

A traditional two-story gets a modern makeover



By **KIM PALMER**, Star Tribune

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The challenge: Open up and brighten a dark main floor.

The project team: John Sylvestre, owner of Sylvestre Construction; architect/designer Tom DeAngelo, Architectural Alliance; kitchen designer John Idstrom, Partners 4 Design.

The approach: The owner of this traditional Tudor-style, 1970s-built house in Edina wanted to update its look and functionality, while bringing more of the outdoors in. "Those two rooms [the kitchen and family room] had a nice relationship to the garden, pool and koi pond," said DeAngelo. "We wanted to build on that relationship and strengthen it, so you felt connected to the landscape, like in a garden pavilion." Switching the two indoor spaces helped create a more open floor plan; a wall of new windows, unframed, let in more light and view. The ceiling beams were turned 90 degrees to align with the windows and unify the space, Sylvestre said.

Going modern: Dark wood built-ins were replaced with whitewashed wood; the brick fireplace surround was replaced with bluestone and metal accents. "We treated it less like a stone hearth and more like a stone wall," DeAngelo said. The door in that stone wall leads to an intimate new eating space, created from an unused portion of the former garage. The color palette is clean and simple, DeAngelo said, to better showcase the owner's collection of colorful, modern glass art.

Something old: A vintage table, salvaged from a bakery in northeast Minneapolis, is now the kitchen island, with new cabinets built beneath it. When they cut the table to fit the space, "you could smell 50 years of cinnamon buns that had absorbed into the wood," DeAngelo said. Both the ceiling beams and the fir floors are recycled wood.

Something new: The new kitchen also includes cabinets with backlit etched-glass panels, bluestone countertops and a painted-glass backsplash to "add some sparkle," DeAngelo said.

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