
Episode Title: Dave and Jenny Marrs: The Story Behind ‘Fixer to Fabulous’

Episode Description:

When planning a home renovation, knowing where to splurge and when to save can make a big difference to your budget. In this episode of The Better Buy, *Fixer to Fabulous* stars Dave and Jenny Marrs share their favorite renovation projects to date (they’ve tackled nearly 300 fixer-uppers!), including expert tips you can put to work in your own home. Learn about the design elements that make the most impact, tips for making your space work for your needs, and the easiest renovation projects to do yourself.

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Episode Transcript:

Music begins

Mélanie Berliet (Voice Over):

Welcome to The Better Buy, a new podcast from Better Homes & Gardens. I’m your host, Mélanie Berliet. Each week, we’ll talk to experts about the highs and lows of home ownership, and share stories, advice, and practical tips you can actually put to work in your own space.

In this episode, I’m speaking with Dave and Jenny Marrs, the husband and wife duo of home improvers turned TV stars who’ve transformed 300 fixer-uppers into amazing homes together. While Dave puts his unrivaled restoration skills to work, Jenny flexes her creativity on the design side.

Music fades out while Dave and Jenny’s voices fade in.

Mélanie Berliet:

Thank you so much for joining us. We’re really excited to have you on The Better Buy. So, which came first, the loving relationship or the business partnership?

Dave Marrs:

Loving relationship.

Jenny Marrs:

Yes.

Dave Marrs:

And actually, when the business partnership started, the loving relationship, it's still going surprisingly.

Jenny Marrs:

(laughs).

Dave Marrs:

So, we're still working it out.

Mélanie Berliet:

I'm very impressed. What's your secret? How do you make it work?

Jenny Marrs:

I don't know. I think we just have fun. And we balance each other out. If one of us is having a bad day, the other one is usually the one that's saying, Okay, we can do this, you know? (laughs) So, I think having fun, really just prioritizing family, and also keeping everything in perspective and the big picture of, you know, the things that can be really stressful and hard, we just can kind of talk through together, like, Okay, wait. Let's look at this. Let's step back. Think through this. And I think we do a good job balancing each other.

Dave Marrs:

We're very blessed that we've been able to find something that we both love, right?

Jenny Marrs:

Mm-hmm.

Dave Marrs:

So we're Enneagram seven.

Jenny Marrs:

Mm-hmm.

Dave Marrs:

So, we really love to start new projects and dream about new things.

Jenny Marrs:

Yeah.

Dave Marrs:

And get them off the ground, going. It really helps in a business relationship when you're both passionate about it.

Jenny Marrs:

Yeah. That's true.

Mélanie Berliet:

I love that. Did you just tell me your Enneagram type? I'm so intrigued. Do you also know your Myers-Briggs personality types?

Jenny MARRS:

No.

Dave MARRS:

I have no idea what you just said.

Mélanie Berliet:

No? Okay (laughs).

Dave MARRS:

And I know my Enneagram type, because Jenny told me my Enneagram type.

Jenny MARRS:

Well, you did a test.

Dave MARRS:

I did a test (laughs).

Jenny MARRS:

Yeah, he did the test. Yeah (laughs).

Mélanie Berliet:

I love that. What do you remember most about your first fixer upper experience together?

Jenny MARRS:

Well, that was long before the show, I would say.

Dave MARRS:

Yeah.

Jenny MARRS:

I mean, that was a long time ago. I would think the first one was the little blue house.

Dave MARRS:

Little house, yeah.

Jenny MARRS:

The thing I remember about that house was the – you'll probably say the same thing – the postcards we found in the wall.

Dave MARRS:

Yeah.

Jenny MARRS:

It was really cool. We were doing demo, and we found these postcards that the previous owner had written in World War...

Dave MARRS:

World War Two.

Jenny MARRS:

Two, back home.

Mélanie Berliet:

Oh, wow.

Jenny MARRS:

And they were in the wall.

Dave MARRS:

Yeah.

Jenny MARRS:

Behind the drywall. That was really cool.

Dave MARRS:

Yeah. Letters that he had written to his wife.

Jenny MARRS:

To his wife, right? Yeah.

Dave MARRS:

You don't find treasures very often. Usually it's more trash.

Mélanie Berliet:

That is really special. What did you do with them? Where are the postcards today?

Jenny MARRS:

I actually feel we brought them to the historical museum. Didn't we?

