



DUTCH
COLONIAL

Winnetka,
Illinois

Trading Spaces

When a family outgrew a traditional Cape Cod riddled with awkward additions, changing its layout allowed the owners' style to shine through.

WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY LISA SKOLNIK PHOTOGRAPHY BY WERNER STRAUBE

This Photo An unexpected mix of materials, including acrylic resin, glass, brass, gold, and cowhide, adds oomph to the earthy patinas of the granite hearth and mellow walnut floor in the living room. **Opposite** Shagreen topped with a stain-resistant treatment is chic, durable, and simple to clean on the dining room table.





T

The 1920s Dutch Colonial home had plenty of assets: a great location in Chicago's North Shore suburb Winnetka, super schools nearby, a spacious living room, and lots of charm. When Janet and Bruce Disbrow bought the house in 1993, Janet was especially attracted to the picturesque gambrel roof that reminded her of the home she grew up in. The deficits—an inefficient and archaic kitchen, small bedrooms, shoebox closets, and a convoluted layout thanks to several slapdash additions over the years—didn't matter as much as the basics.

That changed, however, when the Disbrows' kids hit their teens. A sunporch winterized sometime in the 1950s to stand in as a family room was a particular sore spot. "All four of the kids would congregate in this cramped little sunroom off the

Left Architect William Scholtens designed custom wainscoting to straddle the line between traditional and contemporary styling. *Below* Shortening the sloping roof over the garage to match the roofline above the front entry streamlined the exterior of the house and made room for a grand new master suite. *Opposite* The simple shape of contemporary nesting tables complement the flirty silhouette of a pair of 1940s slipper chairs in the living room.





Personal Style

Traditional wide oak planks were replaced with narrower walnut floorboards. "It's fresh and modern without going overboard," architect William Scholtens says.

This Photo The living room has a whole wall of glass-pane doors that overlook, and allow access to, the beautifully landscaped backyard pool area and fill the space with spectacular light.





Personal Style

The homeowners achieved a sleek and contemporary aesthetic. To keep it from feeling austere, they used wide wood frames on the floor-to-ceiling doors.



Personal Style

Janet and Bruce Disbrow chose this hand-painted wallpaper. "It makes a grand statement in a minimal space," interior designer Greg Jagmin says.

Voice of Experience

living room, where they'd do everything: watch TV, do homework, and hang out," interior designer Greg Jagmin says. "And it was smaller than your average dorm room." Even though the Disbrows had built a backyard pool, they decided to move.

But the search for a new home was unsuccessful, so Jagmin introduced them to architect William Scholtens, who told them "the house has no usable space because it's laid out all wrong," Janet says. "Then he came up with this radical but brilliant idea to flip the living room and kitchen."

Rather than just shifting spaces, Scholtens' plan completely reconfigured the home, including the upper-level bedrooms, and enlarged it only about 300 square feet. The most monumental change came on the main level, where Scholtens eliminated doors, opening up each room to a spacious central hall that holds the home's staircase.

The kitchen was enlarged and became an elegant double-duty living space as it moved to the front of the house. The living room got an entire wall of glass doors in its new location, creating a relationship with the dazzling backyard it overlooks.

When you have an open floor plan, architectural details become more significant because "they're the most important way to add definition and character to a space," architect William Scholtens says. In the Disbrows' home, he delineated each room's boundary by edging its floor with a frame-like border of boards that continues around the room, even when the wall isn't there. Crown molding encircles the living and dining room ceilings, while tongue-and-groove boards line the ceiling in the media room.

Below The handsome new media room gets kicky glamour from a vintage Louis XVI-style fauteuil, a brass occasional table with bamboo-look legs, a graphic Greek key-pattern area rug, and graphic accessories. **Opposite** Interior designer Greg Jagmin paired vintage dining chairs with a unique dining table he pieced together from a vintage brass base and new leather top.





"We wanted the kitchen to feel like a living space ... so we kept the fireplace and created an island that could serve multiple purposes."

