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# A Family Affair

The homeowners took part in  
this kitchen remodel

BY BERNADETTE BACZYNSKI  
PHOTOGRAPHS BY POVY KENDAL ATCHISON

LEFT: The homeowners' only indulgence was a six-burner Dacor gas range. RIGHT: To bring in more light architect Doug Walter, extended the windows to the counter level. The new island, which doubles as a serving area for the nearby dining room, is lit by pendants that hang from a suspended track. Counters and backsplashes are granite tiles (they cost about a one-fifth as much as a solid slab).

**T**he major problem in this 1950s Colorado ranch, says architect Doug Walter, AIA, of Doug Walter Architects in Denver, was that the kitchen sat between the family room and living room, resulting in a bad traffic flow in the kitchen. To create a larger, more efficient kitchen with room for an island and extra storage, Walter and project designer Hamid Khellaf moved the old kitchen into the dining room space, located on one corner of the house, bumping out one wall to expand the room. They then turned the old smaller kitchen area into a formal dining room.

The homeowners helped keep costs down by doing the demolition and painting themselves. "We geared their chores to the beginning and end of the project so they wouldn't overlap with our schedule," says Walter. The design earned Walter a 2003 Chrysalis Award for a kitchen remodel (under \$75,000). ■



## What Was Done

- Switched the locations of the kitchen and family room, taking the kitchen out of the main traffic pattern in the public areas
- Turned the old kitchen into a formal dining room
- Increased the square footage of the family room to create a larger kitchen, and raised the ceiling to add drama and more area for windows and skylights
- Installed windows, including French doors to the patio, on three sides, opening the kitchen up to natural sunlight and views
- Installed oak floors and simple, Shaker-style cherry cabinets, with countertops of granite tiles rather than a more expensive slab
- Replaced all old appliances with new stainless steel energy-efficient models

## Before

OPPOSITE BELOW: To make the tiny space more efficient, former owners had added an extension to the counter. The effect, however, chopped the area up even more, isolating the stove in its own alcove. The main design features of the old kitchen were faux brick on the walls and floor, and tile countertops that were a do-it-yourself project. The room was dark; the only natural light came from two small corner windows. And steps leading down into the family room took up much of the floor space.