

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2007

The Oregonian

# HGNW

HOMES & GARDENS  
OF THE NORTHWEST

## OUT OF THE FIRE

AN INNOVATIVE HOME ARISES  
FROM A RUIN/24



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NW PRO | HOME DESIGN | By Bridget A. Otto THE OREGONIAN

# U-TURNAROUND

A cramped kitchen opens up



## | AFTER |

In addition to pushing out six feet for a larger footprint, the kitchen gained more visual space from a vaulted ceiling. Unseen is a skylight that bathes the room in natural light and makes up for losing the window that was over the sink — something Barb Centioli says she doesn't miss at all. The floors, Brazilian teak, are the warm reddish tones Centioli wanted. The door on the back wall leads to the new laundry room. Before the remodel, the washer and dryer were in the garage (the door on the left).

Photos by Marv Bondarowicz THE OREGONIAN

## HOMEOWNERS |

Skip and Barb Centioli

## THE HOUSE |

A 1977 ranch in the Bethany area of Washington County

## THE PROBLEM |

The Centiolis have lived in their home for 18 years. They love the area, their large flat lot with its expansive backyard and their neighbors. But any affection they'd ever felt for the small U-shaped kitchen closed off from most of the house was gone. Done. Over.

For two years, they looked for a new home. They considered several areas, including a development on a golf course in Newberg. It was Barb Centioli's conversation with a builder there that reversed their course.

Asked by the builder to describe the house she wanted, Barb talked about a flat lot, a single-level home with a spacious, private yard — a house that sounded a lot



## | BEFORE |

like what she had.

The builder told her he'd spend the money to make what they have into what they want.

The Centiolis decided he was right. They had plans drawn up and work began.

## | AFTER |



## | BEFORE |



Originally the dining room was shut off from the kitchen, and although there was a window to the backyard, there was no access. The original window was replaced with French doors and a window was installed where the china cabinet once stood.

Once the wall between the rooms came down, designer Carrie Carlson divided the space with the breakfast bar. Its higher counter provides just the right amount of privacy; diners at the table can't see dirty dishes or pans in the kitchen.

## DESIGN SOLUTIONS

## THE PRIMARY GOAL |

Nearly the entire house was touched by the 3½-month project that they started in 2006. But the kitchen was the main attraction.

Barb wanted a larger kitchen, better storage, improved lighting, an open feel and more of an indoor/outdoor connection. She also wanted granite countertops and hardwood floors.

"I knew it was going to be expensive," she says. "I needed someone to help me pull it all together."

## THE DESIGNER |

Carrie Carlson of Planet Design

## FINDING THE PRO |

The Centiols interviewed two other designers before signing on with Carlson. The Centiols were impressed that Carlson, unlike the others they'd interviewed, asked at their first meeting to see the plans and to walk through the house. They knew that they'd found their designer.

## THE PROCESS |

The plans called for pushing an exterior wall six feet into the side yard, using the additional space for a new utility room. But Carlson noted that this was an inordinate amount of space for a utility room in a 1,500-square-foot house — and the kitchen wasn't any larger. She suggested putting some of that space to use in the kitchen.

Something else on the initial plans caught Carlson's eye: a microwave over the range.

"I never do that," Carlson says. "I think it looks apartment."

Instead, Carlson convinced the Centiols that the focal point should be more appealing. She recommended a stainless hood and a tile backsplash. Now, Carlson says, it's beautiful.

"I didn't think of those things," Barb Centioli says. "A designer can see through to the end."

A large island for workspace and removing a wall to open up the view to the outside rounded out the plan.



## | AFTER |

THE DESIGNER | Carrie Carlson

THE FIRM | Planet Design

YEARS IN BUSINESS | 16

SPECIALTY | Start-to-finish new construction and remodel

PHILOSOPHY | "I try to stick with the style of the house and the bones of the house. The floor plan and the architecture is everything. I create a canvas for what's going to happen in the house and consider who is going to live there. The space is for the people; it is the backdrop of their lives."

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## DESIGN SOLUTIONS



**FOCAL POINT** | A handsome hood, decorative tile backsplash and a slick gas range combine to be both beautiful and functional.



