

Better Homes and Gardens Special Interest Publications.

Get Inspired. Make It Happen.

# Remodel

## Add Warmth & Color

29 rooms show you how

11 Fast Fall Fix-Ups

One-Wall Remodel: Home Library

Plus Top Picks for Roofing, Siding, Windows, Doors

October/November 2008  
Display until November 18

\$5.99 U.S.



BHG SIP Red Checkout

# Vibrant Adaptation

BOLD COLORS AND CLEVER RESTRUCTURING ADD PERSONALITY AND FUNCTION BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE A 1930S VIRGINIA HOME.



WRITTEN BY CANDACE ORD MANROE PHOTOGRAPHS BY TONY GIAMMARINO PRODUCED BY MONA DWORIN



**H**ouses, particularly older houses, tend to spread out over time, and the results are not always pretty. Built in 1932, the house in Richmond, Virginia, that caught the eyes of Rick and Suzanne Morris had plenty of curb appeal in the front but showed its age in the back, where it carried extra weight from two flat-roof additions. “It looked like an aircraft carrier back there,” says John George, owner of the design-build firm the Morrises hired to whip their house into shape. “The flat-roof additions were so big you literally could play badminton on the rooftop.”

The quick-fix additions resulted from the best of intentions. The previous owners added a first-floor master suite and a window-lined porch to allow them “to age in place, without hassling with stairs,” George says. But that wasn’t an issue for the Morrises, who are constantly on the go with their two children, ages 4 and 6.

**OPPOSITE:** Rick and Suzanne Morris’ Virginia home, built in 1932, does not have a formal foyer. Guests are welcomed directly into the living room, which is filled with the owners’ favorite antiques from their former home in England.

**ABOVE:** Part of the home’s original architecture, the living room sports fresh, youthful colors appropriate for its young owners.



"In fact, one of the reasons we wanted to be in this neighborhood was its proximity to schools, restaurants, and stores," Suzanne says. "After moving here from London, we still wanted to be able to walk most places instead of drive."

Instead of amputating the flat-roof additions to restore the home's rightful architecture, George reshaped them. He relocated their interior walls to create more functional spaces on the main floor. Then he rendered the flat roof moot by building an additional 1,200 square feet on top of it, using the home's charming 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ -story front facade as a model. The new upper level includes a spacious master suite with a fireplace and sitting room, a guest room and bath, and a laundry room. "The original architecture was beautifully balanced and had great detailing," George says. "In building the upstairs in back, we very carefully mimicked the architecture of the original body of the house in terms of mass and details."

On the main floor, the former master bedroom became a much-needed family room. "John's challenge was to reorient the views so that when we look out the windows we can see the yard instead of the neighbor's house," Suzanne says. New windows opposite from the originals capture a view of what had been a vacant lot next door, which the Morrises bought and integrated into their landscape.



## COLOR CLUES

Designer Kat Liebschwager offers foolproof tips for using bold color.

- \* **Pick colors from your closet for your home's palette.** The colors you wear are usually the colors you will enjoy living with.
- \* **Keep backgrounds neutral.** "I usually recommend leaving big pieces and backgrounds neutral, then picking up bold color with art and accessories."
- \* **Be consistent.** "I always say keep your palette consistent throughout the home, and keep your colors moving. In the Morris house, we moved the pink, green, and orange from room to room."
- \* **Choose colors with similar values or vividness.** "It would be too jarring to walk from the pear-green dining room into a pastel room," Liebschwager says. For that reason, the rooms adjoining the dining room replay a palette every bit as bright as the dining room's walls.

**OPPOSITE TOP:** The new kitchen marries traditional elegance with modern-day function. Professional-style appliances and a storage-savvy island with adjoining breakfast bar meet the needs of a young family.

**OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** A sleek bar with a mudroom behind it replaced the original small kitchen.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Though built in a different part of the house, the new kitchen retains the original kitchen's hardwood floors. The island's finish is a tart raspberry red, which stands out against the cream-color cabinetry and pale tile backsplash.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** Furnished with a small table and chairs where the kids can play, the new game room was created from space that had been a small library.



*Project Pointer*  
**THE PERFECT CHANDELIER**

Rick and Suzanne Morris first discovered this vibrant chandelier in a catalog, but its hefty price tag put them off. By trawling the Internet, Rick eventually found the fixture at a fraction of the cost. "The chandelier was originally supposed to be a raspberry red," says designer Kat Liebschwager. "When it came, it was so orange! So we worked around it."



