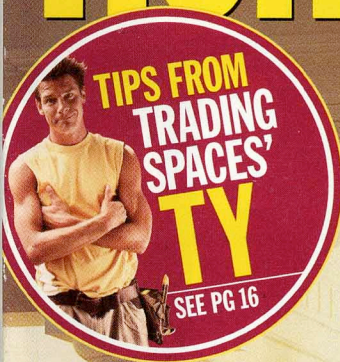


House Beautiful

SUMMER 2004

# Home Remodeling & Decorating



## Inspiration!

38 PAGES OF GREAT SPACES—  
INDOORS & OUT

*bonus*

10 Project Pitfalls—  
And How  
To Avoid Them!

*plus*

LANDSCAPING IDEAS YOU'LL LOVE!  
SPECTACULAR POOLS, SPAS,  
TUBS & WHIRLPOOLS

\$4.99 U.S. • \$6.99 CAN  
DISPLAY UNTIL JULY 5, 2004



hwspecials.com

# curves

## Ahead

A COLONIAL BREAKS OUT OF THE BOX TO BECOME A WELL-ROUNDED SHOWPLACE

A dramatic red dining room in the Forlenza house features Nancy Corzine table, chairs, and silk fabrics. The custom Tibetan rug repeats a circular motif found throughout the house.



WRITTEN BY DEVERON TIMBERLAKE PHOTOGRAPHY BY SAM GRAY STYLING BY NAN WHITNEY



Natural materials like the stone hearth and a warm color palette keep the mood cozy year-round.

Walls in the family room are finished in rift-sawn white oak, and a false gable ceiling makes the scale more intimate.



It could have been a nightmare, tearing off the back of a house and rebuilding it room by room. And Karen and Bob Forlenza had already lived through one agonizing construction project and didn't want a repeat. Several architects even advised them to tear their house down and just start over. "But we couldn't do that," Karen says. "My husband thought that would send the wrong message to the kids. It probably cost us more in the long run to do what we did, but it was interesting to take what we had and make it better."

Architectural details like the columns that lead to the family room give the house a timeless feel.



