

Celebrating 15 Years

RENOVATION STYLE[®]

· ULTIMATE ·
*Kitchen
Issue*

Character Renewed

*9 Amazing
Kitchen Makeovers*

Summer 2010
Display Until July 27

\$4.99 U.S.



Volume 16, Number 3

meredithSpecials[®]

Before and After
Inspiring Ideas for Every Room

SALTBOX

NANTUCKET
MASSACHUSETTS



THIS PHOTO The Gustins' addition has a fireplace with hearths opening to the living room and to the outside.
OPPOSITE A bedroom balcony provides views of the windswept landscape.



*Expanded with
Imagination*

A small cottage on Nantucket's rugged eastern shore gains space without losing its singular charm.



LEFT Guests often arrive at a new side entrance. "The key," homeowner Victoria Gustin says, "really was to try, without tearing things down and wasting materials, to take the house to how it might have been if they had it in the 18th century and expanded it."

BELOW "The front door is almost like the celebratory door now," architect Jeff Spoelker says.

OPPOSITE Cedar shingles inside the foyer mark the old exterior.



W

When searching for a Nantucket vacation home 10 years ago, Victoria and Charlie Gustin favored character over perfection. Victoria spent much of her life in Quidnet, an old fishing village on the island's rustic, windswept eastern edge. "So many houses here end up looking all the same, like hotels," she says. "I wanted the place to look something like what a family house does: It grows and it morphs."

The Gustins purchased a small traditional New England saltbox in need of reimagination. The rooms had small windows and were too dark. One stairway was so close to the front entry that the door practically hit it. Even so, the Gustins didn't want to expand in the expected way, adding up or out to the sides.

Instead, the couple and architect Jeff Spoelker created a succession of rooms on a gentle diagonal from the back of the house, with a large kitchen for entertaining at the conclusion of the space. "It broke down the formality of this traditional saltbox and kind of gave back an homage to the haphazard planning of some of these houses on the islands," says Philadelphia-based Spoelker, who led the design while at Lyman Perry Architects and now heads his own firm, JMS Architecture. To visualize the design, Victoria laid out logs to mark the rooms, from which the architect drew up blueprints.

The grade of the land off the back of the house dropped dramatically, but Victoria insisted on retaining the uneven







grade rather than backfilling as the builder wanted to do. "I wanted it to be connected to the ground and the landscape," she says. From front to back, the home's rooms step down to accommodate the change in grade.

The existing kitchen was redesigned as the dining room, which worked well with the preserved brick fireplace. Two new French doors opposite the fireplace open to the patio, enhancing the original structure's inside-outside feel.

The addition begins at the back wall of the new dining room, where a new entryway opens to the garden and side property. The reconfigured house has no hallways, emphasizing connectivity. "You're always looking toward the next space," Victoria says. "One night one of my friends said, 'I feel like I've been on a river all night. It just keeps flowing.'"

Whether you enter formally in front or informally at the side, a key feature is the home's bounty of natural light.

ABOVE To match the topography of the site, the living room addition is a few steps down from the existing house. A tiled foyer that serves the side entry eases the transition.

RIGHT The house has two patios, including this space for dining under a pergola on the side of the original structure. The formal dining room is just inside two pairs of French doors.

OPPOSITE A variety of rich tones is reflected in the dining room's wide-plank pine floors, rustic dining table, and ebony bentwood chairs. Other than recessed lights, the room is lit by candles in the sconces, chandelier, and glass-enclosed tabletop holders.





An outdoor fireplace is situated conveniently between two patio areas and is central to the Gustins' love of summertime entertaining in their garden.



BEFORE





DESIGN MOMENT

The kitchen island has drawers on the outside (facing the breakfast area) to hold utensils, place mats, and other items for easy table setting.



Voice of Experience

Victoria Gustin prides herself on her 20x25-foot kitchen. She designed the space for efficiency and comfort. She thought about every square inch, planning exactly what would go where. She loves to cook, so she made sure pots, pans, glasses, cooking utensils, baking supplies, and even decorative items were in the right spots for convenience and ease. As part of sizing up, she carefully considered dimensions for each drawer and cabinet. But, as much as she enjoys cooking for crowds and entertaining, Victoria hates messes. With the kitchen acting as a principal gathering space, dirty dishes can be stashed in a walk-in pantry until cleanup time. Besides having storage space, the pantry comes with an extra sink and dishwasher, the latter blending in to feel like just another drawer. Jeff Spoelker, the architect who put the plan together, "was great about connecting with what I wanted to do," Victoria says. "It all could have felt very cut up and jumbled."

