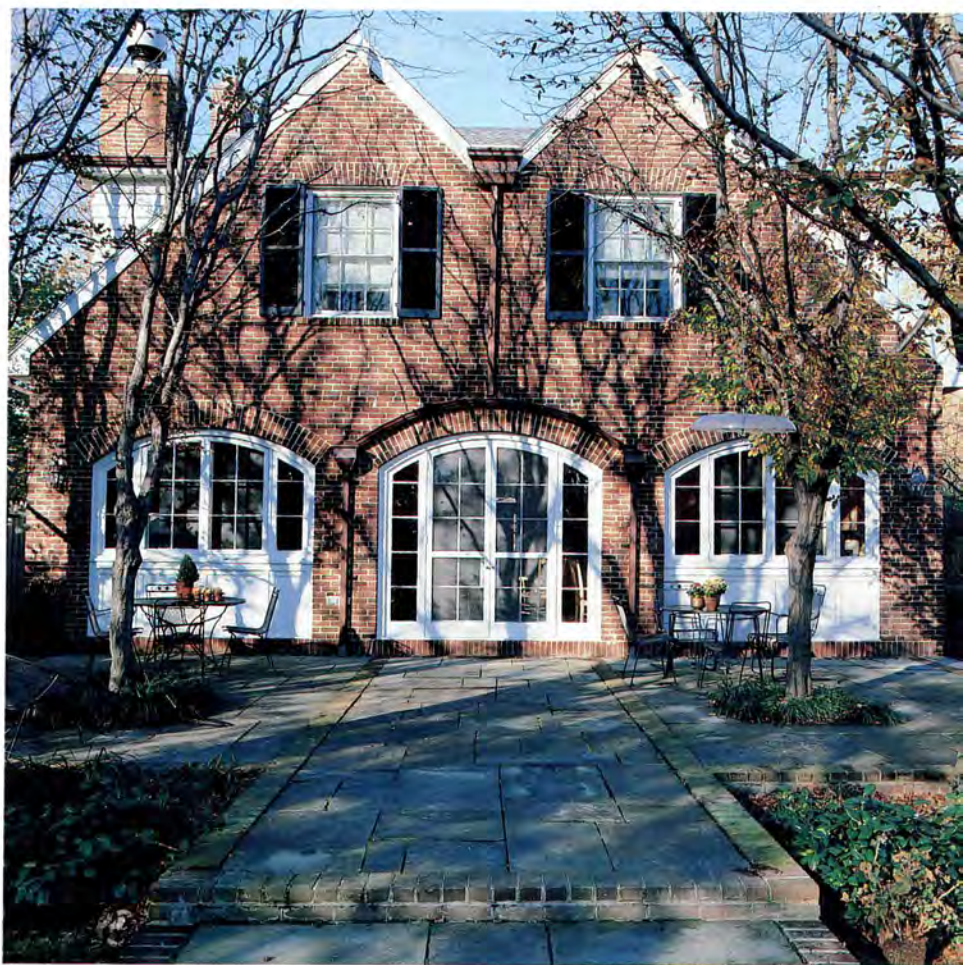


# ROOMS BY THE YARD



Right: In the process of building a rear extension to match the brick Georgian Colonial's existing style, the architect also enlarged and redefined the flagstone terrace, including brick borders that align perfectly with the addition.

Left: The kitchen area, which occupies one third of the open-plan room, gains generous sunlight through its custom casement windows. Above the sink, a Roman shade adds privacy to the only window in view of a neighboring house. Red oak floors were selected and stained to match the rest of the house.



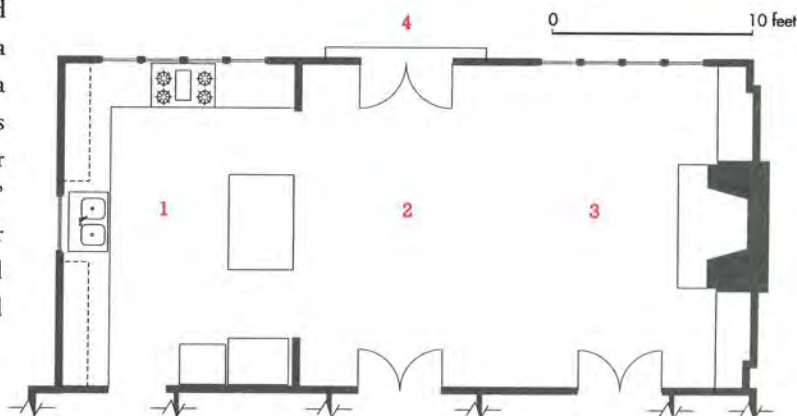
**W**E'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE kitchen," Ann and Walter Pincus repeatedly said to each other during the 17 years they had lived in their Georgian center-hall Colonial house in Washington, D.C. Small and inefficient, even after a previous bumpout that had only doubled its inefficiency by doubling its size, the south-facing room did nothing to relate to the tree-shaded terrace and large, very private garden just outside.

Rather than attempt to rework the problem-ridden space, architect Stephen Muse, FAIA, proposed tearing down the entire back third of the house. The area that had originally been occupied by the kitchen now became a powder room, a coat closet, and a butler's pantry, "secondary rooms that really make the ground floor function much more efficiently," he says. To give the Pincuses their new kitchen, along with informal dining and sitting areas they had also requested, he extended the house's entire rear facade to form

an 18-by-35-foot great room. (At the same time, a new master suite was also created on the floor above.)

Muse took great care to blend the new addition with the house's distinguished architecture. He managed to find bricks of a similar style and then tinted their mortar to match the existing mortar's aged look. Framing each of the new room's three sets of windows is a gentle arch that echoes one found on the front facade. Viewed from outside, the resulting composition looks, says the architect, "like the garden version of the house."

1. KITCHEN
2. DINING AREA
3. SITTING AREA
4. TERRACE



MICHAELIAN & LEBERG; COOKWARE: PALECEK; ACCESSORIES: PALECEK.

PHOTOGRAPHER: DEBORAH MAZOLENI • STYLIST: MICHAEL FOSTER



**J**UST AS THE ADDITION'S EXTERIOR MARRIES with the original house while making its own fresh statement, so, too, does the interior. The kitchen, in particular, features cabinets that nod to tradition yet look contemporary. "I've tried to modernize my grandmother's kitchen," explains Ann.

Key to that effect was her desire for a wood "that looked as though it were pine, but not too shiny or knotty." She achieved it with the help of Malcolm Robson, who custom-grained the cabinets—along with window and door frames and trims and the sitting area's mantel—to match Ann's vision.

Combined with walls ragged in light golden paint and sand-colored granite counters, the garden addition seems to glow from within when sunlight strikes it. "Now, every single morning," says Ann, "my husband says, 'I love my kitchen. I never want to leave it.'" □



**Top:** An island separates the new kitchen's cooking and dining areas.  
**Right:** With the French doors opened, the informal dining area feels as if it is in the garden, especially when nature inspires the table setting, *above*.  
**Left:** Custom-grained cabinets providing extra storage fill out the wall housing major appliances. See *Shopping Resources*, page 178, for details.