Dave MARRS:

Yeah I think we did.

Jenny MARRS:

I think we turned them in, actually. Yeah.

Mélanie Berliet:

Very cool. What are your deal breakers when it comes to house hunting? And it can be something different for each of you, or perhaps it's the same.

Jenny MARRS:

Like, where we're going to live?

Dave MARRS:

Yeah.

Mélanie Berliet:

I would say for your next project.

Jenny MARRS:

Okay.

Dave MARRS:

You know for our next project, when we're looking at these homes, we really like to keep, you know, the same style of the home that it is. So, if it's a Craftsman home, or if it's a Victorian home, or modern home, it's really hard to go in, and make a Victorian home this ultra modern house. And I really love classic architecture, so kind of a deal breaker for me is, if we go into a house and the homeowners really wanna completely change what the house is. I just want to look at him and say, "You know, you just brought the wrong house. I'm sorry." Like, you know, it might be a great location, but it's just not something I wanna get involved in. Because that, to me, the character and the charm, there aren't Craftsman anymore like they used to be. There just aren't. The way that these houses were built, and the way that they were done, and to take and destroy that is just something I'm not interested in.

Mélanie Berliet:

And you've spoken a bunch about, you know, embracing imperfections in a home. What's your strategy for preserving the character of the homes you tackle?

Jenny MARRS:

I think the first thing is, really trying to figure out what we can keep, particularly if it's an old house, right? So, when we go in, and we talk with our homeowners, and we're asking them what do they wanna see changed, what do they wanna update, that sort of thing. We talk through all of that, but then we also talk through: Okay, but what can we keep in this house? What can we keep original if it's the flooring? If it's even just the structure. Like even if there's all the, I love how old houses that have all the like nooks and crannies and weird angles and really embracing that. 99% of the time we do update a kitchen, for example. And bathroom. Because those are, you know, the spaces that really date themselves the quickest. But we do try to incorporate the same style of the house.

Dave MARRS:

Right.

Jenny MARRS:

And I love, you know, finding artisans who make lights that are handmade, and handmade hardware for the cabinets. Just really trying to be true to the time frame in which the house was built as much as we can, and bringing in touches that feel authentic but also modernized.

Dave MARRS:

Right.

Mélanie Berliet:

Since you do focus on restoring so many historic homes, do you believe in haunted houses?

Dave MARRS:

A 100% (laughs).

Jenny MARRS:

A 100% yes (laughs). Oh, go ahead.

Dave MARRS:

Well, so we actually...I should go back on a deal breaker. Like, we actually have walked in houses before where -

Jenny MARRS:

Oh, yeah.

Dave MARRS:

... From the moment you walk in, it doesn't feel right. It doesn't feel good. Like, there's just something wrong with the house. And nothing that you can physically see.

Jenny MARRS:

I do feel like (laughs) one of our houses was haunted. And it was a nice ghost. She was really kind. I really liked her. Um, we hung out. It was a little creepy though at night. But she was really nice. And then she just... what she did every time is, she would always change the mirror. Like, remember the mirror that kept getting moved? I was like, I swear, that's the ghost doing that. It might have been Dave sneaking in and trying to make-

Dave MARRS:

It wasn't.

Jenny MARRS:

... Trying to make me crazy. But when we were done with the house, she was no longer there. So, I think she was unhappy and just left.

Mélanie Berliet:

Oh interesting.

Jenny MARRS:

I joke about that. I don't know that I actually believe in haunted houses, but I do feel like houses carry us like a-

Dave MARRS:

A soul.

Jenny MARRS:

... There's- There's like a... Yeah. There's a feeling in the air, an energy, a soul, something. I mean, it's just, it is just drywall and bricks. But there are memories and moments that are grafted into that place. And if that place... You can just walk in and feel it. I don't know. If you walk in and you can feel a lightness or a heaviness.

Mélanie Berliet:

It's very, it's fascinating. There's a history, right? It makes sense.

Jenny MARRS:

Yeah. Exactly.

Dave MARRS:

Yep.

Jenny MARRS:

Yeah.

Mélanie Berliet:

What is the most unexpected problem you've faced during the home reno process? And how did you handle it?

Dave MARRS:

So, basically, we go in with these, the homes for the television show, and we blind bid these things, right? So, everything that we can see, we bid. But-

Jenny MARRS:

You're not telling the story that I think you're telling, right?

Dave MARRS:

I have to.

Mélanie Berliet:

(laughs).