ARCHITECT WILLIAM SCHOLTENS

Above A coffeemaker and microwave are conveniently positioned for ease of use. *Right* The Disbrows' kitchen is ideal for preparing meals, but it also can double as a dining room, a gathering spot to watch a football game, or a place to read a book in front of the fireplace.







A media room adjoins the living room, and the dining room became a gracious link between the front and back.

Postrenovation, finishings needed an update, too. Jagmin and Janet collaborated on lighting choices and a finely tuned blend of smart traditional pieces that reference historical styles, such as neoclassic chairs and chic 20th-century pieces. Without conventional doors between rooms, "it took a lot of painstaking editing to achieve the right balance and color palette in every room," Jagmin says, "because all the spaces relate to each other now."

And everyone in the family relates to one another now, which is exactly what Scholtens intended. "Our daily life is so much more interactive, and entertaining is a delight," Janet says. The couple are planning on just one more alteration. "We're calling William in about 15 years for an elevator," Janet says.

RESOURCES PAGE 116



Top To add interest to the consistent face marble in the master bathroom, Scholtens varied format and scale, using horizontal planks on walls, a mosaic in the shower, a slab on the countertop, and panels on the floor. **Above** Forgoing a tub, the Disbrows had Scholtens create a giant, spa-like, two-person steam shower with two showerheads. **Right** The new master bedroom suite occupies a former upper-level family room and guest bedroom.



Personal Style

To keep their bedroom from feeling boxy, Janet used a wallpaper that has an ever-so-slight iridescent sparkle that is apparent at night.

The Plans, *Before & After*

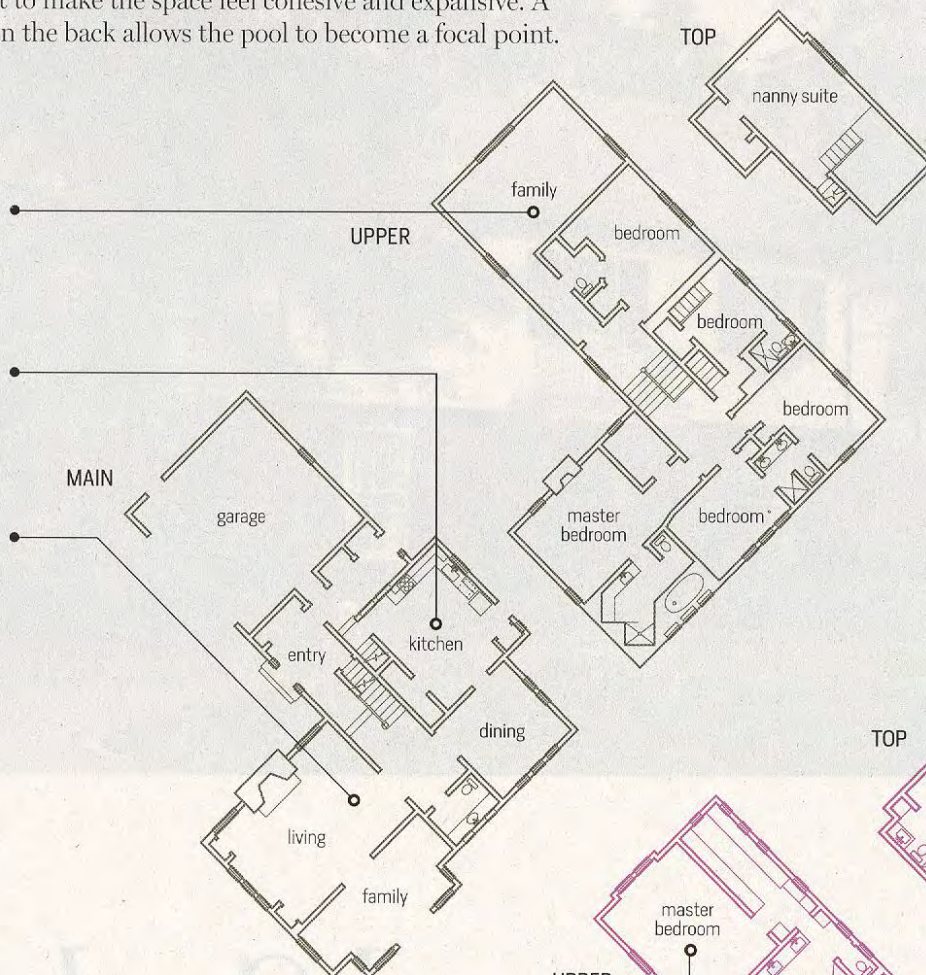
Enamored with their location and lot, Janet and Bruce Disbrow decided to follow the advice of architect William Scholtens and revamp the inefficient layout of their gawky 1920s Dutch Colonial. The living room and kitchen traded places, and most of the interior walls on the main level were knocked out to make the space feel cohesive and expansive. A new wall of windows in the back allows the pool to become a focal point.

