

2003 OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

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# Remodeling

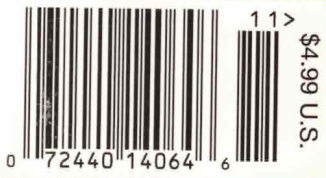
## Ideas for Your Home™

# family home

creating special spaces for everyday living

10 inspiring makeovers

October/November 2003  
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9 ways to bring cottage style to any room  
how to afford granite

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REMODELING IDEAS





before



# don't fence

Blocked from expanding on three sides, one family finds more living space by extending their house to the rear.





# them in

One bathroom and three bedrooms were plenty when it was just Bob and Sarah Duquette and their infant daughter, Eliza. But many years and two more children later, sharing one bath wasn't so easy. Plus, sisters Eliza, now 14, and Abigail, 10, were doubled up in one small bedroom; brother Nathaniel, 12, had the third bedroom to himself. (It's not hard to imagine the arguments that must have ensued.)

But with a panoramic view of the York River only 300 feet away, the Duquettes found the cozy, two-story Maine house hard to leave. Remodeling and adding on became the obvious solution—but figuring out how to do it was logistically challenging. An addition at the top of the house or on the south-facing facade would destroy the architectural charm of

**opposite bottom:** Seen from the side, the addition extends out from the back of the original house. The deck on the main level was lengthened to connect an existing enclosed porch and the refashioned kitchen while shielding the lower-level entry. **above:** The peninsula marks the location of the original rear wall of the house. The Duquettes' three children enjoy perching on the soda-fountain-style stools for snacks.



the historical Cape Cod styling. A setback requirement nixed building along the east side; the driveway hemmed in the west side. The only option was to add on to the back.

Architect Paul Gosselin designed a two-story, 1,300-square-foot addition that was almost as large as the original 1,500-square-foot house. This created a new challenge—combining old and new without one overwhelming the other. To make it work, Gosselin made the addition narrower than the existing structure. “That way, the [original] house remains the major visual element,” he explains. The addition includes a master suite and expanded kitchen on the main level. The walk-out lower level incorporates a music room that has



## 9 Ways to Add Cottage Style

The Duquettes cottage look boasts warmth, welcome, and cozy charm. Here are 9 ways to bring a similar style into your home.

- 1. Add warmth with wood.** A mix of wood species, including painted and antique furniture pieces, enriches visual texture.
- 2. Refresh with florals.** Fabrics, wall, and window treatments with bold or quiet floral patterns are quintessential cottage fare.
- 3. Install interior shutters.** Shutters make great window treatments, but they can also be used to dress up bare interior walls.
- 4. Choose comforting colors.** Waterfront cottages often take cues from the blue sea and sky, while woodsy cabins embrace earthy and forest-inspired hues. Country and city cottages tend toward neutrals and pastels and spotlight rural or urban accents as desired.

**5. Cloak surfaces in white.** Clean white molding, trim, beaded board, and cabinetry are hallmarks of this fresh style.

**6. Blend old and new.** Secondhand and salvaged objects, such as soda-fountain stools, make first-rate accessories. Use your treasured collectibles, such as clocks, quilts, and vases, to impart a homey feel to newly remodeled spaces.

**7. Combine storage and display.** Open shelving and corner cabinets are great places to stow and showcase everyday goods.

**8. Focus on fixtures.** Farmhouse sinks, claw-foot tubs, and faucets with traditional lines reinforce this decorative scheme's charm.