LEFT A drink center, with easy access to the kitchen and adjacent covered patio, includes a battered nickel-plated sink and glass cabinets above. On the right is a pair of stacked refrigerator drawers that provide a ready supply of cool drinks. On the left are two dishwasher drawers for easy cleanup.



DESIGN MOMENT

The kitchen and gathering areas are designed to draw more natural light than any other rooms in the house, using the increasing levels of light to lure visitors.



LEFT The master bedroom and bath compose a separate suite above the kitchen, entered by a staircase off the kitchen.

BELOW The master bath is festooned with white cupboards, trim, and ceiling paint to carry light through the space. Brass lighting and plumbing fixtures provide sparkling highlights. A mosaic stone tile floor ties the hues together.



“Every space you go through, you’ve got windows and light on both sides,” Spoelker says. “You can almost see through the house.” Light levels gradually increase as you move from the formal entry at the front of the property toward the kitchen in back.

The homeowners selected and preserved materials, such as the wide-plank pinewood floors, and finishes that would emphasize the house’s historic character. At the same time, the dark tones of these materials contrast with bright, contemporary white and cream-tone furniture and walls. “It’s really an old world-new world combination,” Spoelker says. “No matter where you look, you’re seeing different layers of colors and textures.”

Despite its location at the back of the house, the kitchen is the home’s centerpiece. A large island has ample work and storage space, enough for guests and family to help with food preparation and cooking, which happens on a professional-grade cooktop. The breakfast area looks out to the garden and exits easily to a dining patio.

