

HOME FRONT

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Home Stretch

LUNCH WITH THE MASTERS

Make lunch an artistic experience by picking up a colorful Vincent van Gogh lunchbox at the Denver Art Museum's gift shop. It comes in two versions: one decorated with sunflowers, the other with a painting of the artist's bedroom in Arles. The \$12 items commemorate the museum's current special exhibition, "El Greco to Picasso From the Phillips Collection." For more information or to order by phone, call the museum shop at 720-865-5035.



BIG HUNK O' PUMPKIN

There's been an Elvis sighting. He turned up, oddly enough, in a pumpkin-carving book. *Great Pumpkins: Crafty Carving for Halloween*, by Peter Cole with Jessica Hurley (Chronicle Books, \$14.95), is filled with photos and instructions for creating unique gourds. Along with the requisite ghouls, witches and spiders, there's a celebrity chapter on how to make a pumpkin Presley, Cinderella and three characters from *The Wizard of Oz*.

Sacramento Bee

FAST FOOD



2 hours

Time it takes to cook a turkey in one of GE's new Trivention ovens, according to the company. The *tri* stands for the oven's combination of three cooking energies: thermal, convection and microwave. Speed modes enable the cooking of foods up to five times faster than conventional ovens. Cost: \$2,350 to \$3,900.

HOME BOOKSHELF

"Kids love a designated playroom where they can keep their toys and play with friends. And grown-ups like them, too, because they can shut a door on the mess! As children grow up, a properly planned playroom can easily evolve into a media room or teenage den. . . . Add cozy seating and grown-ups will want to chill out in there, too."

"Family Living: Creating the Perfect Family Home," by Judith Wilson (Ryland Peters & Small, \$27.50)

GO

- **What:** Grandmother's House Boutique, craft show with 100 artisans
- **When:** 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. today
- **Where:** Wings Over the Rockies Air Museum at Lowry, 7711 E. Academy Blvd.
- **Admission:** \$4
- **Information:** 303-699-6441

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RockyMountainNews.com/drmn/lifestyles



ELLEN JASKOL/ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Skylights and clerestory windows shower the kitchen with light at the Greeley home of Harold and Carol Evans. The owners of the 40-year-old ranch also

acted as contractors on the major remodeling project that nearly doubled the home's original size. Paintings from the couple's extensive art collection hang on the wall.



PHILIP WEGENER PHOTOGRAPHY

The powder room underwent a bold transformation, gaining dramatic lighting, tile, a cast-bronze bowl sink and faux finish on the walls.

The great wide open

... is indoors for owners of sprawling Greeley ranch home

By Jay Dedrick
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

GREELEY—Like the level terrain of Colorado's eastern plains, the home had a low profile. And like the crops harvested nearby, the outdated, undersize 1962 ranch-style home was ready to grow.

But whether to grow *up* or *out*? The architects of the remodeling project lobbied for the former, aiming to add a second story.

Opposing that plan were the contractors, who happen to own and live in the home. They prevailed.

The result: a single-story home that expanded on all four sides, bringing with it more living and storage space, higher ceilings and greater views of the lushly landscaped lot, three-quarters of an acre in size. The project earned first-place honors for architectural design in this year's CARE (Colorado Awards for Remodeling Excellence) contest.

Visitors to the "after" home who never saw the "before" are hard-pressed to detect where the old ends and the new begins. Seamlessness was a high priority for owners/contractors Harold and Carol Evans, 32-year residents of Greeley, who bought the house in 1982. They moved into an apartment during the 14-month construction period, which followed seven months of design prep.

"People wonder why we put so much time and energy into it," says Carol, 58. "And, of course, there's the cost. But we're here 24/7. The house is a central part of our lives. We don't travel a lot, and what we could put into vacations, we choose to put into our home."

Carol's a homemaker and former teacher who keeps busy with community service and art collecting. Harold, 59, operates a construction-management consulting business from his home office, continuing a career that included many years with Hensel

Flip to REMODEL on 4E

SHOWCASE

Clean-burning fireplaces can beat the brown cloud

By Betsy Lehndorff
ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

We've all heard the news by now: A hike in the cost of natural gas means heftier bills when the cold settles in. How does a thrifty family tame that monster of a bill? Gather around the hearth as temperatures fall.

These days, manufacturers are making fireplaces and stoves so efficient you can warm whole rooms, even small houses, with them. Also on the market are

units that use alternative energy sources. Some rely on electricity to produce the illusion of friendly flames; others burn corn.

