

Family puts heart, soul into refurbishing house

By Ruth Hultz

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Besides beautiful woods and Queen Anne details, the Kevin and Peggy Ballard home at 1622 Vermont is full of enthusiasm.

The Ballards are feverishly involved in a major renovation of the more than 4,000-square-foot home they bought several years ago.

When Peggy first saw the house, she was undaunted by how much work the one-time four-apartment building needed. She said this house was a “piece of cake” compared to a former “flop house” they had renovated in Kansas City.

Peggy brings her artist's disposition and devotion to the renovation of the house.

“As an artist, I have a vision for the home,” she said. “There are things here that talk to you, that tell you what they could be; for instance the floors and the unpainted woodwork. The leaded windows are breathtaking. When I saw the landing window, I said, ‘I've got to have this.’”

“As you work with it, you find these jewels and say ‘I wish I could restore it.’ As an artist, I am willing to go in and take time. I have the ability to do many things. But I also have a background in accounting so I also have to figure what it is going to cost.”

To keep costs down, the Ballards do much of the work themselves. Kevin's zeal for renovation also comes with his own set of skills.

“He was raised on a farm, so he is willing to take on jobs without any hesitation,” Peggy said. “If we can do it, we do it.”

The Ballards jumped into the initial projects with fervor. They redid their boys' rooms first and then spruced up the maid's room to use as a guest room.

They had professionals redo the floors in four rooms. Each room has a different designed parquet floor bor-



Peggy Ballard shows off the living room. The Ballards found the mantle piece, mirror and copper summer fireplace cover on the third floor of the house and installed it in the living room.

dered with marquetry — a design made from different types of woods.

The five-bedroom house has expensive details in every room. The large reception hall has a grand staircase with an arched lead-glass landing window, triple-leaded glass windows with classical detailing, dentil trim and fes-

toons on the double door. Greek key marquetry borders the room.

Egg and dart molding, classical detailing and expensive hardware is sprinkled throughout the first floor. There is a maid's sewing room at the top of the back stairs and the home has a ballroom on the third floor, which the

Ballards use for a TV room and Peggy's studio.

Peggy has an impressive list of future projects for every last square foot of the house, including giving the front porch its original look. Luckily, along with her fervor for renovation, she has plenty of patience.