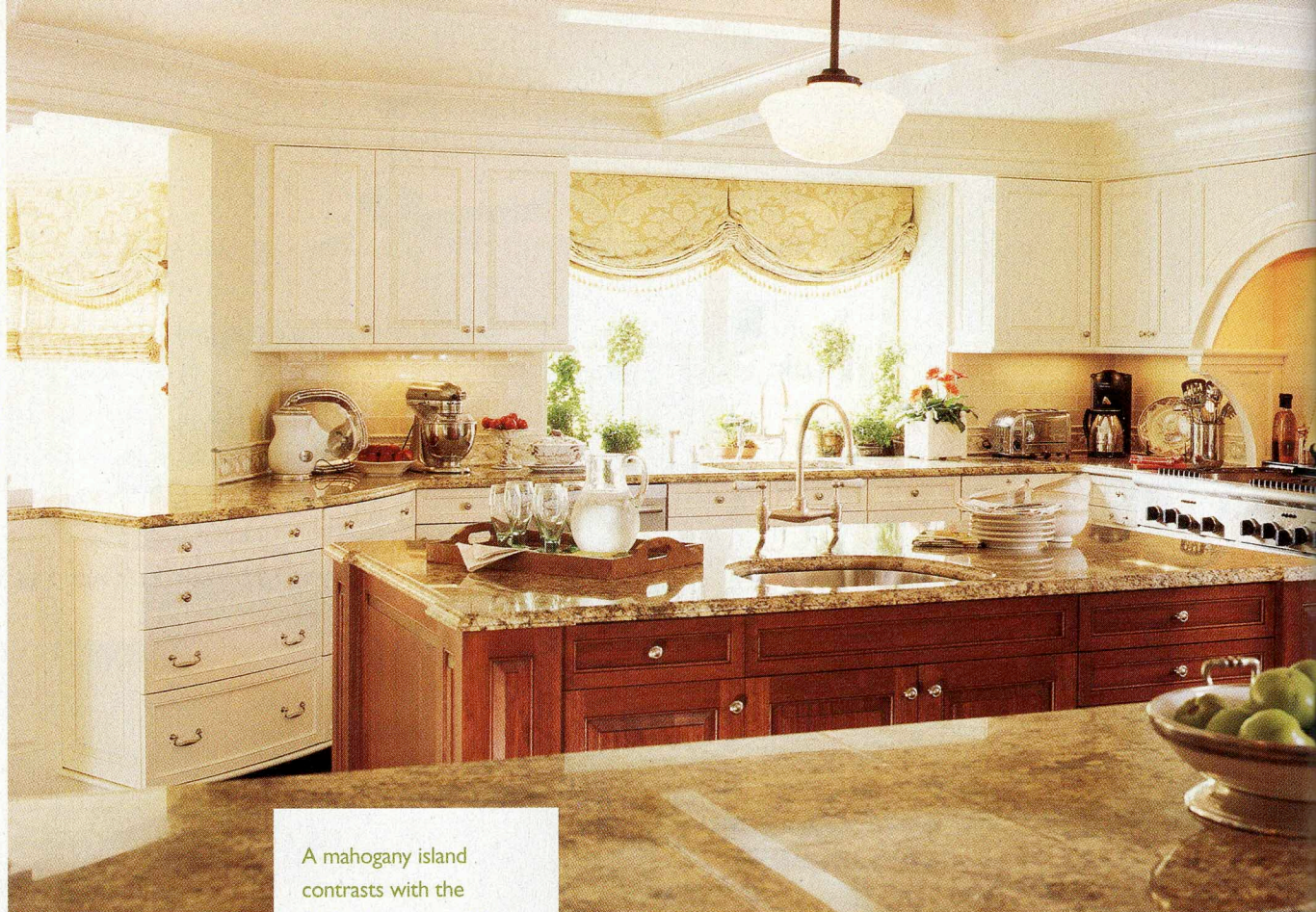
welcomehome

Their house was a basic Colonial with an ample backyard in Lexington, Massachusetts, and its tree-fringed setting was unusually private. With four children, a large extended family, and an active social life, the Forlenzas wanted a new kitchen and master suite and better access from inside to the outdoors. "One thing led to another," Karen says, "and we ended up taking it down to the studs. We did a 23-month renovation, and it came out beautifully. It was a team effort all the way."

Architect John MacDonald and interior designer Mollie Johnson worked closely with the Forlenzas to create a plan that would be efficient yet dramatic, spacious "but not a

### How they did it

- Karen Forlenza collected stacks of magazine clippings to show her architect and designer. "She knew just what she wanted," John MacDonald recalls, "and she was very interested in properly weighted moldings and the layering that goes into good architecture."
- MacDonald constructed models of the house to show his clients how the sun would enter windows and how the rooms would connect to each other and the landscape. The models helped guide Robert Decker of Hollett Building Corporation through 18 months of construction.
- By working with interior designer Mollie Johnson from the start, the Forlenzas saved time and avoided mistakes. Furniture placement, lighting design, materials, and finishing touches were thoroughly planned in advance. Move-in was simple and each piece fit perfectly.