**ALL TOGETHER** | Barb Centioli knew she wanted granite counters but needed help beyond that. Carlson suggested the ginger-glazed cabinets - a color found in the granite. It was also Carlson's idea to carry the backsplash tiles around to give relief between the countertop and breakfast bar.



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**THE NEW SPACE |**

Barb Centioli can't quite determine her favorite part of the earth-tone kitchen.

"It's really hard. I love the island. I love the storage in the island."

She also loves its uninterrupted surface: no sink or varying levels.

"I wanted it plain," says the avid scrapbooker, who admits she thought at first they would raise part of it as a breakfast bar. She and Skip are both thrilled Carlson persuaded them to keep the island level and put the breakfast bar elsewhere. Not only is the slab of granite gorgeous to look at, it also provides a utilitarian space for cooking or spreading out work papers or crafts.

The ginger-stained cabinetry, Brazilian teak floors and stainless appliances harmonize in the efficient space bathed in natural light from the skylight poked into the newly vaulted ceilings — something Skip wasn't so sure of.

"I'm cost conscious," he says with a laugh. But he says he now is thrilled that they pushed up.

**BUDGET WISE |**

Know where you want to spend your money.

Seeing that the Centiols had picked out a high-end Dacor range with a down-draft vent, Carlson asked if they were gourmet cooks who entertained a lot. When they said no, Carlson recommended that the money might be better spent on a good, beautiful range, gorgeous hood and new microwave.

"Some people spend a lot of money on things they don't necessarily need because they've never done this before," Carlson says.

The Centiols nodded.

"That was very helpful," Barb says. "She was always cost conscious and aware of our budget and gave us choices without compromising the look we were after." •

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**COMING NEXT WEEK**

**WELL USED | >>**

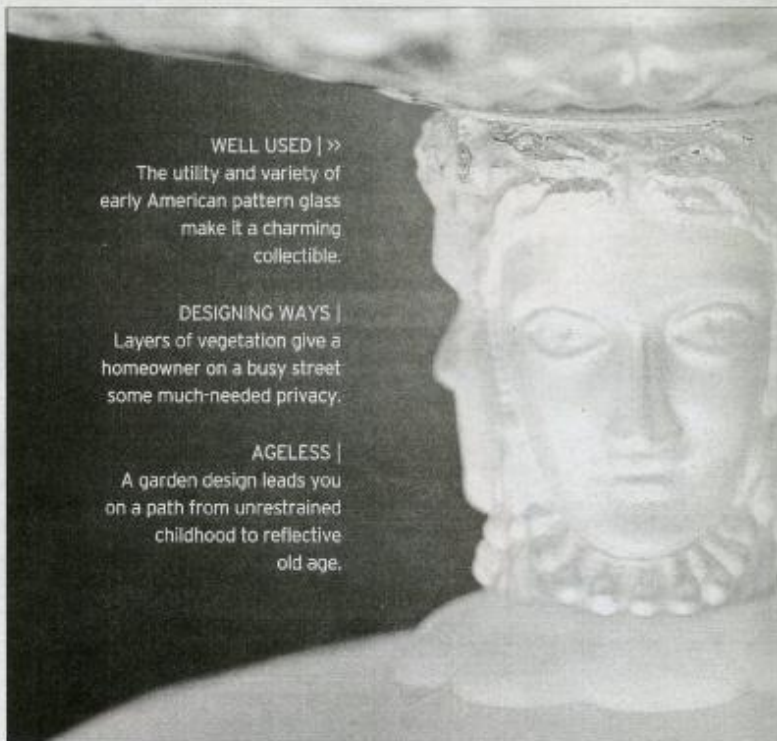
The utility and variety of early American pattern glass make it a charming collectible.

**DESIGNING WAYS |**

Layers of vegetation give a homeowner on a busy street some much-needed privacy.

**AGELESS |**

A garden design leads you on a path from unrestrained childhood to reflective old age.



Marv Bondarowicz THE OREGONIAN

**LOOK FOR IT!**

**DOWNTOWN MONTHLY**



Portland is a heckuva dance town, and the contemporary, the classical and the acrobatic are headed to downtown stages. The Sept. 28 issue of Downtown Monthly offers an overview of upcoming dance performances — plus lots of stories about dining, cooking, fashion, jewelry and exploring the center city.

LOOK FOR IT FRIDAY IN *The Oregonian*

