

Home Improvement



AFTER



BEFORE

From the Outside In

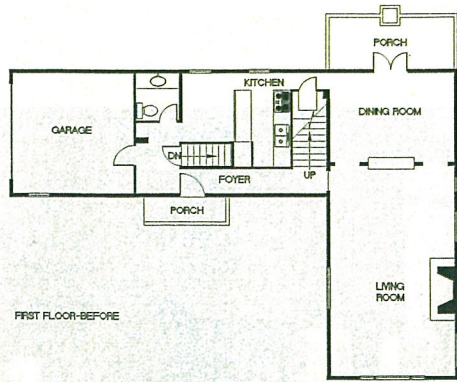
From his very first look, architect Doug Walter wanted to totally remodel this Denver-area 1971 house. A structurally sound ugly duckling, it had been on the market for two years, but no one could figure out what to do with it. Walter tackled the problem by blending some of his favorite architectural styles. The result is a design that echoes farmhouses in Pennsylvania and other rural structures across the country. He calls it a combination of Bucks County, Arts and Crafts, and Greek Revival rolled into one.

Walter brought the house's exterior into the 1990's by adding brick veneer and hardboard textured siding. He replaced the original mansard-style roof with a variety of roof

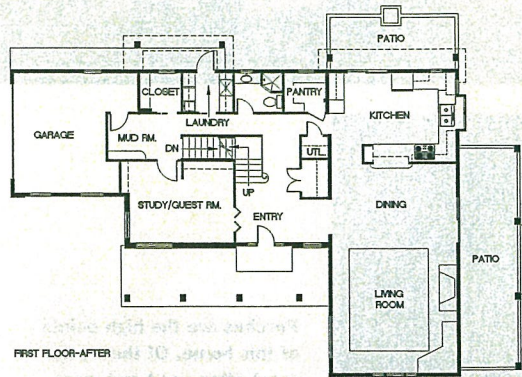
lines that add interest to the exterior. The sheltered front entry recalls the porches often found on farmhouses. However, this structure is anchored to a concrete slab rather than to a wood floor.

The house's "L" shape allowed Walter to add an eight-foot-deep bump-out along the front of the building. This extra space, which totals just 240 square feet on the first floor and 150 square feet on the second, accommodates the new entry and study on the ground level, and a new bedroom above.

To make the house more functional for an active family with young children, the former kitchen was transformed into a mudroom, and a new open-plan kitchen and dining area were carved out of the original living room.



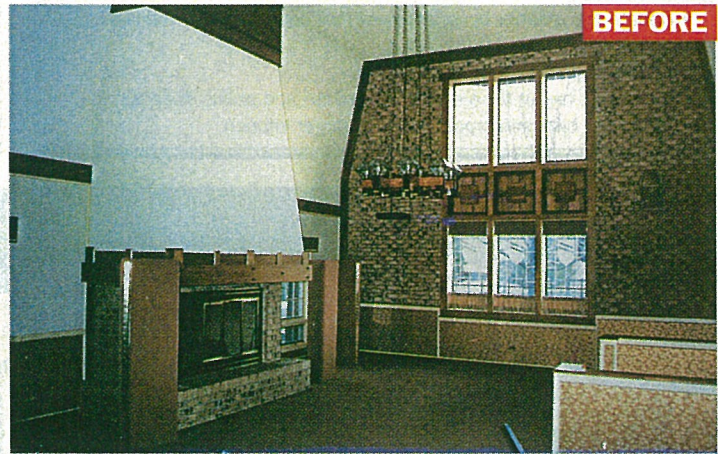
FIRST FLOOR-BEFORE



FIRST FLOOR-AFTER

The new double windows over the entry echo the arc of the living room's signature window, *opposite above*. The graceful curved top of the window softens the lines of the room and bathes it in light and warmth, *bottom*. Most of the other windows are conventionally sized; all are top of the line for energy efficiency. To make the living room's 16-foot-high ceilings a little friendlier, Walter added rough-sawn beams and placed windows up near the ceiling line. New brick and a salvaged beam help to update the fireplace. Keeping the room's look unified, harmonious custom-built cabinetry that fits into a corner holds audio-video equipment.

