

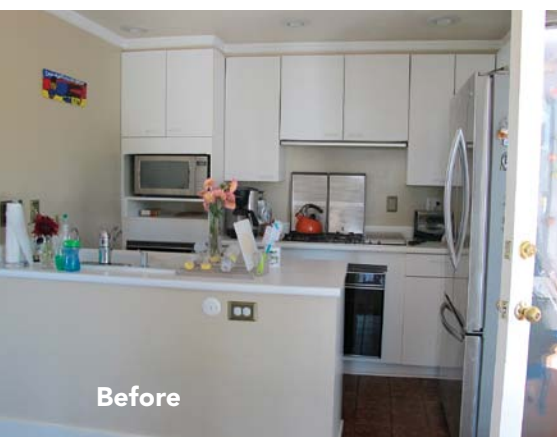
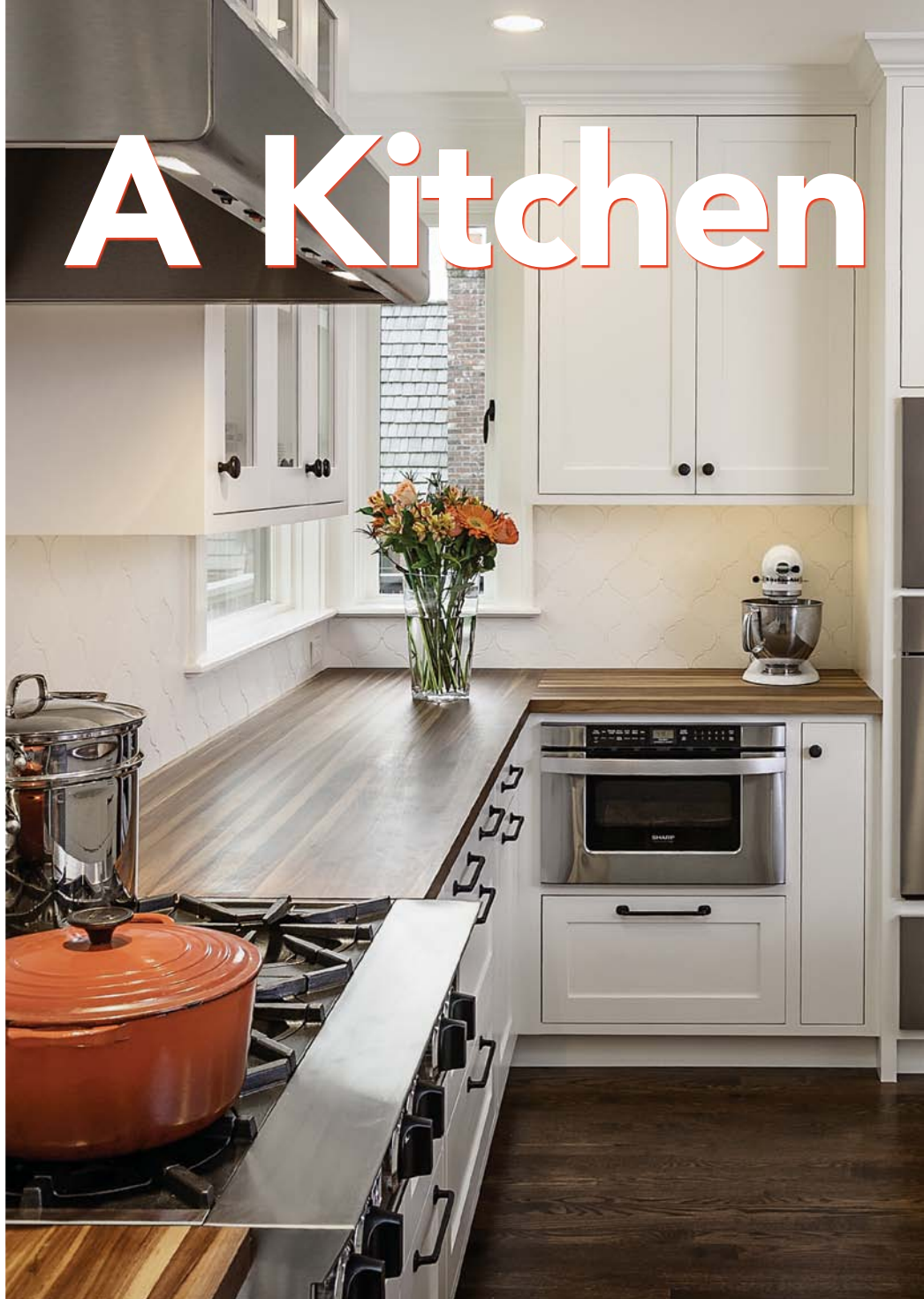
With a better entry,
a small addition,
and a lounge,
a great room is born

