

RENOVATION STYLE[®]

50 Best Ideas

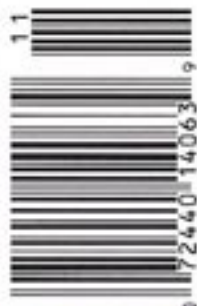
*Create the Character
You Crave*



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CRAFTSMAN
BIRMINGHAM
MICHIGAN



This Photo The foyer's dark-stained white oak floor, crisp white walls, and custom-designed paneling are recurring themes in the house. The dual archways were raised in the renovation. *Opposite* The Craftsman-style home's appealing angularity was enhanced in the remodel. A miniature garage to the right of the entrance became a mudroom after a new driveway was pushed through to the back.



Now or Never

After outgrowing a beloved 1926 home, the owners decide to stay and renovate rather than move.



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For nearly 17 years, Julia Schwegman's home was all but perfect. A modest Craftsman in suburban Detroit with steep, angular rooflines and plaster interior walls, it was "charming," she says, a neighborhood dwelling with graceful curb appeal. The problem came on gradually and was really a matter of math: two adults, four kids, two dogs. "Our family was growing, and we needed more space," Julia says.

Specifically, she says, they needed a solution for their carless garage, a tiny port on the front of the house that had long ago been hijacked for storage. "We really wanted a garage in the back, but our lot is so narrow that there wasn't enough room to run a driveway along the side of the house. We couldn't get there."

For years that's how things stood. They met with architects. They hemmed and they hawed. They lived in their home and their family grew bigger. "Nothing we came up with seemed right," she says. "We even thought about moving. And then we talked to Glenda."

Architect Glenda Meads had an idea the others hadn't voiced: Give the house a shave. "By notching it in about a foot and a half," she says,



Above In the living room, the new look is softer and lighter. A new limestone fireplace surround replaces the smaller wood original, while French doors open to a home office. The room-softening built-in bench includes the same paneling found in the foyer. **Opposite** The high ceilings in the dining room were achieved through thoughtful limitation of the upper-level expansion. French doors allow easy access to the patio, while glass in the front and back of the matching pair of china cabinets opens the dining area to the kitchen.



BEST IDEAS

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Interior arches were enlarged, then repeated throughout the house, beginning with the awning at the front door.

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Ceiling heights vary. It's visually appealing and creates opportunities for decorating and lighting.

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Paneling in the foyer provides striking texture. It's repeated in the living and family rooms for continuity.

33

The mudroom includes built-in lockers for each of the four children, so it's easy for them to keep things organized.

34

China cabinets between the dining room and kitchen have glass on both sides, transferring light throughout.



Voice of Experience

When building restrictions seem overwhelming, use them to your advantage, architect Glenda Meads says. "Constraints were so much a part of this project—how close we could be to the side lot, the need to keep things nicely

scaled—they actually helped us to be creative and functional about the spaces we had. That kind of thing happens all the time in renovations. You come up with solutions that aren't necessarily bigger but smarter."

"we'd gain just enough space for the driveway. From there we could build a detached garage in the back corner, and the rest of the project could sort of fall into place." And that's exactly what happened—finally. "The old garage space became a mudroom, then everything else just kind of made sense," Julia says.

In back, where there was room to bump out, a new family room—with the master suite above—became the one sizeable addition to the house. A screen porch made way for a new dining room, and the old dining room became a bright, functional kitchen. A spacious, open patio now provides a comfortable transition between indoors and out and is a favorite place to lounge on hot summer days.

Inside, Meads says, the idea was simple: Create modern, functional spaces without overwhelming the home's original Craftsman character. "The kitchen, for example, was sort of an afterthought in older homes like this. So we made it more central and flowing, and now it opens across to both the dining room and the living room. The entire layout is more family-friendly, with rooms overlapping, but each room is also defined with its own walls and own distinct ceiling planes."

Julia, who worked closely with Meads on every aspect of the project (and, following this renovation, became an interior designer), agrees. "Everything is connected now, and there's this great flow throughout the house. It's really because everything we did, we designed around four kids and two dogs. It had to be livable and practical."

Though a rainstorm—during a stretch when the roof was removed—ruined most of the original interior, Julia says it was a blessing in disguise. While some of the features they'd planned on preserving—the archways



Above Left Straight lines and symmetry at the kitchen sink create a clean, crisp feel. The countertop is fossilized limestone. **Opposite** The kitchen is pure, unadorned function: a big, rectangular, marble-topped island; minimal upper cabinets; easy-to-clean tile and stainless steel; and a pantry around the corner.







This Photo Soft contrast between white walls and dark furnishings creates depth and character in the family room. The molding and paneling, designed by homeowner Julia Schwegman, bring a sense of scale to the room. A comfy reading nook includes drawers for storage.



We have dark wood floors and white walls everywhere. There's this sense of consistency that I really like and that I think makes everything work."

With the children, friends, and pets; with the frenzy of foot traffic between mudroom and basement ("where the kids can go crazy," Julia says); and with homework and snacks and meals in the kitchen, the house is certainly not quiet, she says, and it's never dirt-free. But that's not a problem. "Actually, people are always saying how clean the house looks, but it's rarely clean. It's just the symmetry and openness and the crisp lines and contrast. I guess it's the style I prefer." It's a house meant for a family, Julia says. And yes, she's glad they stayed.

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Above The master bedroom, which has a 12-foot ceiling, features tall Oriental panels on both sides of the bed and a linen-upholstered headboard sized to match. The bilevel mahogany table was custom-made in Honduras. **Top Right** Chair-rail-height marble surrounds a freestanding tub in the new master bath. The chandelier was relocated from the old dining room. "It's a nice, grounding contrast to all the sleek, contemporary fixtures in the rest of the bath," Julia says.

Above Right The only major addition was to the rear of the house. The new family room, with the master bedroom above, is on the left; the new dining room, which replaced a screen porch, is on the right.