BEFORE

A second family room, no longer needed, together with a fifth bedroom, would become the master suite.

Poorly designed and tiny, the kitchen was outdated and badly placed near the back of the house.

The formal living room and dining room sat apart from the core of the home and went unused by the family.

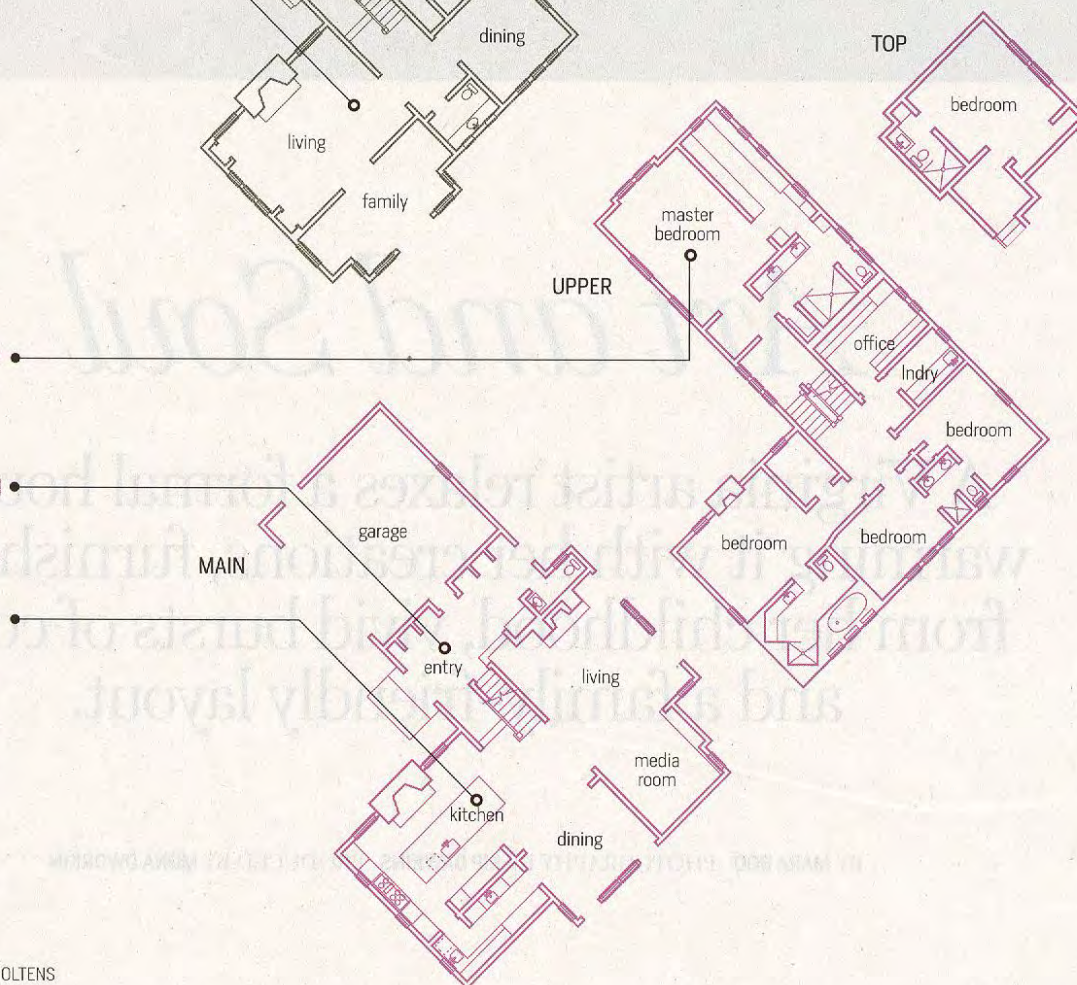


AFTER

The new master suite extends over the garage and overlooks the backyard pool.

A new well-defined entry hall runs from front to back and welcomes family and guests.

Moved to the front of the house, the spacious new kitchen anchors the core of the living areas. Removing interior walls opens up the main level.



4,300 square feet

ARCHITECTURE WILLIAM SCHOLTENS
INTERIOR DESIGN GREG JAGMIN

Style: Personal Best

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Professionals interviewed:

Tom Stringer, Tom Stringer Design Partners, 314 W. Superior St., Suite 601, Chicago, IL 60654; 312/664-0644; tomstringer.com.

Dee Elms, Terrat Elms Interior Design, 535 Albany St., Boston, MA 02118; 617/451-1555; terratelms.com.

Judith Ellerman, Judith Nadler Interiors, 5239 E. Palo Verde Pl., Paradise Valley, AZ 85253-3344; 847/209-1771.

Amy Morris, Amy D. Morris Interiors, 1401 Dresden Dr., Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30319; 404/389-0628; amydmorris.com.

Renovation: Kitchen Redo

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Architect: Malcolm Brennan, M. Brennan Architects, Inc., 113 Wappoo Creek Dr., Suite 4, Charleston, SC 29412; 843/406-7813; mbrennanarchitects.com.