BY HOWARD MILLER

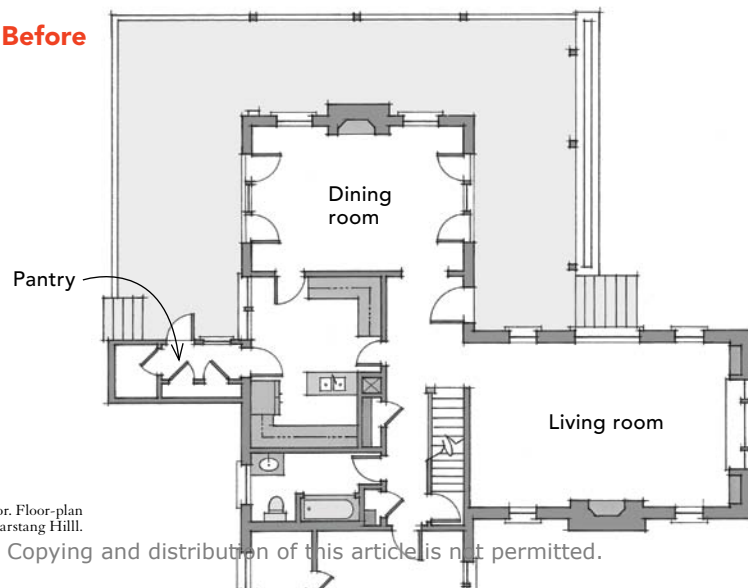
It was fun to discover that Abbie and I had gone to the same high school—Phillips Academy Andover in Massachusetts—even though I graduated 10 years earlier than she did and we only met recently, here in Seattle.

Abbie and her husband found me on the website of the local chapter of the American Institute of Architects when Jonathan's work brought them from the Northeast to the Northwest. After living in a small apartment in New York for many years, they bought a 1920s Tudor-style home in Seattle. Though the kitchen had been remodeled in the 1970s, it was still isolated from the adjacent living spaces, a common characteristic of these homes.

There was a time when people wanted their kitchens to be separated from the rest of the house. The work of making meals—and the potential mess—was kept private from the area where friends and family ate and socialized. This is exactly how Abbie and Jonathan's house had been designed. The kitchen was hidden from the dining and living rooms behind swinging doors. Though it was not small, it was poorly organized and felt cramped. The location of the peninsula made for a tiny workspace, the refrigerator restricted traffic flow, and the range and ovens were breaking down. Worse, the pan-



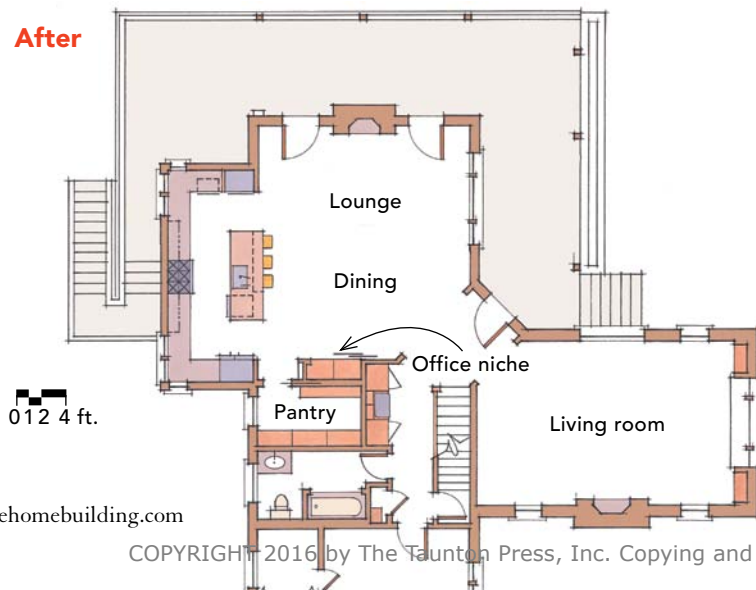
Before



Connected



After



A LOUNGE ACT

Though the house has a well-appointed living room, it was fairly removed from the kitchen and dining area. The new entry makes a stronger connection between the rooms, but a gathering space closer to the kitchen was in order for this family that likes to entertain. Enter the lounge. Bumping out the home's east wall offered enough extra space for the lounge plus a new pantry and home office. Creating a three-sided kitchen also provided the opportunity for corner windows, better ventilation, and more sunlight.

try was a shed attached to the back of the house and was not winterized.