Dave MARRS:

We had a house. And this is a older, older house. Um, old cast iron pipes. And I don't know how long it had been happening but.

Jenny MARRS:

Dave, this is so gross. I'm sorry!

Dave MARRS:

The cast iron pipes were rusted out from the toilet. And they were just dumping the sewage in the crawl space.

Jenny MARRS:

Inside of the house.

Dave MARRS:

It was disgusting. It was disgusting.

Mélanie Berliet:

Oh, that had to stink.

Dave MARRS:

You know, that's when you're thankful for that plumber that's just not afraid to throw those gloves that go all

the way up to your shoulder on, and just... We were able to fix it. We addressed it all. We took care of it. Put in a new sewer line. But that was one of the more disgusting...

Jenny MARRS:

(laughs).

Dave MARRS:

... re-models I've ever been a part of. What about you?

Jenny MARRS:

Yeah, I agree.

Dave MARRS:

You- you can't top it. She can't top that.

Jenny MARRS:

No, I forgot about that. We didn't even tell the homeowner about it. We just fixed it because we were like, I don't think she needs to know this was happening in her house.

Mélanie Berliet:

I think that was very kind of you (laughs). Where do you look for inspiration throughout the home improvement process?

Jenny MARRS:

Everywhere, right? Like, if we're out to eat at a restaurant, (laughs) or if we are at a hotel or, you know, obviously magazines. Obviously Instagram. But I think it's really just, like, being out and looking for new things.

Dave MARRS:

Yeah.

Dave MARRS:

If we are doing a home show-

Jenny MARRS:

Yeah.

Dave MARRS:

... in Columbus, we are walking around the downtown, and if we see color, if we see an architectural style, if we see anything that we like, we have got pictures upon pictures and folders that, even if we don't know where we're going to use it...

Jenny MARRS:

Mm-hmm.

Dave MARRS:

... I'll get messages from people saying, Hey, I thought this was a really cool idea.

Dave Marris:

And you know, sometimes it's not, but sometimes it is.

Jenny Marris:

Mm-hmm.

Dave Marris:

And we can kinda modify it and put our own take on it.

Mélanie Berliet:

I'm curious, specifically, if your fans, either on social media or elsewhere, have inspired any specific decisions you've made.

Dave Marris:

Actually, we're getting ready to do a house where there's storage that comes out, like, drawers that pull out from underneath the staircase. It's really cool. And actually a fan on Instagram sent me a video and said, "Hey, I think this would be a really cool idea."

Mélanie Berliet:

That's great. What are your favorite money saving home tips?

Dave Marris:

So, Jenny is really big on, you know, you can update a kitchen, you can update a space without spending a lot of money. You can do it with hardware, with like specific lighting. Because you think about what like Jenny said earlier, really, in a house, what goes out of style is never a bedroom or a living room. It's always a kitchen, a bathroom, which, if you're replacing all of those, that's the most expensive square footage in your house.

Jenny Marris:

Yeah.

Dave Marris:

That real estate is really expensive.

Jenny Marris:

Yeah.

Dave Marris:

But by adding paint and hardware, and things that don't necessarily cost money, they just take time, you can really completely change the room around.

Mélanie Berliet:

I was going to say, People underestimate the value of a fresh coat of paint.

Dave Marris:

Oh my gosh!

Jenny Marris:

Yes!

Dave Marrs:

Like, what it will do to your house, and how it will update and liven it up your house is amazing.

Jenny Marrs:

And I think just, if you find a light fixture, for example, that you see in someone's house, on Instagram or whatever, and taking the time to really search and maybe find that light somewhere and you're like, Oh my gosh, it's, you know, \$1500. But a lot of times you can find similar looking pieces that are less expensive. Whether it's a light, or a chair, or whatever that may be, but really just taking the time, it takes time to really, you know, sit down and do a lot of searching and finding, different sources for you know, whatever it may be. But I do love working with makers on sites like Etsy. Because they, a lot of times, are making these items out (laughs) of their home, but they can make exactly what you want. And really at a fraction of the cost of some of the bigger-

Dave Marrs:

Right.

Jenny Marrs:

... You know, brands out there. So, yeah. I think people forget about using Etsy. And I think it's a good source for lots of things.

Mélanie Berliet:

And on the other side of the equation, what would you say is typically worth the splurge when it comes to making over a space?

Dave Marrs:

(laughs) We would totally disagree on this.

