

Blanchette

Bruce's Studio News

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Best laid plans... from the ridiculous to the sublime!

In June my wife and I undertook what I thought was going to be a reasonable summer project to update our downstairs bathroom. The idea was to tear out the old 1/2 bath, reorient the rear entrance to the house directly into the kitchen instead, and enlarge bath area by eliminating some wasted entry space. Since the bath also adjoined a laundry room and pantry it was my idea to redesign that space as well and make it more useable. Since there was also a door in the laundry leading onto a small porch off the back deck, I reasoned, "why not extend the project to the porch as well and make it more useful than just a room for litter trays for our three cats." (a particular annoyance of mine) That's when I decided to add a three foot extension to the footprint of the overall space to create an enclosed "Catio" to serve the same purpose and isolate the cat's bathroom from the rest of the house. Now, since there would still be some extra space in the add-on, I figured it would be real nice to have an enclosed utility shed within the footprint of the plans also; a place in which we could keep garbage cans and recycleables away from marauding raccoons and skunks. Of course, the addition of the three extra feet to the floorplan meant that we would now have to extend the rafter lengths of this rear shed room on our house, as well as provide a new footing and foundation. Oh, yes... and while we're at it, we should update all the plumbing and electrical in the space.

You can probably see where this is going!

In other words, we were now creating a whole new addition OVER the old part of the house! It's now September, and my studio became a storage facility for everything that came out of the old space during the reconstruction. Fortunately, the end is in sight... but, I can't apply the new metal roof on the project until two upstairs windows and five others ordered in June arrive on site, but that's another story...

It's been quite the summer!

What I have described above, however, almost seems ridiculous as I re-read it. My creative mind just doesn't stop! Every idea instigates newer and better ideas, and original plans are altered to improve the final result...but, we are all at the mercy of extenuating circumstances beyond our control... and my desire to do the job right superceded the length of the time it may take to complete it...

Meanwhile...

In my upstairs studio I have tried to keep some momentum going... at right you see my light table as it sits with my Composite Poetry project in process.

Surrounded by a single issue of Newsweek headers and advertising slogans I am in the process of completing my 79th collage "poem" toward my goal of "100 Weeks of Recycled News" This is a book project for those times when other creative ventures are put on temporary hold, for technical reasons or altered plans. Below is a dust jacket draft for the book.

