

Ideas for Your Home

Remodel

Ultimate
Kitchen
Planner
p.46

Family Friendly

Updates that
really work

Painting Made
Easy p. 30

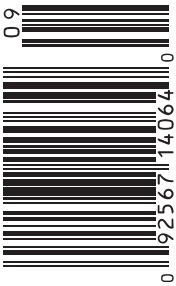
Smart Bedroom
Storage p. 28

5 Backyard Escapes

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BHG SIP Orange Checkout

A suspended wall piece composed of the same natural lime plaster as the surrounding walls acts as a room divider and an area for art display.





Inner Peace

A boxy Queen Anne gets a down-to-earth makeover with a flowing layout and natural materials.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY MINDY PANTIEL

PHOTOGRAPHED BY EMILY MINTON-REDFIELD

Playing with Fire

Architect Michael Krupnick designed a fireplace that suits the new look of his parents' home. The modern fixture incorporates two alcohol-burning units, offering flames and warmth. The Colorado red stone used on the hearth matches the material on the porch floor and features a hand-chipped edge designed by the homeowner. The superfluous chimney—the alcohol units require no flue—now functions as a room divider and a welcome place to display art.





One's own parents can make particularly challenging clients. Architect Michael Krupnick knows this all too well. When it came to remodeling their 1920 Queen Anne Victorian in Boulder, his mother and father wanted just "to redo the kitchen and move in," says Krupnick, who had other ideas for the beleaguered structure. "There was a large amount of rooms in a very small house, and it was not well-organized," he says. "I told them that if they were going to renovate, they should really do it right." It took some convincing, but finally the couple—who split their time between Florida and Colorado—agreed to a whole-house remodel.

Noting that the 1,600-square-foot home had endured several previous makeovers—the most recent leaving a glut of poor-quality finishes—Krupnick was determined to honor the original architecture while bringing a modern, Zen-like feel to the house. "I wanted to create a peaceful setting with honest, natural materials," says the architect, who worked closely with Boulder interior designers Andrew and Gayle McArthur.

OPPOSITE The original fireplace design included a partial wall for a chimney flue, but a flue was unnecessary with the installation of alcohol burners to create flames.

ABOVE Simple clean-lined furnishings look at home with the natural plaster walls and reclaimed-wood floors. Radiant heating eliminates unattractive ducts and radiators.

RIGHT Area rugs such as this one from Tibet define various spaces within the open room. An antique Asian sideboard provides storage and display space.



Whole House



But before tackling the overall aesthetics, the team needed to address the space issues.

They decided to maintain the room locations but gut the main level to the studs. “The rooms were all on the small side, so our plan was to open everything up and create a series of intimate spaces that flow from one to the next,” Andrew McArthur says. To do that, the trio employed simple but effective maneuvers, such as raising the heights of the doorways and painting the window trim to match the walls. “Painting the trim causes the windows to recede and makes the rooms feel larger,” Krupnick says. He also replaced the acoustical ceiling tiles with a ceiling plane unified by painted beams that repeat in the kitchen, dining room, and entry. “Subtle things like the beams provide a background rhythm in a house,” he says.

When it came to selecting the materials palette and color scheme, the designers honored the homeowners’ request for a contemporary Japanese Craftsman look that allowed the “spirit of the materials” to shine through, Gayle McArthur says. “That meant no stains or

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ABOVE Soft earth-tone hues replaced blue, purple, and white on this 1920s Queen Anne Victorian. Other exterior changes include new shingles and a custom cherrywood door.

RIGHT Cherrywood, quartz, and stainless steel are the perfect materials for this Japanese Craftsman-style kitchen. The sun-filled nook features a custom cherry table, and a leather banquette is big enough to accommodate the homeowners’ 12 grandchildren.





smart strategy
Recycled-resin panels are an eco-friendly way to divide rooms and create privacy. Visit 3-form.com for more information.





finishes—just the wood and plaster as they are.” Every wall is painted the same color, which was pulled directly from the stone on the exterior. “It flows through the whole house, tying everything together,” she says.

Natural lime plaster walls and reclaimed hardwood floors define the main level, where the Craftsman-style columns and archways are fashioned from natural cherry to make them “more like furniture within the space,” Krupnick says. To blur the boundary between outside and in, Colorado red stone tile on the porch floor repeats in the entry and on the fireplace hearth, which divides the living and dining rooms. A cozy den across from the dining room provides a place to watch television and read.

In the kitchen, hickory cabinets, reddish marble countertops, an angled stove wall, and a cramped eating nook made the room feel dark and small. Straightening the wall, adding cherry cabinets, installing neutral countertops and tiles, and removing a small corner in the nook opened up the space. New 8-foot-high French

OPPOSITE The backsplash tile runs from floor to ceiling to create a unified, contemporary look. Both the pocket door and interior window open to the adjacent home office.

ABOVE Custom cherry columns define the den for TV viewing and reading. Artifacts from the homeowners’ world travels are on display.