Abbie and Jonathan hoped that opening the kitchen up to the rest of the house would allow them to supervise their kids and to socialize with guests while preparing a meal. Because the living and dining rooms have western views of the Olympic Mountains, the couple hoped to bring those views and lots of natural light to the new kitchen, too.

Small addition makes big difference

This was all possible, yet the solution wasn't as simple as taking down the walls that confined the kitchen. Even without the walls, the living room was too far from the kitchen for the cooks to socialize with guests. For this reason, we all agreed to incorporate a lounge into the plan—a small living area closer to the kitchen. And this likely was going to require additional space.

Since we had to address the uninsulated pantry, we decided to take the opportunity to bump the kitchen out with an 8-ft. by 20-ft. addition, creating an open area for the dining table and space near the fireplace for the lounge. This allowed us to turn the kitchen to look through the dining area to the living room as well as to see the lounge and the western view. It also offered the opportunity for corner windows on both ends of the kitchen that, along with a central skylight, provide the kitchen with lots of natural light and cross ventilation. The pantry was relocated inside the house, and a new kitchen office sits just outside the pantry door.

A central island separates the kitchen from the dining area, while providing a circular traffic flow. The aisles of the kitchen are all at least 42 in. wide, which creates plenty of walking space even when appliance doors are open. The new pantry and office niche, both with sliding doors, provide functionality and ample storage while making it easier to hide clutter. The sink is in the island, oriented to the west so that when they're working in the kitchen, Abbie and Jonathan can still enjoy the views and interact with family and friends in the dining area and lounge. Finally, rotating the front entry 45° created a more open connection between the dining and living areas. At the entry, we remodeled the coat closet into more of a mudroom. We were upgrading the mechanicals, so we were able to remove a chimney. This allowed us to add two large closets with drawers and shelves as well as a bench and coat cubbies.



With the kitchen open to the dining area and lounge, it is no longer isolated and has become the heart of the home.

How to create a blend of styles

In terms of style, the kitchen has a clean, modern look but with a few traditional elements that tie it to the rest of the home. Its large open space, crisp lines, stainless-steel appliances, dining-area chandelier, glass-panel doors, and island tile all establish the modern aesthetic. The large corner windows also create a sleek look, while the decorative tile backsplash, Shaker-style cabinets, and warm walnut countertops provide a more traditional appearance.

Abbie and Jonathan specifically requested wood counters. They wanted the entire worksurface to act as a cutting board, even

if it required more maintenance than a hard surface. After their New York apartment experience with a subpar cooktop and a hood fan that didn't vent outside, Jonathan wanted a stove with high Btus and a powerful vented hood. The Blue Star range and hood from Vent-A-Hood both have performed well, allowing the family to cook with strong flavors and high heat while making no impact on the surrounding air quality.

For ambient and task lighting, there is a combination of recessed cans and undercabinet lights. These fixtures are switched separately to allow focused lighting for specific needs such as cooking, cleaning, or entertaining. Abbie and Jonathan opted not to install pendant lights above the island to reinforce the feeling that the kitchen, dining area, and lounge are a single space.



Office, pantry, and panels. The new pantry and office nook are easily concealed behind their sliding doors. One is a frame-and-panel wood unit, the other obscured glass. The doors are a fitting example of the kitchen's blend of traditional and modern elements.



Behind the scenes, we revamped the heating system. The home had hydronic radiators in some areas, while other areas were served by a forced-air system. We used existing radiators where possible and added a few new radiators, along with a couple of hydronic toe-kick heaters under the kitchen cabinets. We also expanded the forced-air system. Rather than installing a separate boiler and furnace for the two systems, we added a hydronically heated air handler so that we could use a single boiler to provide the heat for both. Interconnected Nest thermostats control the heating system. □

Howard Miller is a residential architect with The Johnson Partnership. Photos by Jim Houston (jimhoustonphotography.com), except where noted.

Surrounded by sunlight. Located in a bump-out addition, large windows flanking the kitchen and a skylight above the range ensure bountiful natural light. The sink faces the lounge and the dining area.

Angling for a view. Turning the front entry 45° means that there is now a long view connecting the kitchen to the living room. Above the dining table is a chandelier, custom made by a local shop. The homeowners use the walnut counters freely as a cutting surface.

DETAILS

Cabinets Jonathan Pauls
Fine Woodwork and Design

Pulls Ashley Norton

Tile Ann Sacks

Sink Blanco

Faucet Purist by Kohler

Cooktop Blue Star

Hood Vent-A-Hood

Chandelier

Harold's Lighting, Seattle

Ovens Miele

Microwave drawer Sharp

Refrigerator and freezer drawers Sub-Zero

Office-niche sliding doors Ramplus Doors

Windows Marvin

Contractor Fradkin Fine Construction