Kitchen designer: Mary M. Dodge, CKD, CBD, Signature Kitchens & Baths of Charleston, Inc., 1926 Savannah Hwy., Charleston, SC 29407; 843/571-5720; signaturekitchens.net.

General contractor: Charlie Price, New South Construction Co., Inc., Charleston, South Carolina; 843/514-7626.

Cabinetry maple with satin white paint and glass-front cabinet doors tongue-and-groove walnut by Quality Custom Cabinetry, Inc.—through Signature Kitchens & Baths of Charleston, Inc., Charleston, South Carolina; 843/571-5720; signaturekitchens.net. **Perimeter countertops and backsplash slab** polished Calacatta Gold marble, **countertop for island** honed Calacatta Gold marble—contact local cut stone retailers.

Backsplash mosaic tile—Paris Ceramics, USA; 888/845-3487; parisceramics.com. **Cabinet knobs** Round Ridge Knobs—Amerock Corp.; amerock.com. **Pulls**—through Wilmette Hardware, Wilmette, Illinois; 888/812-4465; wilmettehardware.com.

Refrigerator and drawers—Sub-Zero, Inc.; 800/222-7820; subzero.com. **Range** Dual Fuel Pro Convection Range with infrared char grill and griddle, **microwave oven** Sensor Microwave Drawer—Wolf Appliance, Inc.; 800/332-9513;

wolfappliance.com. **Range hood** copper clad 14-gauge pewter in antique finish, custom—Handcrafted Metal, Inc., Austin; 512/386-7525. **Pot filler** Swing-Arm Pot Filler, **sink faucet, sink soap and lotion dispenser**—Rohl; 800/777-9762; rohlhome.com. **Sink** Dickinson Apron-Front Undercounter Sink—Kohler Co.; 800/456-4537; us.kohler.com. **Dishwasher** integrated with cabinetry—Miele, Inc.; 800/463-0260; miele.com. **Sconces, light fixtures**—Urban Archaeology; 212/431-4646; urbanarchaeology.com.