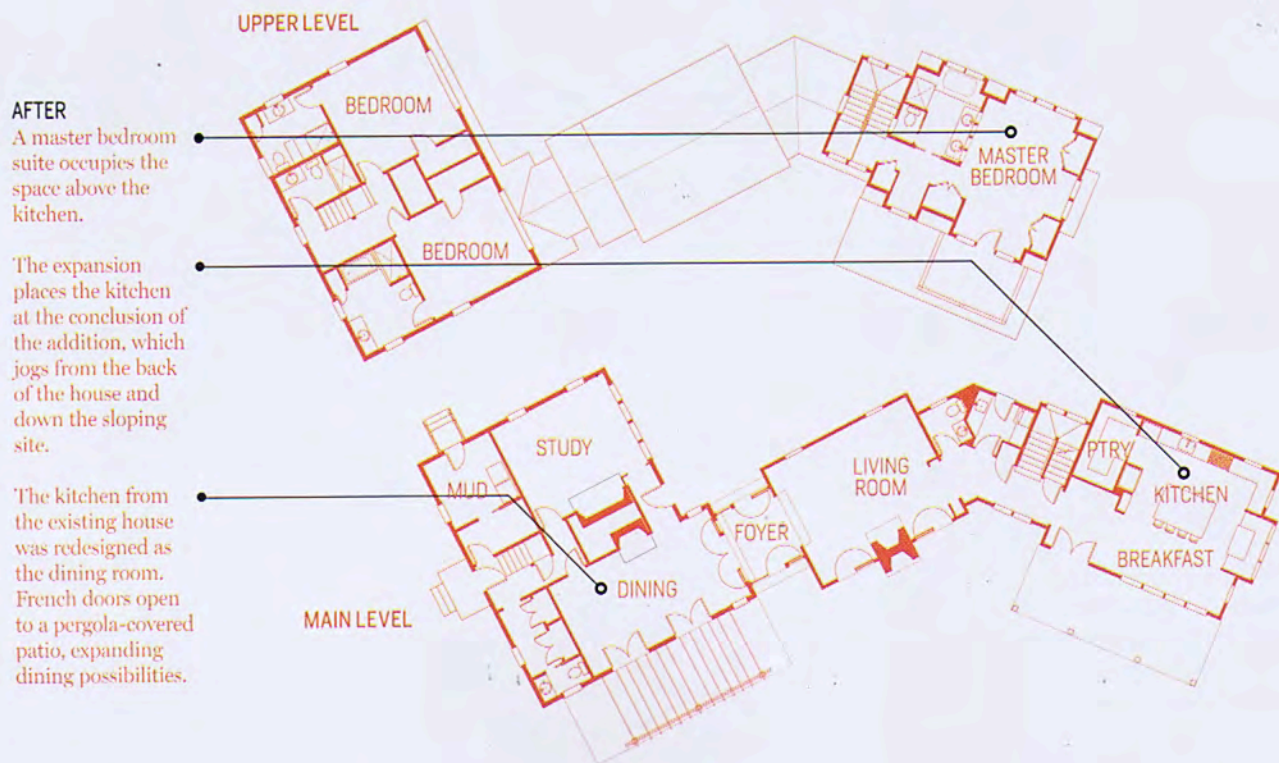
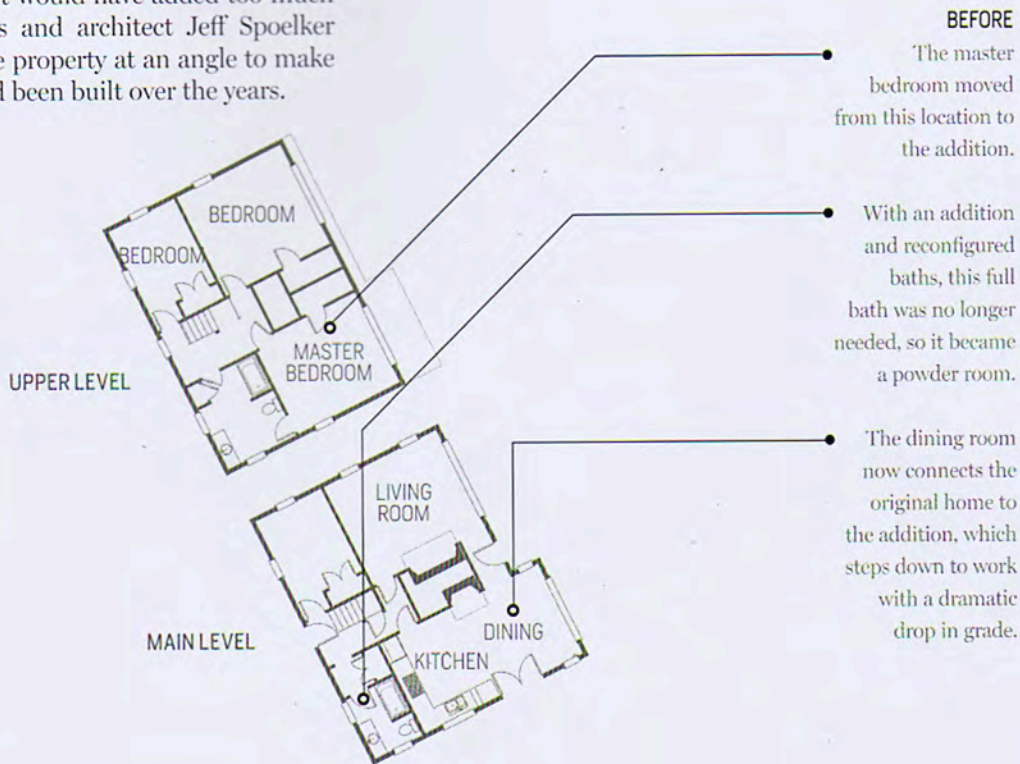
The secluded master suite is situated on the upper level above the kitchen. It acts as a more private, intimate alternative to the home’s public areas. Being a story up allows for expansive views of the water, which the Gustins enjoy on a balcony projecting over the patio below. “The bedroom becomes an oasis,” Spoelker says.

And so does the entire house.

RESOURCES PAGE 122

The Plans, Before & After

The original saltbox house Victoria and Charlie Gustin bought was small and cramped. But expanding the house to the sides would have eliminated a western view the homeowners enjoyed, and it would have added too much mass. Instead, the Gustins and architect Jeff Spoelker expanded to the back of the property at an angle to make the addition look as if it had been built over the years.



3,930 square feet

ARCHITECTURE JEFF SPOELKER LANDSCAPE TED GODFREY LANDSCAPING