because even today, when I think back to that night when we became engaged, I can still see that loving look in his eyes as that June day when he asked me to be his wife.

Although a lot of time has gone by and those looks are sometimes harder to come by with the stresses of our everyday life, it's still in the back of those beautiful baby blue eyes every now and again from across our kitchen.

We knew we wanted to have a spring wedding, so we began right away getting everything ordered, booked and ready for a late May celebration. But it didn't take long for us to realize that one thing was missing from our plans. Where would we go home to after the honeymoon?

I had invested myself so much in our romance and the wedding planning that I hadn't thought about the walls that would surround us in our new life together. We needed not just a wedding, but somewhere to build our new life together too. So, the hunt began for our family home.







## Building your home and your love of it with the discovery of your 'dream home'

Paul wanted to stay in the suburbs, and I agreed, we both knew we wanted children so it made sense to live in a nice, tree lined neighborhood where young families were nearby.

Being raised in the same home my entire life; I wanted to make sure the home we purchased was going to be the home we spent many years in.

Because I was just finishing up training to work in medical billing and Paul was working climbing the ladder at a large insurance company, we could afford something pretty nice, but not obnoxious.

I wanted things to be newer, so we could focus on the wedding and not come home from our honeymoon to a list of projects. Paul was willing to take on a 'fixer upper' but agreed with me that maybe a newer home would be a better fit at this stage of our lives.

We found the house on Gilmore Lane in September of 1989. It was a 4 bedroom, 2 ½ bath two story home with about 3400 square feet. I always felt like two story homes were perfect for family life It was big for the two of us, but we knew it wouldn't always be just us.

I loved it because it had everything I wanted in a home, a big sitting room at the front of the house, and a more casual family room in the back that had a beautiful gold trimmed fireplace. There were a lot of rooms and it almost felt like it went on forever with the





## Falling in love with your home, what made it so special in the bathrooms, kitchen and other rooms?

The kitchen had a few things that at the time I absolutely had to have like the sleek euro-style white cabinets with oak trim. All of the appliances were also brand new and finished in a smooth cream color.

The bathrooms all had matching cabinetry to the kitchen, which I felt created a very cohesive appeal. I also adored the “Hollywood style” lighting across the tops of the mirrors, because it made me feel like all of my bathrooms were a little bit like dressing rooms too. And all the gold fixtures seemed to make the space feel more expensive.

I was against any colored bathtubs or toilets, as well as that colored tile that had been so popular in the late 70’s and early 80’s. This house had nothing like that; it was just new, neat and totally updated. I was thrilled to get home from Jamaica and start our lives there.

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### Years add wear and tear on a home, but it’s purpose is still clear

The house on Gilmore Lane did exactly what we wanted it to do, it grew with us. We had 2 boys, Ian and Brett who were 10 and 6-years-old at the time. We loved the neighborhood and our boys were always running and playing with the kids from the houses that surrounded ours.

I was now a full-time; stay-at-home mom and Steve had taken a promotion and was working some longer hours in recent years. Even if we had wanted to make upgrades to our house at that time, I don’t know where we would have found the time to do them.

From soccer games to band practice to PTA meetings, it seemed as if we never had enough hours in the day to all just sit down together for dinner, let alone take on a week-long project of changing out the cabinetry that was clearly showing how outdated it was now. Being a one-income household was different as well, the home improvement budget was not quite as important as growing the college funds or the orthodontist bill we had just started paying on for Ian’s braces.





**Small updates are made over time, but the love of the home begins to fade as things become outdated and worn.**

Even though we were so busy, I did begin to really take notice some other things around the house that were starting to look pretty “worn out” from the years of sticky fingers and wrestling competitions in that living room.

Not only that, but the dog had done quite a scratch-up job on my once very shiny linoleum flooring in the kitchen and bathrooms. It didn’t appear very shiny anymore either, and almost had a brownish layer of color on it’s once white finish.