"For most homeowners, there is a point at which they come to rest in front of a fireplace," says Walter Moberg of Moberg Fireplaces in Portland, Ore. "Wood is a great choice, because it is a renewable fuel, and secondly, a wood fire is the real thing."

"It's something that's been used by humans for almost a million years. It's part of our culture."

Many don't realize that even some new wood-burning fireplaces can be fired up on high-pollution days, because they're designed to burn cleanly.

The key is to make sure a wood, gas, pellet or corn-fired unit is EPA Phase II-certified. A Colorado-approved Phase III pellet stove, pellet fireplace insert or masonry fireplace also can be used.

Moberg's company produces certified wood-burning fireplace

Flip to FIREPLACES on 3E



TOWN & COUNTRY

A Town & Country gas insert creates the look of an old-fashioned hearth. A 42-inch-wide model costs \$3,099, which covers logs, valves and burner. Mantel and vent are extra.

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A patio with fireplace is sheltered by mature trees on the 3/4-acre lot of the Evans home in Greeley. Light spills out from the covered patio and the dining room, capped by a dramatic vaulted ceiling.



ELLEN JASKOL/ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Harold and Carol Evans enjoy the view from their back porch, where a copper fountain by Steve Rayman of Blue Water Fountains sits. The home's remodeling required the couple to live elsewhere for more than a year.

Remodel: Ranch remains down to earth

Continued from 1E
Phelps Construction Co. and such high-profile projects as Denver's Tabor Center and 1999 Broadway.

Skyward wasn't the direction the couple wanted for their home. "Our architect, Doug Walter, kept telling me, 'Think of the view — you'd be able to see the whole Front Range,'" Carol says. "But we also would have looked out at 10,000 rooftops."

Equally vital was the need to maintain a home that their parents could navigate with the least difficulty when visiting, not to mention themselves once they head toward their own golden years. So universal design elements (see sidebar) were incorporated into the plan.

The rectangular layout had already undergone additions in the late '80s, a few years after Harold and Carol moved in, resulting in a U-shaped floor plan, and 900 square feet of added space, up to 2,900 from 2,000. The 2001-02 remodeling expanded on all four sides of the home, bringing the total square footage to 4,600.

The open, flowing nature of the floor plan makes an immediate impact on anyone walking through the front door. From the entryway, a visitor can see into the foyer, the library, the great room, the kitchen, the dining room and the adjoining patio — one of three.

"We wanted to open up the house more, to integrate the exterior with the interior," Harold says. Four doorways from the dining room to the patio take great strides toward that goal; six additional sets of doors around the perimeter, along with skylights and abundant windows, complete the mission.

To the right of the main entrance, a foyer/gallery and library, boasting a fireplace of Mexican limestone, have taken the place of the old living room and dining room. Harold's office, which connects to the library, is new as well.

The details

- **What:** ranch remodel
- **Where:** Greeley
- **Owners/contractors:** Harold and Carol Evans
- **Architect:** Doug Walter Architects (Doug Walter and Hamid Khellaf)
- **Designer:** Nancy Heller
- **Main level:** great room, foyer/gallery, library, office, laundry, mud room, kitchen and breakfast nook, powder room, dining room, covered patio, master bedroom with study, his-and-hers walk-in closets, master bath, three guest bedrooms, guest bath
- **Finished basement:** guest bedroom, guest bath, space for home theater
- **Exterior:** two-car attached garage, two-car detached garage/carriage house with workroom

The previous expansion brought with it vaulted ceilings — welcome relief from the existing 8-foot ceilings throughout — and the Evanses wanted to extend those roof lines over the new expansion that began in 2001. So 80 percent of the old roof was removed, replaced with pitched gables that keep a relatively low profile outside but create dramatic interiors.

Foremost among those is that of the formal dining room. The long space boasts rich cabinetry in cherry, the predominant wood throughout the home, with built-in display space for artwork. Just as visually intriguing is the light fixture above the dining-room table, an imposing crisscross of cherry beams accented with stainless-steel braces. Not only does it bounce light onto the table below and paintings on the wall, but the custom-made, 650-pound piece also di-