Jenny Marrs:

Yeah, go ahead (laughs).

Dave Marrs:

I focus on everything behind the wall, all the stuff that makes the house function properly, like insulation and that comfort feeling, like heating and air, like, that's all the stuff I care about. Great windows. Where I think Jenny is more so-

Jenny Marrs:

Well, I would say in- in every...

Dave Marrs:

... The pretty stuff.

Jenny Marrs:

.... Yeah. And I would just, like, choose. You know, choose where you want to spend your money. Like, in your living room, you may not wanna spend a ton of money (laughs) you know? But in your kitchen, you maybe find these amazing pendant lights that you have to have, and that's where you spend your money. You want, like, a focal point. You want a moment, in not every space, but I think in most spaces you want some sort of, like, Oh, that's the thing right there. Whether it's a really amazing handmade faucet, or a beautiful light, or beautiful

countertops, or tile, whatever it is that is gonna be that focal point for you in the space, I think, it goes a long way. Like people sometimes overlook, you know, tile, or lighting, or hardware, but really choosing... And you don't have to make all of them, you know, these elevated things. You can have one focal point. And if you have amazing lights, you have really simple tile backsplash, and that's great. Because then the- the light is your focal. I'm a big one on lighting. I think lighting is really important.

Mélanie Berliet:

It is. What would you say to a couple that has zero renovation or home design expertise but wants to tackle some projects themselves? Are there any go-to easier projects that you would recommend?

Dave MARRS:

So, if it were me, I would start in a smaller space.

Jenny MARRS:

Mm-hmm.

Dave MARRS:

Like, maybe a mudroom or something. Putting up a mudroom seat and storage. And you can focus on those little projects, and then they give you, they kind of give you the encouragement and the confidence to move into something bigger.

Jenny MARRS:

Mm-hmm.

Dave MARRS:

I think one of the downfalls of watching HGTV, or like, they see us do this show in an hour, redo a house. And they think, All right, let's go in and let's start with the kitchen first 'cause we hate it.

Jenny MARRS:

Yeah.

Dave MARRS:

And then they demolish their whole kitchen and-

Jenny MARRS:

It's too much.

Dave MARRS:

... It's too much, and you get overwhelmed by it.

Jenny MARRS:

Yeah.

Dave MARRS:

So, start small. Work up from there. And, you know, I mean, if you can do it in spaces that don't involve a lot of electrical moving, a lot of plumbing replacement, that's the easy stuff that DIYers can do really without a professional. You can just do it on your own.

Jenny MARRS:

Yeah.

Mélanie Berliet:

Maybe start with a “cloffice” – you know how people were turning closets into offices during the pandemic (laughs)?

Jenny MARRS:

Yes (laughs).

Dave MARRS:

Exactly. Exactly.

Jenny MARRS:

Our kids have all done that in their bedrooms. They’ve all turned their closets into their little, like - They call them their office. They all made tables with Dave in the barn.

Dave MARRS:

Yeah.

Mélanie Berliet:

I was actually going to ask you how you make a home more livable for a family with, say, five children.

Jenny MARRS:

It really just depends on the family and what your family needs. For us, our house is a small farmhouse that was built, you know, over 100 years ago. So, we are big on making use of every space. So, anywhere we can add storage, or cabinetry, or built-ins, we do that, because we have a lot of stuff.

Dave MARRS:

Yeah.

Jenny MARRS:

‘Cause kids have a lot of stuff. So, we have a closet under our stairs that we added. That is the kids craft closet. We have a little drop zone when you walk in the door where they’re supposed to hang their backpacks, but they always end up on the floor, but-

Mélanie Berliet:

(laughs).

Dave MARRS:

There’s a space for them.

Jenny MARRS:

...ideally there’s a hook that doesn’t ever get used, but it’s there. For us, things like hardwood floors that are indestructible. You know, there’s tons of options out there for flooring. We actually have white oak floors that we put in epoxy finish on. So, they’re just sealed in an indestructible way, that our kids have tried to destroy, and they haven’t yet. For me also, for our house, I chose to do white paint, because it makes everything feel a little bit brighter and a little bit bigger, ‘cause we have, like I said, a small house. And although people think it’s

a bad choice with kids, it's actually the easiest choice with kids, because you can use the little magic eraser and it's gone.

Mélanie Berliet:

Yep.

