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Move That Bus: 'Extreme' Team Finishes Penn Hills Home

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ABC Cast, Crew, Neighbors Unveil Family's New House

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PENN HILLS, Pa. -- "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" has been working non-stop on a new home for a Penn Hills family, and now it's handing over the keys.

Friday marked the end of a weeklong build of the Slaughter family's new house on Grandview Avenue.

Members of the community joined the ABC show's cast and crew for the traditional "Move that bus" ceremony.

A Look Back At The Build:

Montgomery & Rust Inc. has been designing and building homes since the early 1970s, but this was the family-owned company's biggest challenge yet.

On Monday, saws were scurrying as volunteers were working 24/7 to recover two hours of lost time as their Friday deadline loomed near.

"We got a little bit of a setback yesterday because of Hollywood -- shooting took longer. Fortunately, things are starting to move along," said builder Donald Montgomery.

On Sunday, crews demolished the Slaughter home while the family was on vacation.

No strangers to tight deadlines, the show's design celebrities remained confident and gave a brief glimpse as to what awaits the family's 10-year-old son in his new room.

"He loves robots, he loves designing toys, and since we're in Pittsburgh, I figured I'd weld everything together -- so I'm going to make him a bed, a desk and all kinds of stuff out of steel," said designer Johnny Littlefield.



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The Slaughter family of seven found out only last Friday that a new home would be waiting for them when they got back from Disney World today.

With the clock ticking, hundreds of local volunteers pitched in to make sure that happens.

"I'm in a trades program, and they said it would be a good opportunity to volunteer and do this," said Stephan Richardson.

Many longtime fans of the show couldn't resist the urge to help out.

"I always watch the show, and it seemed like a good opportunity to get out and help the community," said Derek Gordon.

The show is also taking on a new focus with this season's homes.

"One of the things we really want to do this year is put as many green elements as we can into the homes we're building," said designer Paul DiMeo, a Point Park University graduate.

Sky 4 flew over Grandview Avenue on Sunday afternoon as demolition crews used a giant crane to take the house down. The whole process took just minutes.

 [Raw Sky 4 Video: 'Extreme Makeover' House Demolished](#)

First, the walls came down, followed by the roof tumbling down. Pretty soon, the house was nothing more than a pile of plaster and siding.

The crew had a big job this week. On Monday, the crew began pouring concrete for the basement and framing the new house. Drywall work was set for Tuesday with electrical work set for Wednesday.

Making the dream house into a reality wasn't easy. Instead of six months, crews had just one week to demolish, design and build the home.

"The key is the planning," said Mark Rust. "Everyone knows what their task is, and they're focused on their tasks and they don't get in anybody else's way."

Once the house was built, designers from "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" customized each room for each family member based on their interests and tastes in style.

Plumbers, electricians, carpenters and just about anyone else who could help were called upon to make the family's wish come true.

"You gotta stick to the schedule because if you get behind on one thing, it just compounds," said Rust.

On Wednesday's to-do list was the plumbing, interior painting and yard work.

"We'll wrap up the exterior porch there today, and the landscapers are here working around the clock getting the landscaping in so it's going pretty well," Rust said. "One of the things that's also been great is if there's been a shortage in one area, people have been jumping in to help out. It's been great."

The goal was to wrap up the exteriors before Thursday when the designers made their personal touches on each room.

"Every time we get to change a family's life, it changes us a little bit inside as well. Look, we're building this family this beautiful house, we're almost done; these contractors have been amazing," said Eduardo Xol, the show's landscaping designer.

The various work crews had to work side by side, juggling duties and trying not to get in the way of one another. With the exception of Tuesday, the weather was perfect.

"I'm from California so I never get to experience the fall. It's really nice to be building this house when the leaves are turning. It's just beautiful, and people are so nice and so friendly," said Xol.

On Thursday, the designers moved in the furniture, decorated and finished last-minute touches before the big day on Friday.

WEEKLONG SCHEDULE

Friday, Oct. 17:

Wake-up call, builder meets the family, media alerted about 9 a.m.

Move-out of the Slaughter family begins.

Saturday, Oct. 18:

House emptied for demolition. Slaughter family leaves on a vacation during construction.

Sunday, Oct. 19:

Media welcome to the "Braveheart" march of volunteers to the construction area beginning at 6:30 a.m., and demolition 1 p.m.

Excavate basement and trench footers.

Monday, Oct. 20:

Morning - Pour basement, backfill basement, house framing begins,

Afternoon - Window installation begins, rough plumbing and electrical, second-floor deck.

Evening and Overnight - Rough electrical, plumbing and HVAC, set roof trusses, roof shingles.

Tuesday, Oct. 21:

Morning - Drywall and siding installation begins.

Afternoon - Prime and finish ceilings, stone and tile installation begins.

Evening and Overnight - Cabinets installed, exterior trim begins, interior millwork begins, painting.

Wednesday, Oct. 22:

Morning - HVAC installed, install plumbing.

Afternoon - Final electrical work, install doors and hardware, appliances installed.

Evening and Overnight - Install hardwood floors, install closet shelving, painting.

Thursday, Oct. 23:

Morning - install landscaping.

Afternoon - Designers move in furniture and decorate.

Evening and Overnight - Cleaning interior and exterior.

Friday, Oct. 24:

All media and public welcome to "Move that bus" beginning at 2 p.m. - family welcomed home.

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