PHILIP WEGENER PHOTOGRAPHY

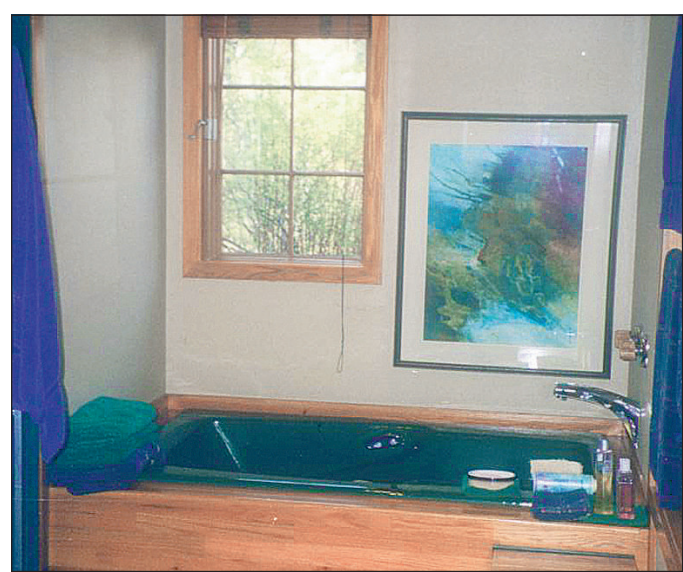
vides the elongated space in two and brings intimacy to the dining area.

Natural light floods the nearby kitchen and breakfast nook, thanks to clerestory windows, four skylights and a glass splash-back that looks out on a patio. When the sun isn't shining through out the house, light radiates from 156 recessed lights, chosen because they spotlight art.

In the adjoining great room, the hub of the home, warmth radiates from the new fireplace and its artfully crafted hearth of Colorado buff sandstone.

"It's not ostentatious," Harold says of the home. The quality, he says, is in the details, and he's eager to point out such subtle notes as bevel-edge cabinet doors, bronze hardware and white oak flooring.

Continued on next page



The master bath, above, features a stained-glass window, tub and shower with built-in seat, a feature of universal design that accommodates older residents. At left, the same bathroom before the remodel.

COURTESY CAROL AND HAROLD EVANS

Remodel: Organic over glitz

Continued from 4E
 "We really wanted to create a Colorado house," he says. "We wanted things that were organic, and not a lot of glitz."

That philosophy is the common ground of Harold and Carol. "My taste is more traditional, and hers is more modernistic," says Harold, whose love of hunting and fishing is reflected in his office's decor. A bronze sculpture of a setter sits in a prominent spot beneath a window, the glass dressed in cherry shutters and surrounded by rich red walls.

"This is a house — it's not a gallery," Carol says. Still, she wanted ample display space for their extensive collection of paintings, sculptures and pottery. Styles range from realism to impressionism and abstract, the common thread being that the artists are from Colorado and the West.

"The challenge was to provide a quiet background for this art," says architect Doug Walter, who designed the remodel with associate Hamid Khellaf. Moldings and trim were used minimally, and designer Nancy Heller's color palette was muted, with lightly textured, khaki-painted walls in almost every room.

Just as the home interacts with the outdoors via abundant doors and windows, the art collection extends beyond the house's walls.

Outdoor sculptures, including a cubist-style fountain, complement the exte-

rior, which remains true to its origins and that of the neighborhood: recycled red brick, cedar board-and-bat siding.

The artwork is built into the home, too. The front door, by Wayne Brungard of Architectural Elements in Longmont, is overlaid in copper, with ribs of white bronze creating an impressionistic grove of aspen trees.

Kaleidoscopes of color, pieced together by Lakewood stained-glass artist J. Gorsuch Collins, add distinction to the dining room and master bath. His-and-hers walk-in closets sandwich the master bath.

Three guest bedrooms complete the home's private wing. One shows off American Indian artwork, while another features hand-woven Philippine grass cloth wall paneling.

The project continues: The basement, an addition to the old crawl space, already has a guest bedroom and bath, but the home theater awaits its seating and big-screen equipment.

"We're almost to our one-year anniversary of moving back in, and we enjoy it more today than we did a year ago," Harold says. "People who come in have a universal reaction: This is a house I could live in."

"That," says Carol, "is the ultimate compliment."

"We really wanted to create a Colorado house."

Harold Evans

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BEFORE PHOTOS COURTESY CAROL AND HAROLD EVANS

The kitchen, top, boasts cherry cabinets, granite countertops and porcelain tile flooring. Above, the same kitchen before the remodel.



The red-brick fireplace in the Evans' family room, above, underwent a bold face-lift. At left, the new hearth with buff flagstone in the new great room.

Designing a home with aging in mind

One guiding factor in keeping the Harold and Carol Evans home a single-story ranch: their parents, who visit regularly.

The idea of designing a home to accommodate older or disabled residents is known as universal design. Rather than waiting till late in life to retrofit a home or moving out of the home and into a specialized residence, homeowners can incorporate features now that will be most appreciated down the road.

"The idea is to accommodate aging in place, and most people are in denial about that," says architect Doug Walter. But for those comfortable confronting the inevitable, they'll have a home that's tailored for easy living.