Jenny Marrs:

Where, if you have a dark, a really dark paint color, and it gets nicked, you're in trouble. In an ideal world, I would touch up our paint more often, but I just use a magic eraser and I call it a day.

Dave Marrs:

Yeah. I think a lot of people as well, like, they buy a house, or they move into a house where there's a designated space – okay, this is supposed to be a dining room. But you need to figure out what your family uses.

Jenny Marrs:

Yeah.

Dave Marrs:

Like, if your family just sits up at the island every night, why do you have a dining table sitting there that you don't use? Change it into an office, or a playroom, or something else that is functional for your family. Who cares what it's supposed to be?

Jenny Marrs:

Yeah.

Dave Marrs:

And so, that's a big part of our show, is going in with these homeowners and saying, Okay, how do you use the space?

Jenny Marrs:

Mm-hmm.

Dave Marrs:

How do you envision it? And I think if people step back and look at that, like, they probably wouldn't need nearly the size house that they have. They could probably deal with a lot less. And you know, over several moves where we just realized we didn't need a big house. Our house is for getting ready, for eating, and for sleeping in. Other than that, kids go outside and play.

Jenny Marrs:

(laughs).

Music fades in.

Mélanie Berliet (Voice Over):

We'll be back with more from Dave & Jenny Marrs after the break!

Music fades out.

[Mid-Roll Break]

Music fades in.

Mélanie Berliet (Voice Over):

Welcome back to The Better Buy, a podcast from Better Homes & Gardens.

Music fades out.

Mélanie Berliet:

And Jenny, I love that you called that out about the color of white paint.

Jenny Marrs:

Yeah.

Mélanie Berliet:

Because I feel the same way about towels, bedding, and couches even.

Jenny Marrs:

Yes.

Mélanie Berliet:

I have a four year old, and people think I'm crazy for all the white, but when it comes to stain removal, it is the easiest.

Jenny Marrs:

It's the easiest. I totally agree, yes (laughs). Yep, we have a lot of crayons and markers that we have removed from our walls (laughs). But I do like a pop of bold paint as well. But for us in this season of life, this is the best. And I think that's the other thing is to remember, like, everything is this season. First of all, if you have young kids, you can feel overwhelmed. And how do I make my home... Because, I mean, babies have a lot of stuff, no matter what. Toddlers, they have a lot of stuff. And you don't want... You want your home to be a home that is their home as well.

Dave Marrs:

Right.

Jenny Marrs:

So, you don't want it to be this, like, museum that all you care about is what other people think when they come and visit, that it looks perfect. And then your kids don't get to enjoy their home. I mean, it is their home too. They live here. So, I think, for me and for us, we've said this all the time, like, we can't have nice things. We just can't. We have five kids. It's okay (laughs). Like, and that is just the reality of our season of life. They grow really fast. Our boys are about to turn 12, and I still can't believe it. And before we blink, they're all gonna be out of the house. So, remembering that is important when you have kids and you have a home that you're trying to make beautiful but functional. Just remember, everything is a season. This season, this too shall pass. So, just embrace all the baby toys, 'cause they're gonna be out of here soon, and it'll be in the next season. So you can always make the space work for you now. It doesn't have to stay that way forever. In a few years, re-evaluate, you know? Then you can paint the walls a different color and that sort of thing.

Dave Marris:

Right.

Mélanie Berliet:

You can't have nice things, but you can make nice memories.

Jenny Marris:

Exactly.

Dave Marris:

There you go.

Jenny Marris:

Yeah. And I mean, you can have nice things, but you know, you know what I mean? They always get broken, or written on, or whatever.

Mélanie Berliet:

Right.

Jenny Marris:

But that makes them even better. I love... And like, that's what we talk about all the time, the imperfections. If everything was perfect, and you lived in a museum, then what is the fun in that, and where is the joy? The joy is in the fact that our table does have, like, all over it, there's crayon marks that I need to get off.

Mélanie Berliet:

(laughs).

Jenny Marris:

That's because my son was here coloring this morning, you know what I mean? So, that's just life. And if you're not living in your home, then it's not actually a home. It's just a house and walls. So, I think just keeping that perspective is probably the most important thing.

Mélanie Berliet:

Very well said. What is your favorite room in your current home, and why?

Jenny Marris:

Kitchen.

Dave Marris:

I like the front porch.

Jenny Marris:

Oh.

Dave Marris:

I like to be outside too. I'm just like my kids.

Jenny MARRS:

Yeah.

