

Woman's Day® Specials

# HOME Remodeling & MAKEOVERS

436  
IDEAS INSIDE!

## Before & After Projects

Kitchens • Baths •  
Bedrooms & More

25 Budget Fix-Ups for Under \$100  
Top Landscaping Plants & Flowers  
49 Ways to Unclutter Your Kitchen  
21 Great Deck Designs & Products

Woman's Day  
Home Ideas Series  
Volume XII, Number 2  
U.S. \$4.50  
CANADA \$4.99  
Display until  
June 10, 2003



womansday.com/specials





## Blending Old and New

### What Was Done

- Converted screened-in porch to four-season sunroom
- Removed load-bearing wall to create breakfast nook
- Added rear entry with gabled overhang
- Replaced windows and doors with energy-efficient thermal glass
- Added new cedar-shake exterior and roof
- Replaced existing deck with compact upgraded version designed to complement new rear entry

**W**hen Martha and Robert Payne decided to expand their 30-year-old home in Wilton, Connecticut, they didn't have to go far for advice: Their son, Andrew, and his wife, Laura, owners of Wilton-based Benchmark Builders, proved eager to undertake the project.

Their shared goal? To transform the first-floor interior into a family room. One integral project in the remodel, which added 1,000 square feet, was

reworking the rear of the house to add a 21x14-foot sunroom. To do so, the Paynes annexed a screen porch and demolished an old 10x30-foot deck.

Removing a load-bearing wall in the living room allowed the builders to push out 8 feet and create a separate breakfast room. The nook lives larger than its dimensions, thanks to expansive view-framing windows. "We can sit in here or the sunroom and enjoy a panoramic view," Robert says.