- Some staples of universal design:
- **Single-story** residential area
 - **Low thresholds**, to minimize tripping hazards
 - **Hard-surface** flooring
 - **No steps**
 - **Lever-handled hardware**, easier to use than traditional doorknobs, which can be difficult to grip
 - **Wide doorways** and hallways, to accommodate wheelchairs and crutches
 - **Rocker light switches**, for ease of use
 - **Benches** and grab bars in showers, elevated toilets
 - **Plentiful lighting**

RELATIONSHIPS

Put your body into it

Forget opening line, author says — flirt from head to toe

By Mark Wolf
 ROCKY MOUNTAIN NEWS

Interested in somebody but locked in brain freeze for a perfect opening line? Let your body do the talking.

"People aren't listening to what you're saying. Only 7 percent of their impression is based on the words coming out of your mouth. 38 percent is the tone and 55 percent is the body language. You're better off worrying that your posture is good instead of what's coming out of your mouth," said Tracey Cox, author of *Superflirt* (DK, \$20).

Cox — a sex and relationships counselor, author and British TV personality — dissects flirting body language literally from head (fiddling with or flipping the hair) to toe (legs crossed, top leg pointing in the direction of someone they're interested in).

"Women give off 52 sexual signals. Most men only give out 10. Men aren't very good at reading signals," she said.

She has a "rule of four" that says someone must exhibit four flirting signals in a short period of time to display serious interest.

"The worldwide universal is 'mirroring,' simply because we like people who are like us. We feel more comfortable. Opposites attract in a lust sense, but it's the people who are similar who fall in love," said Cox.

"It's not being Marcel Marceau. You don't ape somebody. You're mirroring the mood of what they're doing. If they put their feet up and tuck

them underneath, that's a relaxing pose. If you get into a relaxed pose, that's mirroring. Your brain is saying, 'They're sitting like me, seem on the same mood as me.' You should mirror in tone of voice and speed of voice what they're talking about."

Fiddling and preening with hair, clothes or accessories is a sign of interest, said Cox.

"When we see somebody we fancy, you get the most hints when they first set eyes on you. Their body sends out signals. The eyebrows flash up and down, nostrils flare, lips purse, eyes widen, everything opens and shuts. We square ourselves, lift our shoulders up. What all this does is pull you up and make you look good. You lift your muscles, the light reflects off more angles and makes you look more attractive," she said.

The biggest flirting faux pas, said Cox, is trying too hard to impress.

"Men do this a lot. If they really like her, they want to impress her and think, 'I'll go on about how much money I have, the car I drive.' That doesn't work. You're better off getting her to talk about herself. The more you get people to talk about themselves, the more fascinating they'll think you are."

Be aware of your hands and eyes, Cox advises.

"Don't put your hands under the table. If you're nervous, the first thing you want to do is get them out of sight. You're much better having them on top of the table," she said.

"Eye contact is a big one. If you really fancy someone, it's hard to make eye contact. You think the other person can look into your soul. If you're too shy to look somebody in the eye, a good trick is to look at a spot in the middle of their forehead or the tip of their nose. That's im-

possible to tell, and it's less threatening. Then when it gets more comfortable, you can shift to looking them in the eye."

For those who believe they're too shy to flirt, Cox suggests making a distinctive entrance into a room.

"We all have a tendency to slink into a room and stand in the corner. The joy of body language is, you can make completely instant results. If you're shy and you put your shoulder back, your head up and make eye contact, people will think you're confident," she said.

"It's that fake-it-till-you-make-it. If you can just get the body language right, you appear more confident, and people react to you like you're more confident."

Cox is the body-language coach on *Date Patrol*, which counsels unlucky-in-love daters to improve their game; it airs at 8 p.m. Saturdays on the TLC cable network.

"If you want to improve yourself, take little steps. It's all practice," she said. "It's the fear of fear itself. What we all fear is rejection."

"I've come to the feeling that I'd rather make a complete twit of myself and get rejected rather than not go for it. It's a matter of pushing yourself out of your comfort zone."

And don't diminish flirting as an anachronism.

"A lot of my friends think it's dumbing down: 'Surely we're beyond all that,'" Cox said. "To be a good flirt, you have to be intelligent. You can do all the obvious moves, but to do it well, to understand the level of cheekiness you can get away with involves a great deal of judgment."

"People say, 'I hate playing games,' but it usually means they're not very good at it and they've been manipulated."

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'Pals' have emotional affair

Dear Abby

Chatterboxes want to be included

Annie's Mailbox