

4 Houses, New Looks



The new porch entry adds architectural interest to the boxy silhouette of the house. Made of Meranti hardwood from Indonesia, the porch floor is treated with Australian timber oil to protect it from the elements. Slender columns are designed to draw the eye upward, away from original low-slung proportions of the house.

Ranch Dressing

new entrance makes a big difference

BY THERESA McTAMMANY

me time for Sue and Dan Garriss to repair the front steps of their North ranch-style home, they decided to also expand the front area by adding a pocket-size large enough for a porch swing and a rocking chair.

In the 1950s, the 1,075-square-foot ranch was basically a low-slung box that lacked architectural detail, according to builder David Mackowski, of Quality Home Builders in Raleigh, North Carolina, who worked with the couple on the project. Mackowski reworked the entry, breaking up the horizontal lines by installing a gabled porch with a line of narrow columns across the front of the house designed to draw the eye away from its boxy proportions. Original plans called for a straight line of columns running directly from the front door, however, a tree positioned too close to the front porch forced the builder to scrap the idea in favor of a split-level design.

What Was Done

- Added 96 square feet of outdoor-living space
- Replaced the concrete stoop and masonry wall with a split-level entry
- Built a 6x16-foot front porch with gabled overhang



Before

No curb appeal here: The original entry of the 1958 ranch was dour and uninviting.

Dressed Up

Transforming
a plain kitchen

For this empty-nester couple, moving to Raleigh, North Carolina, meant acquiring a charming 1950s home in an area soon to be on the historic registry. The only thing that didn't measure up was the kitchen, says designer David Mackowski, owner of Quality Home Improvements in Raleigh. Lack of room and access to the kitchen were major drawbacks. Mackowski borrowed space from an adjoining bedroom, to boost the size of the kitchen, and reconfigured the entry from the carport for more convenient access. (The couple used to enter the kitchen through a mudroom and laundry.)

The new kitchen includes a relocated laundry room, a patio door leading to the backyard and a new island. Maple cabinets along the perimeter of the room have a taupe finish and solid-surface countertops. To give the island a furniture look, its cabinets are stained linen-white. A black galaxy granite countertop further sets the island apart. ■

BY BERNADETTE BACZYNSKI
PHOTOGRAPHS BY RAY STRAWBRIDGE

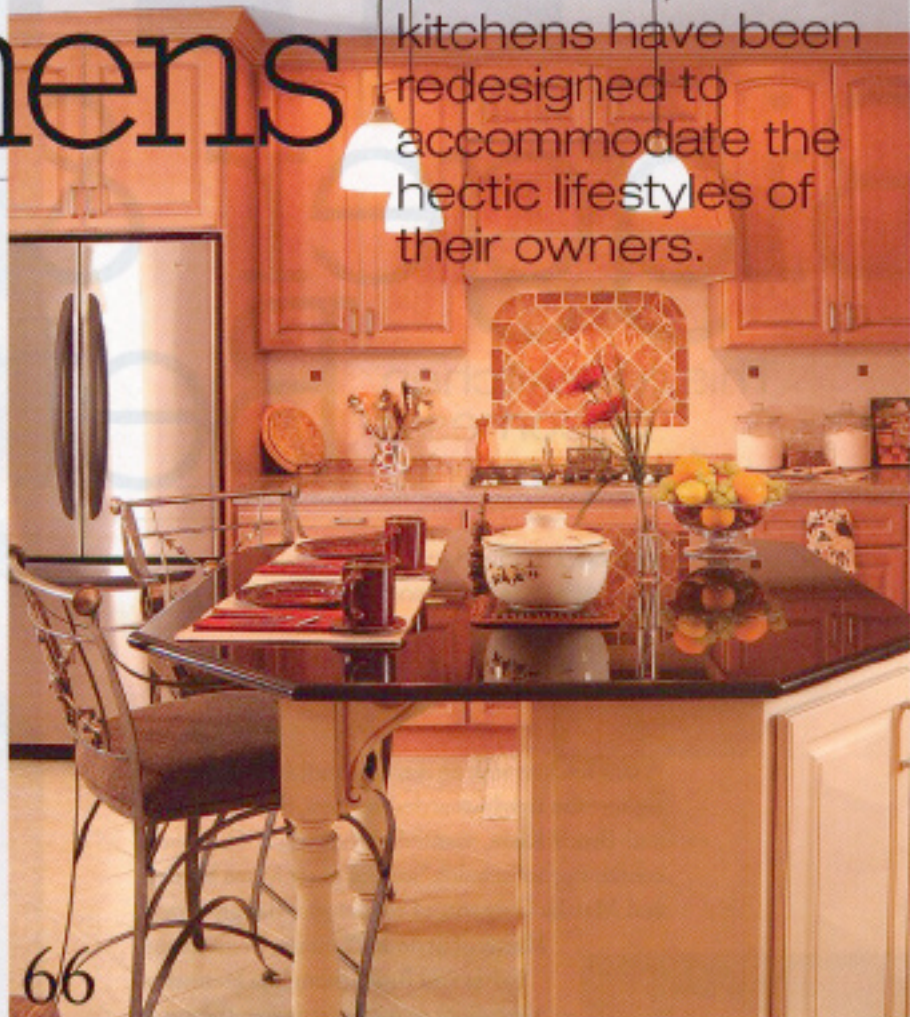


Creative Kitchens

Once small, these kitchens have been redesigned to accommodate the hectic lifestyles of their owners.



62



66



58



64

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Remodeling
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What Was Done

- Expanded the kitchen by taking the space from an adjacent bedroom
- Installed new maple cabinets and stainless steel appliances
- Added a patio door for access to the deck and backyard
- Eliminated an eating alcove and reconfigured the entry from the carport to provide more convenient access
- Created a spacious island for eating, meal preparation and storage

Before

ABOVE: Tiny and dated, the old kitchen had inadequate lighting, inefficient space for food preparation and a cramped eating area. Stock cabinetry added little flair to the nondescript space.



ABOVE: Porcelain tiles, with a custom-designed tumbled-marble inset over the cooktop, are a nice design feature. Diagonally set porcelain floor tiles repeat the pattern of the backsplash. **RIGHT:** The island's single bead-board panel creates a focal point in the room. An open plate rack breaks up the expanse of cabinets and provides convenient access to dishes.