Dave MARRS:

I would rather be sitting outside. We've got a beautiful view. I like to hear nature. Anytime I can, I'm sitting with a cup of coffee out on our front porch.

Jenny MARRS:

Yeah. And I would say our kitchen and the front porch, those are my two. But the kitchen is where we spend, if we're inside, we're at the, we're in the kitchen always.

Dave MARRS:

Yeah.

Jenny MARRS:

I mean, the kitchen table is our office (laughs). It's where we work. It's where... Everything happens at the kitchen table.

Mélanie Berliet:

And what's the first thing you notice when you enter another person's house?

Jenny MARRS:

Well, it's only sometimes. I do notice smells a lot.

Dave MARRS:

Really?

Jenny MARRS:

I would say smell. That sounds bad. But sometimes they smell really good.

Mélanie Berliet:

Well, you were traumatized by the septic problem at that other house. (laughs).

Jenny MARRS:

Well and I think it's because we have animals, I'm always like, Oh my gosh, does our house smell? 'Cause, you know, sometimes you get used to it. And you're like, Wait, does my house smell like dog? I don't know. But sometimes you walk in a house and people have a candle burning. And you're like, Oh my gosh. And it brings you back to whatever... Smell is so, it brings back memories. So, if they're cooking or whatever, it reminds me of certain things. So, I do tend to notice smells, I suppose.

Dave MARRS:

I think I just notice general cleanliness. Like, general, like, is stuff picked up (laughs).

Jenny MARRS:

You are so mean (laughs).

Dave MARRS:

I am very mean.

Jenny Marris:

(laughs).

Dave Marris:

It's curious to me, like-

Jenny Marris:

No. Okay. Go ahead.

Dave Marris:

...the way I was raised, like, you always, you know, picked up and kept stuff orderly.

Jenny Marris:

But we don't.

Dave Marris:

We don't all the time. But when people come over, I try to make it a point to, like, Okay, everything is at least picked up.

Jenny Marris:

No.

Dave Marris:

And it's shoved behind a closet door-

Jenny Marris:

Yeah.

Dave Marris:

...or something.

Jenny Marris:

Personally, I would rather go to a friend's house that is not picked up, and that is just real. I love when there's stacks of mail on the counter, and there's kid's papers over here, and there's toys there, because it makes it feel normal, and I don't feel like, Oh gosh, I'm afraid to touch anything, and I'm afraid to have my kids here. It makes me say, Oh, wow. Okay, good. I'm not the only one who has (laughs) just, you know, you always have the piles, right, of things. So, I think it also is that idea of, you know, feeling, making people feel welcome without, you know, you don't, it's not like you're putting on a show for someone if they're your friend coming over, versus if we're going for a project. I think that's a different situation, I guess.

Dave Marris:

Yeah, I agree.

Jenny Marris:

Yeah.

Mélanie Berliet:

Is there anything you'll do differently in building out your home for the next season of your lives?

Jenny Marrs:

Oh, I don't think we're ever moving. I don't wanna move. Dave wants to move, but I don't. Yeah.

Dave Marrs:

I don't wanna move. I've never said-

Mélanie Berliet:

So, would you say you're in your forever home?

Jenny Marrs:

Oh, yeah.

Mélanie Berliet:

And if so, what makes a home a forever home?

Jenny Marrs:

Well, we moved a lot for a long time, and so I just don't ever wanna move again, number one. But number two, I love this home.

Dave Marrs:

Yeah. I do too.

Jenny Marrs:

We actually, this house that we're in, we picked up and moved.

Dave Marrs:

'Cause it was gonna get torn down.

Jenny Marrs:

Yeah.

Dave Marrs:

So, we moved it to, out to land outside of the city, and completely redid it. And then redid it again. The outside of our house looks exactly like it did when it was down on the, you know, the square.

Mélanie Berliet:

Oh, wow.

Dave Marrs:

And the inside we've made our own.

Jenny Marrs:

Yeah. It's just the memories here. Three of our kids came home to this house. The boys were really little. So, it's like all they know. This is their home. And growing up, Dave and I both lived in the same house our whole childhood, for the most part.

Dave MARRS:

Yeah.

