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Farm Country Charm

Simple, down-to-earth decorating p.147

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just like grandma's p.137



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Home of the Year



Updated Colonial

Cooking was once a lonely pursuit in this home's isolated kitchen, but not anymore. Now, the kitchen opens to a casual eating area and family room. Skylights above the table and French doors allow views to the outdoors and help create the room's open but intimate feel.

When a family grows faster than its house, even the most charming home can lose some of its appeal. That was the case with this vintage Fairfield, Connecticut, colonial. Even though the homeowners added on in the late 1980s, the house just couldn't keep up with a busy family of five. Inside, the chopped-up spaces made for awkward traffic flow, and outside, the deep lot's spectacular views were going to waste.

Most glaring of all, however, was the way the small kitchen/breakfast room was walled off from the adjacent cathedral-ceilinged family room. Expanding the center of the house by enlarging the kitchen and breakfast room, then opening them both to the family room with a stately colonnade brought all three rooms together. The family room's ceilings were also lowered, making the room feel connected to the kitchen while creating bedroom space upstairs.

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