Spotlight: Curb Appeal

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Architect: Marsha Topham, AIA, CG&S Design-Build, 402 Corral Lane, Austin, TX 78745; 512/444-1580; cgssdb.com.

Construction project manager: Danny Scott, CG&S Design-Build, 402 Corral Lane, Austin, TX 78745; 512/444-1580; cgssdb.com.

Landscape designer: Gregory Thomas, AIA, CG&S Design-Build, 402 Corral Lane, Austin, TX 78745; 512/444-1580; cgssdb.com.

Landscaping: Eric Arntson, Stonebridge Landscape & Pond Company, Austin; 512/656-5862; stonebridgelandscape.net.

Trading Spaces

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Architect: William Scholtens, AIA, Elements Architectural Group, 205 Superior St., Oak Park, IL 60302; 708/848-4750; elementsarchitects.com.

Interior designer: Greg Jagmin, Greg Jagmin Associates, 5533 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, IL 60640; 312/316-0968; gregjagmin.com.

Contractor: Haegeland and Schmidt Builders, LLC, 4300 Lincoln Ave., Suite Q, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008; 847/991-0123; hsbuilders.com.

Landscaper: James Martin Associates, 59 E. U.S. Hwy. 45, Vernon Hills, IL 60061; 847/634-1660; jamesmartinassociates.com.

Throughout

Wall paint American White—Benjamin Moore; 888/236-6667; benjaminmoore.com [P]. **Flooring**—Carlisle Wide Plank Flooring; 800/595-9663; wideplankflooring.com.

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Hearth Kenya black granite—Stone Source Midwest, Chicago; 312/335-9900; stonesource.com. **Upholstered chair, side table at sofa**—Baker; 800/592-2537; bakerfurniture.com. **Fabric for chair** silk linen—Summer Hill, Ltd.; summerhill.com [T]. **Coffee table, chairs**—Istdibs; Istdibs.com. **Nesting tables flanked by chairs** purchased without gold leaf—West Elm; 866/428-6468; westelm.com (product line varies). **Sofa, gold leafing of table**—through Greg Jagmin Associates, Chicago; 312/316-0968; gregjagmin.com. **Fabric for sofa** Gentleman's Eye—Holland & Sherry, Inc., New York City; 212/758-1911; hollandandsherry.com. **Rug**—Rawhide Company; 866/586-2901; rawhidecompany.com. **Staircase handrail** custom—through Elements Architectural Group, Oak Park, Illinois; 708/848-4750; elementsarchitects.com.

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Dining table base vintage—Todd Hase Furniture, Inc., New York City; 212/871-9075; toddhase.com [T]. **Leather-wrapped table top** custom—through Greg Jagmin Associates, Chicago; 312/316-0968; gregjagmin.com. **Dining chairs**—S&S Auction, Inc., Repaupo, New Jersey; 856/467-3778; ssauction.com. **Chandelier**—Architectural Artifacts, Inc., Chicago; 773/348-0622; architecturalartifacts.com. **Wallpaper** Cherry Blossoms—de Gournay, New York City; 917/855-4401; degournay.com. **Sisal rug**—Home Carpet One, Chicago; 773/935-9314; homecarpet1.com. **Millwork** custom—through Elements Architectural Group, Oak Park, Illinois; 708/848-4750; elementsarchitects.com. **Sofa, ottoman**—Viesso; 877/884-3776; viesso.com. **Mohair fabric for sofa and ottoman, covering for vintage bergère chair** vinyl in snakeskin design, **fabric for table skirt, fabrics for pillows**—Fishman's Fabrics, Chicago; 312/922-7250; fishmansfabrics.com. **Rug**—Stark Carpet Corp.; 800/752-9000; starkcarpet.com. **Design and fabrication of table skirt and pillows** custom—through Greg Jagmin Associates, Chicago; 312/316-0968; gregjagmin.com.

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Cabinetry—Vesta; ivesta.com [T]. **Countertops and**