Ultimately at this time though, things were all working just fine, so I didn’t make too big a fuss about making the improvements. With two busy boys running around, it hardly seemed worth it to put nice things in a house when we were just one football throw away from complete home destruction.

I should give credit to Paul though; he did spend that summer painting a number of rooms in the house to cover up the damage the last 12 years of life had put on them.

He also let the boys pick out a wallpaper border for the top of their bedroom walls. Ian picked airplanes and Brett picked Superman.

The changes freshened things up in the house just enough to give me a few years of satisfaction, but other than that, we kept things pretty much the same as the day we bought it.







## Eventually, you want to fall in love with your home all over again.

Today, our home is a lot quieter. I anticipate this is a very small window of quiet though; as Ian is now engaged and plans to get married next August.

Like his Dad and I, he has grown to want a family and desires a nice home to raise his children in. We miss him at home, but since he left for college we've gotten used to seeing him on weekends and holidays.

One of the beautiful things about being an "empty nester" is that we now have more time and money to invest into our lives as just the two of us. So, last year Paul and I decided it was time to make some big decisions about what we wanted to do with our future.

Although we realize we aren't getting any younger, we are still very active people and we are looking forward to many more years of active life together.

So, we were faced with a number of different options, like the possibility of maybe selling our home, buying a "home on wheels" and traveling the country. If we did this, then eventually we could take our grandkids on some trips with us.

But alas, that didn't sound right because we would hate to miss out on having a place to host Thanksgiving dinners. (I don't think I would ever hear the end of it from Ian if I didn't make my world-famous pumpkin pie.)

Another option would be to possibly sell our house, get a condo nearby and spend our money traveling. But that didn't sound quite right either as we'd hate to not have our great big backyard for our traditional flag football game on during our traditional 4th of July party.





## Now, you want a home that will grow with your future family life.

So, we decided that we would find a way to love our worn-out home. So, we would be renovating it.

Ultimately, what we wanted for our future was to fall in love with our house again so we could enjoy it all over again during this next phase of life with our grown children and future grandchildren.


A neighborhood friend of ours referred us to Thompson Remodeling. She had used them the year before to remodel her kitchen. She just couldn't say enough about how smooth and professional the service was.

I called their office on Cascade Road and I talked with Ben Thompson directly about the 9-step process they go through to ensure you are satisfied with the work they do.

Paul and I hired Thompson the very next week to help us find the love again in our home in our kitchen, bathrooms and bedrooms.







*It's easy, just pick your rooms and build a plan that fits your budget with Thompson's customized design plan.*

## The Bedrooms

I'm very thankful to have additional space in Ian's old room as my office since I went back to medical billing work from my home.

Although there are great memories in that room, it needed to be transformed away from all the stained reminders of the teenage pizza parties as well as the unpleasant look of that now faded and peeling airplane wallpaper.

Thompson remodeling developed a plan to create a built-in office area for me with custom cabinetry. This solution makes my work-at-home life easy and convenient. And not only is it a productive space, but it looks stunning with the addition of crown molding and wanes coating throughout the room.

Since Brett is a freshman in college now, it seems he only comes home these days if his laundry pile requires it. Of course Paul and I have grown somewhat used to this, as Ian was the same way. But this means that his bedroom is now serving as our guest room.

We asked our designer how to create a versatile space so it could service Brett when he is home as well as our guests when they arrive.

Thankfully, since we outlined a fixed price contract, we were able to make some small improvements to the room to accomplish this within our budget with paint, trim and a few storage built-ins.





## The Kitchen

Remember those euro cabinets that I just absolutely loved back in '89? Well, the love is now lost on those too, and with the help of my designer from Thompson as well as the site visit they conducted at our home, we now have gorgeous dark mahogany cabinets with brushed nickel finishes (And yes, everything and anything that is gold or bronzed went right to the dumpster!)

To save energy, I also had them install beautiful LED lighting underneath my new cabinets. Our pea green countertops that were stained from the years of Play-Doh creation and science experiments are now a beautiful, granite surface.