RIGHT Translucent recycled-resin panels allow light to shine through from the kitchen to the home office. Willow sticks embedded in the panels add an air of tranquillity.



Whole House



“My feeling about green or sustainable architecture is to do it beautifully and design it right the first time. And be bold!”

— architect Michael Krupnick

doors that open to the deck and taller windows in the nook now make breakfast a bright and sunny experience.

The home's upper level presented its own set of problems. A warren of tiny, angular rooms tucked inside the attic had emerged from previous renovations. At the end of a dark hallway, the existing master bedroom had fenestration in all the wrong places. To create a serene sleeping alcove, Krupnick removed two small windows and four skylights. "Closing the windows not only cut down on heat from the late-afternoon sun, but it also provided a place to put the bed," he says.

To maximize square footage in the small

master bathroom—situated in the middle of the hallway—entry doors slide open to make the hall part of the space. Glass partitions flanking the double vanity provide privacy for the toilet on one side and the soaking tub and shower on the other. "The glass partitions allow light to flow through all three spaces," Krupnick says.

His parents now have a warm, contemporary home that lives much larger than its modest footprint. "No one measures the square footage of a Porsche," Krupnick says. "It's all about how something feels and flows—the energy inside a house. It's something you feel when you walk inside."

RESOURCES ON PAGE 116

OPPOSITE LEFT

Sandstone tiles, oil-rubbed bronze fixtures, and custom cherry cabinets in the master bath continue the calm palette established elsewhere in the house. Rain-glass partitions enclose the toilet on one side and the tub and shower on the other.

OPPOSITE, TOP RIGHT

Sandstone tile continues in the shower room, which features two showerheads and a soaking tub.

OPPOSITE, BOTTOM RIGHT

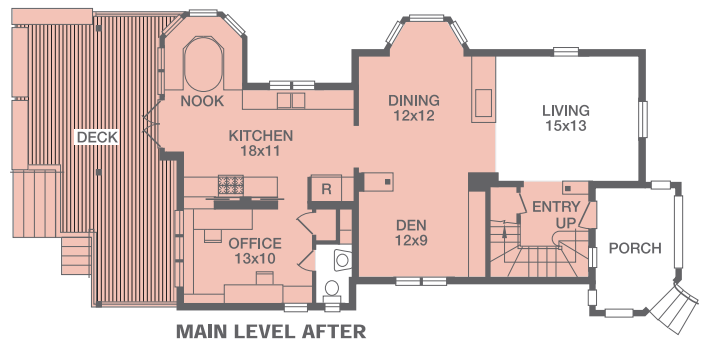
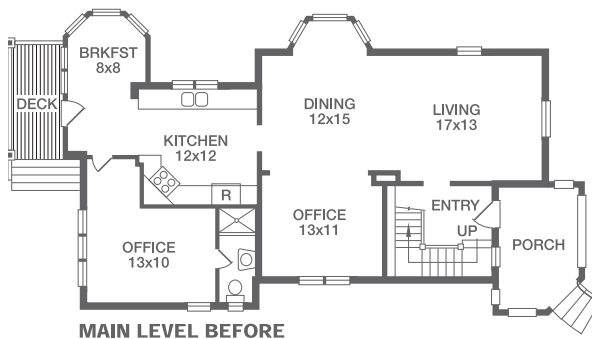
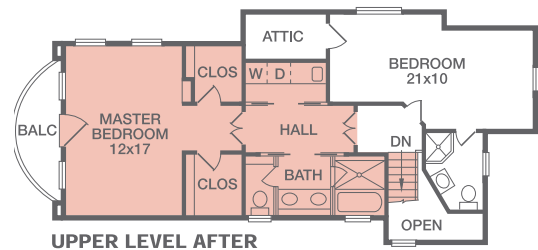
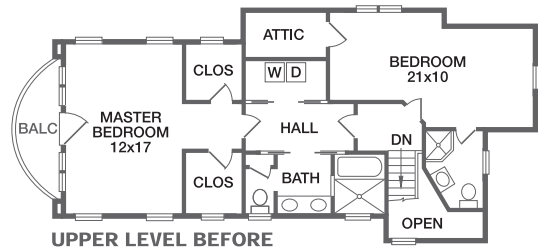
Grass-cloth wallcovering lends contemporary Asian flair to the master bedroom.

THE PROBLEM

Too many poorly executed renovations left this once-charming Queen Anne Victorian with a series of dark, choppy, uninviting spaces.

THE SOLUTIONS

- **A new open floor plan** improves traffic flow without changing square footage.
- **Raising existing door frames** and painting window trim to blend with the walls creates calming, Zen-like spaces.
- **Ceiling beams**, painted to match the ceiling, repeat in all the major living spaces to tie the rooms together.
- **A shoji-style pocket door** between the office and the kitchen supports the contemporary theme. Closing the door provides privacy; opening it allows interaction between the cook and the computer user.



Change