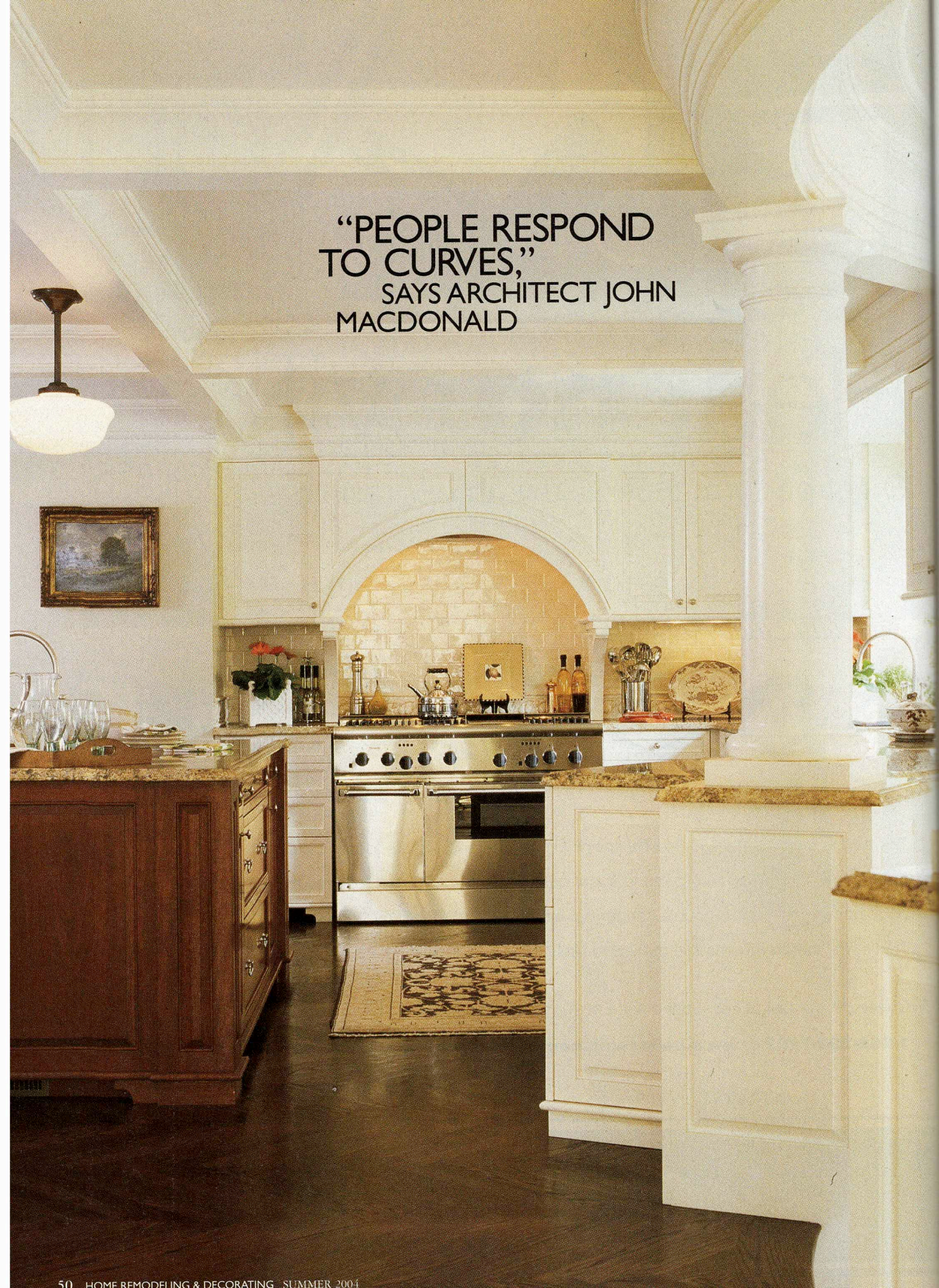


A mahogany island contrasts with the kitchen's creamy cabinetry (top). The round breakfast room (below) is two steps down, and is accented by hammered copper detailing above the fireplace. Herringbone-patterned flooring in stained oak pulls the spaces together.

McMansion," Karen laughs. They doubled the size of the house and added distinctive character to the once-graceless, boxy layout.

"The entire back of the house was basically pulled off and structurally re-supported with new steel," MacDonald says, "so that we could add on the new extensions—a dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, and conservatory." They also redesigned the master suite, added a three-car garage and built stone terraces to accentuate the landscape. "The house functions much better for a family of six," MacDonald says, "with better flow, better organization—it is much more livable and beautiful to look at."