**"The dining room was the most daring, with the pear-green walls and orange-red chandelier. We had the farm table custom-made. It was fun to do a more casual table with this gorgeous Murano glass chandelier hanging over it."**

—designer Kat Liebschwager

Making every inch count, George turned the small library into a playroom for the children. Painted warm ochre, the playroom cheerfully beckons the eye from the living room, which it adjoins through an open doorway.

Once the space-shuffling began, its momentum was unstoppable. Except for the living and dining rooms, every space on the main floor was assigned a new function. The original small kitchen gave way to a bar and mudroom with a wall in between. Interior designer Kat Liebschwager created a youthful, chic style with black bar cabinetry, a black subway-tile backsplash, and slate floors. The mudroom behind the bar has built-in cubbies for the kids' coats and boots.

George then built a new kitchen in what had been a laundry room and a master bath. "We wanted the kitchen to be very open, with no sink in the island," Suzanne says. "It works well for our family. It's nice to be able to prepare food for our kids, and they're right there." Suzanne calls the island's Colonial-red finish "more like a shade of raspberry." Her color mantra: "The bolder, the better!"

"Kat couldn't show me anything with too much color," Suzanne says, with a laugh. Suzanne's first purchase was the dining room's Chinese-red chandelier.

**OPPOSITE:** Pear-green paint gives the original dining room a refreshing new look. An imported red chandelier is a striking focal point.

**BELOW:** A former master suite addition on the first floor became the new family room. The Morrisses reoriented the room and added more windows to capture views of the backyard. Matching window seats flank the fireplace, creating pleasing symmetry, while built-in cabinets offer abundant storage opportunities. A new deck off the family room improves indoor-outdoor flow.





“With that as our starting point, it was hard to go back,” she says. Pear-green walls in the dining room maximize the dramatic use of complementary colors.

All the interior changes and additions occurred without stepping outside the house’s footprint. Outdoors was a different story. A new side porch now leads to a screen porch, which opens onto a deck, “drawing people out of the kitchen and family room into the garden,” George says. The sun porch is Suzanne’s favorite spot. “Because this is Richmond, we’re able to spend a lot of time out there,” she says. “We eat many meals there, and that’s where I sit to watch our kids while they play. Everything about the house now works very well for our daily living.”

**OPPOSITE:** The vaulted ceiling, decorative wood beams, and oversize mirror above the fireplace add a sense of grandeur to the new second-floor master bedroom.

**ABOVE LEFT:** Limestone combines with cobalt blue tiles to form a dramatic floor in the new master bathroom. Matching tile in the spacious walk-in shower completes the look.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** An eye-catching cobalt light fixture complements the shower and floor tile and adds a playful touch to the room.

RESOURCES ON PAGE 120



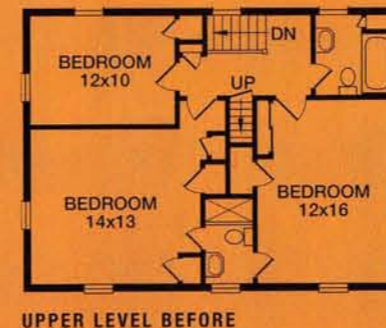
**TOP RIGHT:** The original walkway cut through the middle of the front yard. Landscape designer Robin Woods rerouted the walkway, which now connects the new driveway along the side of the house with the front door.

**MIDDLE RIGHT:** Rick and Suzanne's quality of life improved with the creation of a screen porch, where they share meals, entertain, and watch their children play. The kitchen overlooks the porch and captures the view beyond.

**BOTTOM RIGHT:** The 1¼-story house's original front facade inspired the rear addition, which includes the screen porch and a deck.



For more information on two-story additions, go to [RemodelingCenter.com/Remodel](http://RemodelingCenter.com/Remodel)



UPPER LEVEL BEFORE



MAIN LEVEL BEFORE



UPPER LEVEL AFTER



MAIN LEVEL AFTER

■ CHANGE ■ ADDITION

**THE CHANGE:**

A second-floor addition, reworked rooms on the main floor, and new outdoor living spaces make a 1932 house function like new for its young owners.

**WHAT IT TOOK:**

- \* Remedying the unsightly flat roof in the back by building a 1,200-square-foot addition on top of it, and repeating the original architectural lines and mass of the front of the house.
- \* Including a new master suite, guest bedroom and bath, and laundry room in the upstairs addition.
- \* Reorienting main-floor rooms with new windows and doors to face the backyard instead of the house next door.
- \* Building a porch, screen porch, and deck for outdoor living.
- \* Remodeling and moving existing main-level rooms, including creating a new, family-friendly kitchen.
- \* Building a new driveway to integrate a former vacant lot into the property.
- \* Rerouting the walkway to the front door to connect with the new driveway.