Our old cream appliances that had been serviced, taped and repaired numerous times over the years went in the dumpster, and I now have high-end, energy efficient appliances in a sleek stainless steel finish.

At first I didn't know if we could use Thompson Remodeling for the appliances as well, but sure enough, they were able to put everything I wanted into our personalized design plan.





## The Bathrooms

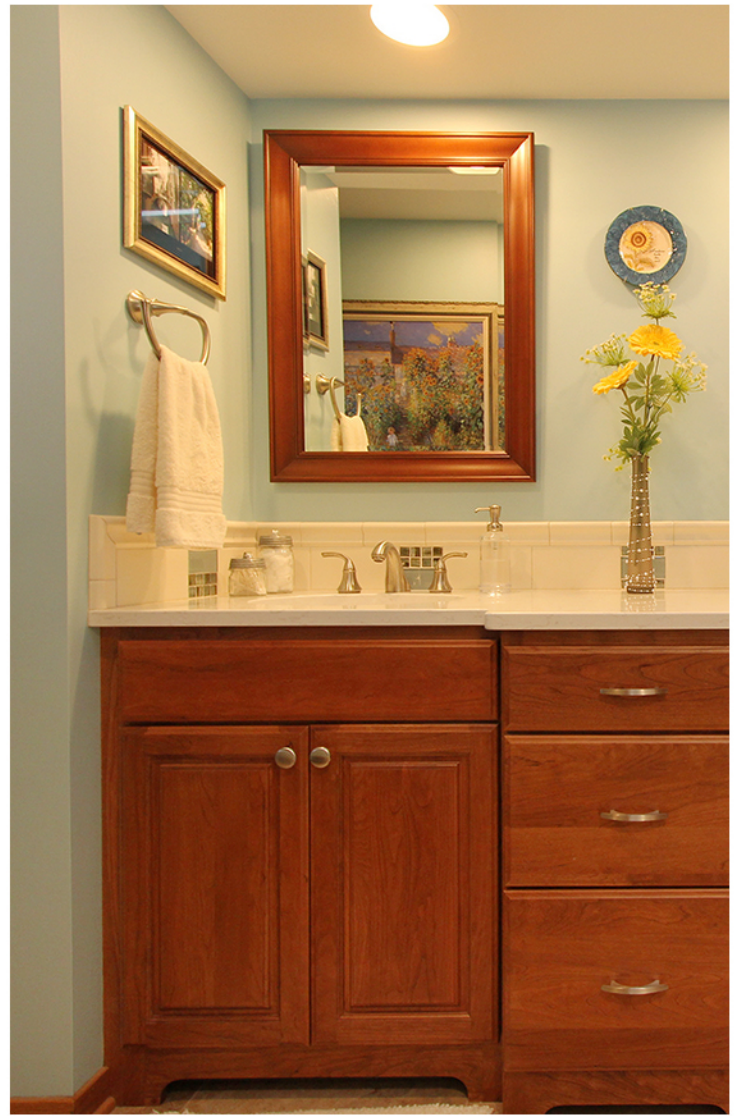
It felt very good to have those matching euro cabinets ripped out of the bathrooms too, but not quite as good as it felt to get that aggressive 'Hollywood' lighting I used to love so much out of the bathrooms.

Thompson Remodeling worked with us to make sure the lighting design we constructed for each one of our rooms had a cohesive but yet unique style throughout our entire home.

During our site visit with Ben Thompson, he did uncover a mold problem inside our bathroom walls too, and I was so thankful we were now aware of it and could get the problem resolved during the remodeling process.

It feels so nice to walk around my house today and know that the same beautiful rooms I have today are the very same rooms where I shared so many treasured memories with Paul and the boys'.

Now, our home just looks every bit as beautiful as I feel about it, all thanks to the team at Thompson Remodeling.



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Contact Thompson Remodeling to get started on your project.  
When remodeling simply makes sense, you need a trusted professional team by your side to help you through the process. You'll get that with Thompson Remodeling.  
Let's review your plans and get started.



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