CONSTRUCTION: CHAMPION CONSTRUCTION
PHOTOGRAPHS: J.L. CURTIS



BEFORE



AFTER

case studies

The Remodeling Plan

Problems:

- Unattractive design.
- Did not allow owners to enjoy the outdoors.
- Unimaginative arrangement of rooms.
- Tiny kitchen.

Solutions:

- Update the exterior by adding new roof lines and new roofing and siding materials.
- Add large porch off the living room.
- Rearrange layout for a system of private and public spaces.
- Take over old dining room for new, larger kitchen.

BEFORE



AFTER



Porches are the high points of this home. Of these, the most often used and most spectacular porch is the one off the living room, *left*. Walter says that the sound and feel of wood underfoot is an important part of successful porch design. Details reminiscent of the Arts and Crafts style include the structural supports of the two-story-high roof that encloses and defines the area. Skylights add to the loftiness of the space, while a railing enclosing one end of the structure helps to anchor it to the site.

From the Outside In

AFTER



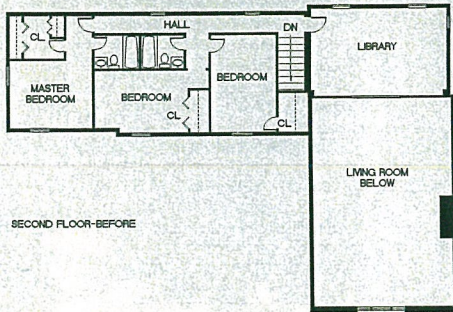
BEFORE



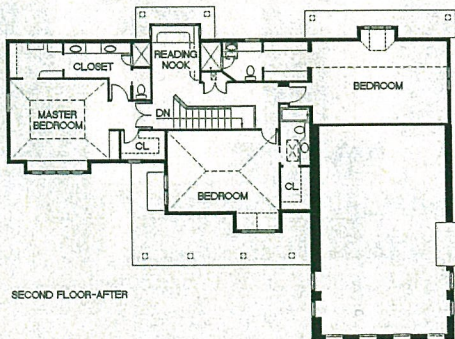
The original cavernous stairway, *left*, was removed and a new one was built over the basement stairs. The 42-inch-wide staircase, *far left*, has a flair at the top that provides visual interest. It also creates an easy turn for children going down the hall and into their rooms. Walter designed the rustic balustrade as another variation on vernacular design. The painted particleboard banisters are topped by a solid pecan wood railing.



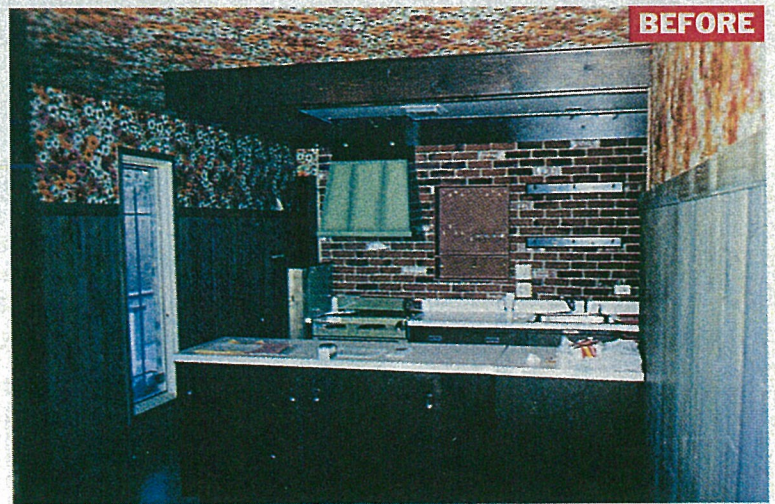
AFTER



SECOND FLOOR-BEFORE



SECOND FLOOR-AFTER



BEFORE

The kitchen, *top*, is designed to function so that a minimum of mess is visible from the living room beyond it. Storage cabinets can be accessed from both the kitchen and dining room side of the pass-through. Additional kitchen counter surfaces were created by setting base cabinets three inches away from the wall so the countertop is 27 inches deep rather than the conventional 24 inches.