Jenny MARRS:

And there's just something about that. That consistency and that steadiness that both of us experienced as a kid, that we want to give to our family, our kids. Particularly now, because the world is really hard, and life is crazy. And our world is a little bit crazy. And so, to have this place that they can come back, that they have, that's steady, that this is home. It's not saying that it's wrong to move all the time. But for us, for our life, we need some- something that's just steady, and the foundation. And that's what this place is for our family. And we have land. We have animals. We have gardens. We have all those things that teach our kids a lot of things about responsibility and caring for others. You know, whether it's the animals, or, you know, caring for the blueberry plants. They learn a lot here. And, we try to, like, insulate them, and give them a little bit of protection over their world, and this place feels like that to me.

Dave MARRS:

Yeah, I agree.

Mélanie Berliet:

Beautifully said. And if you could give one piece of advice to new homeowners, what would it be?

Dave MARRS:

Really a home for most people, is going to be the biggest investment of your life. If it's a place that you wanna be that, you want, like you love the community, you love your neighbors, like build around that. And create, make that your- your space. Like, make that where you wanna live life and do life. And if it's not, if you don't, you know, if you don't feel at home in your community, or after a few years, or at home, you know, with your travel to work, with whatever it may be, it's a great investment. Sell it and go find that place. Find that place that makes you feel like Jenny does, or like what she just said. Where it's your home, and it's your safe spot. Because we're luckily in America. Like, it's a great investment. It's a great tax shelter. It's a great way to keep profit. Like, if you do decide to sell it, there's so many great things about owning a home. I always encourage people, like, go find that place that's yours, and hold on to it.

Jenny MARRS:

Yeah, that was good.

Mélanie Berliet:

Wonderful.

Jenny MARRS:

I would say-

Mélanie Berliet:

Oh, sorry. Go ahead, Jenny. Please.

Jenny MARRS:

No, just one thing I would say too, is not to get overwhelmed and caught up in all of the resources out there that we talked about earlier (laughs), right? The magazines, the Instagrams, the Pinterests, all of those things can be so overwhelming, because there are so many trends. And there also are so many people out there that are doing a beautiful job. I mean, they- they do a beautiful job in their homes, but they're constantly sharing

these new projects that they did. And you'll see them, and you're like, Oh my gosh, that's so beautiful. But you have to remember that, a lot of times they're getting stuff. You know, like, maybe they got that tile for free. I don't know. Like, it is possible. So, it's okay if you can't afford that handmade tile that costs \$25 a tile. Um, you don't have to have a perfect Instagramable home. You don't. I just feel so passionate about that. That your home is so much more than a photo to share with other people. It is a place that really is for you and your family. And if you love something, if you love an orange chair that no one else loves, who cares? It's yours. And you love it. And get it. And put it in your living room, and enjoy it.

Dave MARRS:

Yeah.

Jenny MARRS:

And that is something we're both really passionate about.

Mélanie Berliet:

I'll wrap up with a few quick response questions.

Jenny MARRS:

Okay.

Mélanie Berliet:

What does home mean to you in a single word?

Dave MARRS:

Comfort.

Jenny MARRS:

Safe.

Mélanie Berliet:

Spacious lawn or large basement?

Jenny MARRS:

Lawn. Spacious lawn.

Dave MARRS:

Lawn.

Mélanie Berliet:

High ceilings or lots of natural light?

Dave MARRS:

Light.

Jenny MARRS:

Light.

Mélanie Berliet:

Neighbors or privacy?

Jenny Marrs:

Privacy. With neighbors that I can visit (laughs).

Dave Marrs:

Yeah, I would say neighbors.

Mélanie Berliet:

Fully renovated or fixer upper?

Jenny Marrs:

Fixer upper.

Dave Marrs:

Fixer upper.

Mélanie Berliet:

Pom-poms or tassels?

Jenny Marrs:

Pom-poms.

Dave Marrs:

Tassels.

Jenny Marrs:

(laughs) I was wondering what you would say.

Mélanie Berliet:

Plants or pets?

Dave Marrs:

Plants.

Jenny Marrs:

Ah, I can't decide. No.

Dave Marrs:

Plants!

Jenny Marrs:

No, both. Both.

Mélanie Berliet:

(laughs).

Jenny MARRS:

(laughs).

Mélanie Berliet:

It's a tough one. It's a tough one. Well, thank you so much for joining us. This has been really, really fun for me, and I know our listeners are gonna love it too.

Jenny MARRS:

Oh, thank you.

Dave MARRS:

Thank you.

Jenny MARRS:

It was so nice to talk to you.

Music fades in.

Mélanie Berliet (Voice Over):

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Music fades out.