Most of the rooms had a closed-off feeling before the renovation, with low ceilings, solitary doorways, and modest dimensions.



"PEOPLE RESPOND TO CURVES," SAYS ARCHITECT JOHN MACDONALD

MacDonald's plan opened up walls and views, linking rooms with archways to provide easy movement.

Where there was little of architectural interest before, the new design added detailed millwork and a few unusual materials to give each space individual personality. A hammered copper ceiling in the butler's pantry echoes copper hardware in the kitchen; a barrel-vault ceiling in the conservatory alludes to ocular windows and a circle motif that runs throughout the house.

Mollie Johnson encouraged the homeowners to select a palette of serene earth tones, providing a timeless quality that nicely complements without upstaging the architecture or the beautiful outdoor views. She and Karen traveled to Paris to canvass that city's legendary flea markets to find antique paintings

and clocks, mirrors and transferware plates, all adding an old-world patina to the house that now sparks fond memories of the collecting process.

Some of the French paintings grace walls in the new kitchen, which is the highly organized hub of all the

family's activities. MacDonald's expertise in kitchen design allowed the Forlenzas to fully trust his decisions: "He's done kitchens for some of the top chefs in Boston," Karen

notes, "and he knows just what works for daily living and is also right for parties." Professional appliances help to make the space a caterer's dream with three ovens, three dishwashers, refrigerated drawers, a host of conveniences, and generous counter and storage areas.

At one end, a round breakfast room is a feast of texture with a stone fireplace and also hammered copper detailing. These rooms open into the conservatory and the family room, with eye-catching walls of windows and French doors providing the inside-out feel the Forlenzas requested.

The house is a lively gathering place now for sports teams, sleepovers,

cocktail parties for 200 guests, and dinner parties for two dozen. For all of these occasions and for their busy daily routine, the house works exactly as Karen and Bob had hoped, with gracious ease, elegance, and plenty of room to spare. ■

# Overnight Miracles



**Build or fix anything to last forever.**

*"Well, nearly anything."*

**Contact us soon for product and price information.**



**Toll Free: 866-EPOXY IT (376-9948) Fax: 989-671-9921**  
[www.epoxyheads.com](http://www.epoxyheads.com)

**Address: P.O. Box 2280 Bay City, MI 48707**

**THE MASTER  
BEDROOM,  
SWATHED  
IN CELADON  
AND CREAM,  
IS A WORLD APART**



welcomehome



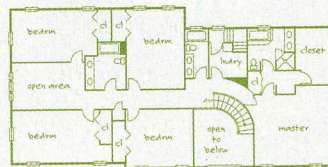
The master bedroom suite is sumptuous with glazed walls, bed coverings of silk and matelassé, and a custom gilded bench.



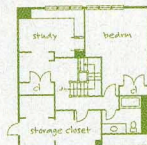
Mosaic tiles surround the tub, and striped silk window treatments repeat the cream and celadon palette. Cream damask covers the récamier.

## Practice makes perfect

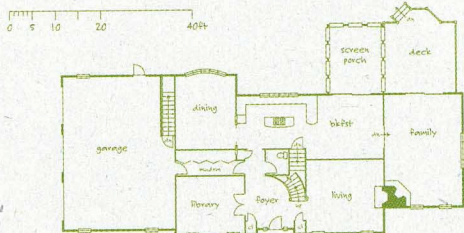
Unlike many home remodelers, the Forlenzas say they wouldn't change a thing about their new home. "It's unbelievable," Karen says of the project, "and we can make nice family memories here. That's what's important."



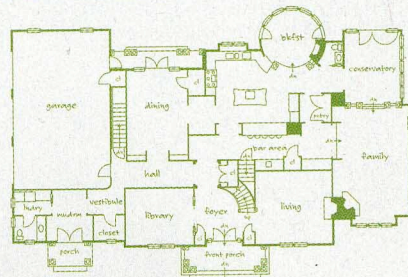
after second floor



after third floor



before main floor



after main floor

DRAWINGS BY JOHN KOCON