**9. Bring the outdoors in.** Garden-variety cottage style can be created with plants, blooms, and outdoor furniture.





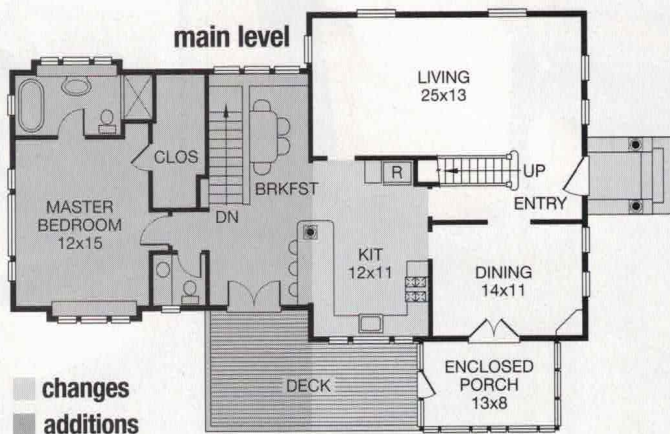
**opposite:** Vibrant yellow wallpaper enlivens the pristine white kitchen cabinetry. The new peninsula adds plenty of storage and counter space. Mahogany counters were made from leftover decking material.

**left:** Placed along the east wall, the breakfast area gets plenty of morning sun. Sarah Duquette chose French bistro chairs because their curves match the shape of the kitchen stools.

**below:** French doors open from the dining room into an enclosed porch, which was refitted with insulated windows to become a three-season sitting area.







## what they did

- The Duquettes added a main-level master suite and a lower-level media room and new entry to the back of their home.
- The kitchen was enlarged and reconfigured into a step-saving U-shape layout that increased storage space by one-third.
- The enlarged and additional outdoor living spaces allow the Duquette family to now enjoy river views.
- Adding insulated windows to an enclosed porch transformed the area from a summer-only living space to one that can be enjoyed most of the year.
- New cladding and windows on the front of the house, as well as columns on the widened front entry, unite the original structure with the recent addition.



home-entertainment equipment and a more convenient side entry near the driveway.

The family's kitchen was gutted, reworked, and enlarged into an efficient, contemporary U shape with additional storage and two dining spaces. One leg of the work area is a peninsula that doubles as a casual eating area for three. The other casual dining area, geared for all five of them, is tucked next to the stairway that leads to the lower level. Sarah originally planned on a built-in booth but deferred to Bob's preference for a table and chairs. To save space, the mahogany table is supported by brackets bolted to the low wall shared with the staircase.

The new master suite, far removed from the children's rooms (the original three), provides plenty of privacy for Bob and Sarah. Windows along two master-bedroom walls admit soft daylight from the north and frame the western sun as it sets behind the river. On the west wall, a raised portion allows for an extra window featuring a diamond-pane motif. This small touch has turned out to be one of Sarah's favorites. "By today's standards, the master bedroom isn't exceptionally large, but that window adds to the feeling of spaciousness," she says.

A tub separate from the shower in the master bath enables the busy couple to prepare for the day at the same time. Bob's shower is lined in green slate. Sarah's tub is a period fixture, discovered in perfect condition in a nearby Shingle-style house.

Outdoors, old gray-painted shingles gave way to new ones of unpainted white cedar that match the addition's cladding. The Duquettes also installed new insulated casement windows in the side porch so it can be used as an extra sitting area nine months of the year. By adding a main-level deck, they created a circulation loop that includes the kitchen, dining room, and porch.

"That's great for parties," Sarah says. "Now, no one gets trapped in one tiny room." **RI**  
FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 121.

WRITER: Jim Kemp PHOTOGRAPHER: James Salomon ARCHITECT: Paul Gosselin INTERIOR DESIGNER: Sarah Duquette  
CONTRACTOR: Y.F.I. Custom Homes FIELD EDITOR: Susan Salomon

**opposite:** "It's wonderful at night to look out at the stars and the moon," Sarah says of the raised window on the west wall of the master bedroom. Below the raised window, a hinged seat provides a cozy nook and storage space.  
**left:** Sarah decorated the master bath with an English floral-pattern wallpaper in soft blues, greens, and creams. An antique claw-foot tub and new chrome-legged lavatory help create a vintage look.