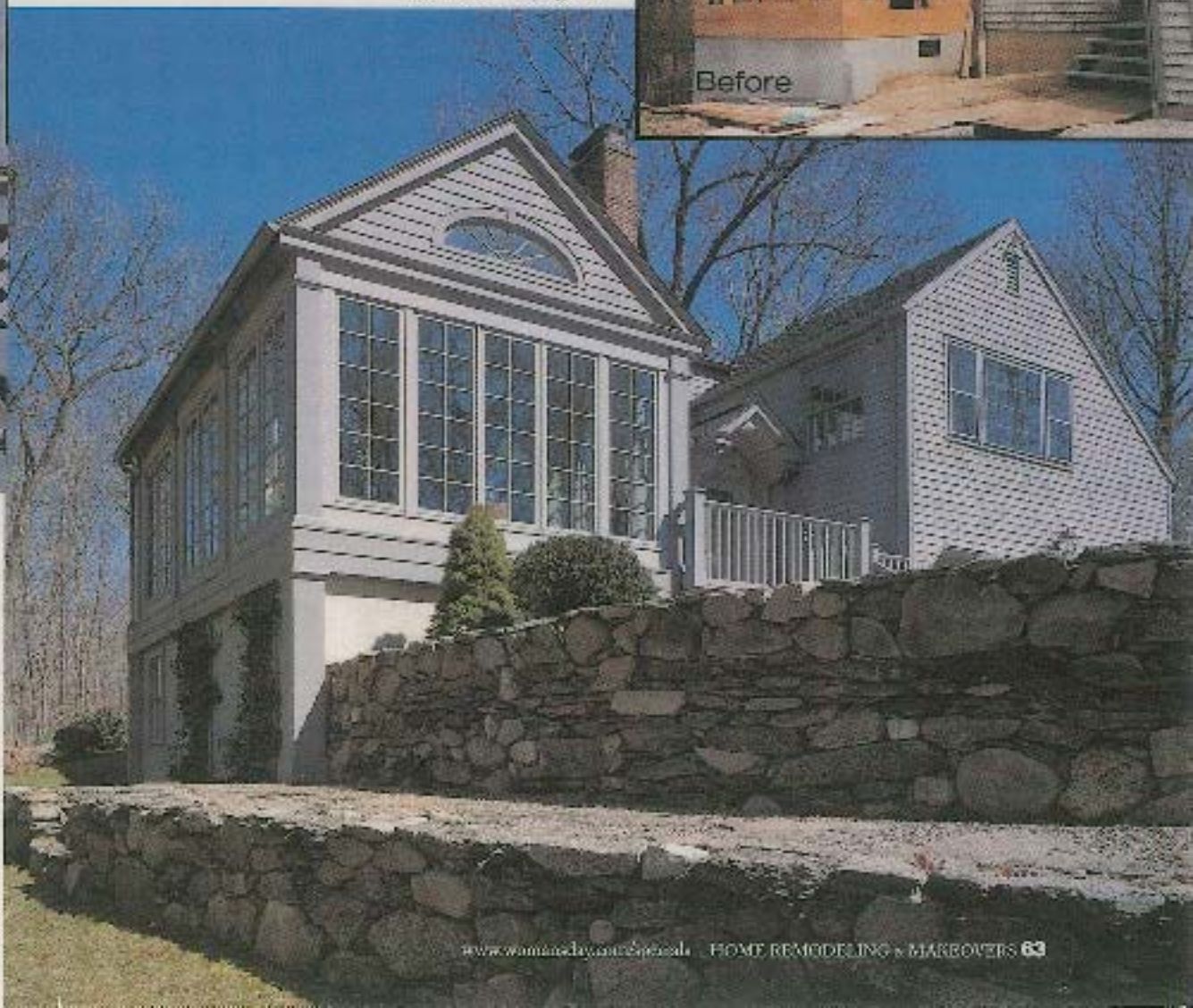




**LEFT:** With its gabled canopy/overhang and distinctive brackets, the rear entry provides welcome protection from bad weather. The cedar-shake shingles used throughout will eventually age to an attractive gray and blend in with the original structure. **ABOVE:** Before the renovation the homeowners did not have a view of a neighboring conservation area.

*continued on page 64*

**BELOW:** The awkwardly situated house featured a north-facing kitchen and family room. "The kitchen was always dark," remembers Martha Payne, "even on sunny days." **BOTTOM:** The renovated rear facade integrates Colonial-style architecture with neoclassical elements. Floor-to-ceiling casement windows and a custom-designed elliptical window flood the sunroom with light.





# Light, Bright and White

Transforming an outmoded kitchen

BY BERNADETTE BACZYNSKI

PHOTOGRAPHS BY OLSON PHOTOGRAPHIC, LLC





**W**hen the homeowners first saw this 1970s-era kitchen, it was so hopelessly dark and outdated they knew they would have to start from scratch to bring it back to life. "The old kitchen was like a dungeon—much too small for everyday living or for entertaining," says Laura Avery Payne, who with her husband, Andrew, owns Benchmark Builders, a design/build firm in Wilton, Connecticut. "The family didn't live in their traditional-style home too long before they knew they had to remodel," she says.

To give the new kitchen more light and space, the Paynes incorporated an adjacent porch as the breakfast area, then added a new screened porch that extends into the backyard. Although the spare lines and neutral colors give the kitchen a somewhat contemporary feeling, the materials themselves echo the traditional design of the home, with wide-plank oak floors, French doors, bead-board panels and crown molding. A bonus for the family is the home office area, blended into one wall of the new breakfast room. All in all, says Payne, the once-dreary kitchen is now an inviting gathering place for family and friends. ■

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS



Before



Before

**LEFT:** Casement windows provide a view of the backyard; the new screened porch is through the doors. The bead-board panels of the island are framed to resemble the style of the cabinet doors. **TOP:** The dark wood of the original kitchen absorbed any natural light.

**ABOVE:** After the old cabinets were removed, drywall was installed and then the new cabinets went in. **BELOW:** A wall was removed in order to create the peninsula with a see-through cabinet that separates food-preparation and eating spaces.

