

Better Homes and Gardens® Remodeling Ideas

REMODELING IDEAS

Winter 1979/80

\$2

OPEN HOUSES

Big-space remodelings
begin on page 49



Kitchens: Make the most of mini-spaces
Entry traffic: Create home zones
Paneling: Step by step to beautiful walls
Hot tubs and spas: Take the plunge



Doug and Bonnie Okun rent out the first-floor apartment of their duplex. But they've reshaped the boxy interiors of the second and third levels for themselves and children, Sonja and Laura.



CEILING CUTAWAYS REVEAL TOPSIDE QUARTERS

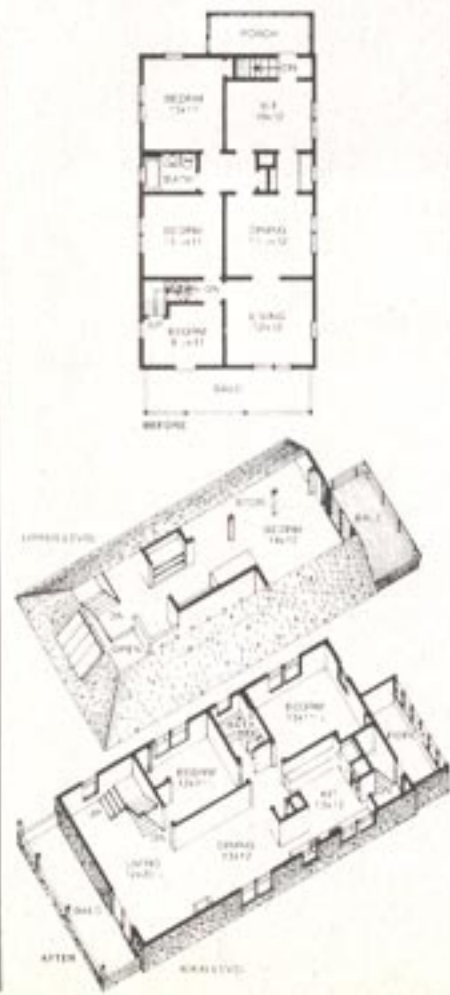
Work on the Okuns' share of their two-family flat began the day after they signed the closing papers. A wrecking crew knocked out several walls and part of the second-floor ceiling, leaving the studs, joists, insulation, and plaster dust in their wake. The Okuns built a few closets, painted two of the existing bedrooms so they'd have a "civilized area" to live in during the remodeling, then moved in six days later. After two years of "working weekends," in which Doug and Bonnie did everything themselves except build the ash kitchen cabinets and sand the oak floors, the

Okuns like the results. "The girls love the sensation of open space, and it's a daily pleasure for Bonnie and me," Doug told us.

The kitchen and dining room, *opposite*, offer a sample of the exciting interiors the Okuns carved from tiny rooms and an unfinished attic. Doug and Bonnie knocked out walls that separated the dining room from the kitchen and the living room, and removed part of the dining room ceiling to expose the joists. They also continued the oak flooring into the kitchen to enhance the free-flowing relationship between these everyday areas.

Continued

Photographs: Bill Helms. Architect: Douglas R. Okun/Developmental Resources
Source: Estelle Bond Guralnick







CEILING CUTAWAYS

Continued

Since they couldn't change the chimney between rooms, the Okuns have used it as a visual barrier. There's a small linen closet on the kitchen side of the chimney, while on the dining side it forms a backdrop for Doug's sculpture.

The Okuns cut back the attic floor wherever the usable area was restricted by the roof's steep slope. That way they didn't lose

any usable space in the newly created master suite, but certainly added to the illusion of space downstairs.

Trading a main-level bedroom for more living room area gave the Okuns the music and games corner shown *opposite*. (In both photos you can see the seam in the flooring that marks the site of the old bedroom wall.) Bonnie and the girls take piano lessons and do their practicing on the 100-year-old instrument that commands this area. Doug enjoys the way its ornate carving contrasts with the house's crisp, contemporary environment, too. Doug removed all moldings except the sills to update the old double-hung windows which were left in place throughout the house.

The Okuns didn't change the position of the stairway to the attic, but they did

change its appearance to conform with the clean lines of their remodeling design. The old stairs had been enclosed in a bedroom closet; the new stairway seems to float up to the new master suite on its oak treads and laminated poplar stringers. On the landing, there's a ledge where plants thrive, basking in the light from the big skylight that the Okuns installed in place of a dormer at the front of the house.

Continued



CEILING CUTAWAYS

Continued

The Okuns removed a hip roof section at the back of the house and replaced it with a gable-ended extension that gave them more usable space on the upper level. Sliding glass doors in the new gable end open from the master bedroom suite onto a new deck, *right*. The deck uses the enclosed porch off of the second-floor kitchen for part of its support. Doug estimates that half of his deck expenses went for the steel brackets he used to tie the 2x6 oak railing to the 2x4 hemlock/fir he laid on edge to form the decking.

Inside the previously unfinished attic, *below*, the Okuns have put knee-wall space to good use along the entire length of the master



bedroom. Banks of closets with custom-made louvered wood doors plus built-in shelving for the Okuns' stereo and record collection provide needed storage. A built-in vanity also helps save space, so Doug has room for his 14-foot worktable and file cabinets, out of camera range. (Notice how he has designed the

horizontal rails of the closet doors to line up with the hand rail on the adjoining deck—a nice architectural detail.) The brilliant blue paint job on the plywood floor was a concession to the Okuns' depleted budget, but Doug and Bonnie say they're not quite finished upstairs: They'd also like to put in a full bath.

