

## Passing on the dream

5 Dec, 2020

Today, Mary and I shared a peak experience. We'll be closing on the sale of our old house this week, so we met the buyers on site to do a walk through, tell them how everything works, etc. I was a bit nervous about meeting them but it felt like the right thing to do.

They turned out to be the buyers you always hope for. A young couple (okay, much younger than us, anyway), and very pleasant. They love the house, it's perfect for them in terms of layout, etc and the choices we made when we had it built could have been made with them in mind. So it was quite a nice meeting in terms of the handoff but chatting with the Mom and Dad wasn't the best part for me.

While Mary continued with the grownup tour I detoured to investigate the voices coming from the large front bedroom that has for the last two years served as my office. Now it was empty except for the two little girls who will share it as they grow up. They welcomed me in grandly and proceeded to tell me their plans for conversion of the space to reflect their personal tastes. Didn't sound like Mom was going to have much of a say in the matter.

This was the space where I worked, read and did my writing. During my residence, the room was functional and comfortable and, well, mine. And now, it will be theirs, the private domain of two little girls with all the imagining and learning and growing and giggling and sibling fights and sister confidences to come. Where I hung our family's tribal masks, they might paint a mural. My bookcases will be replaced by beds and my closetful of travel bags and household storage bins will give way to girls' clothes and play things.

It's no longer mine; it's already becoming theirs and that's precisely the way it should be.

This house was adequate for Mary and me and we don't regret the time we spent there. But it was only and would only ever be a house to us. To this young family, it will be home.

If you could have seen the faces of those little girls, you would know what a great day Mary and I enjoyed today. We will love our new home which will really be our home and now two little girls, their teenage older sisters and Mom and Dad will have a home we helped prepare for them.

All in all, a good day.