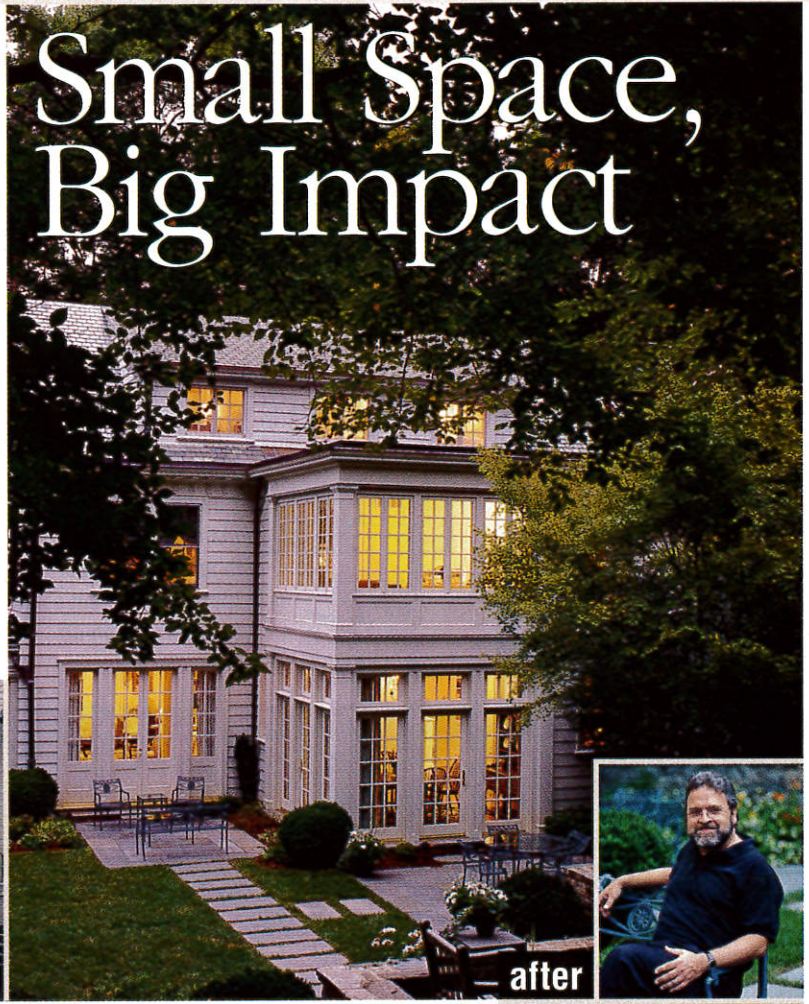


A successful addition and artful landscaping gave new life to the back of this 1920s home.

Good things do, indeed, come in small packages. Architect Greg Wiedemann designed a two-story structure that opened this house up to the outdoors. By collaborating with landscape architect Lila Fendrick, he created a fresh new feel for the rear of the home. These homeowners in Chevy Chase, Maryland, didn't want the addition to look new, so Greg took his inspiration from an existing sleeping porch above a small, columned sitting area.

Respecting the Original

Although the addition replaced this existing space, it reflects the spirit of the old sleeping porch and employs the same exterior treatment. The new construction's downstairs is a sunny breakfast room and half bath, while the upstairs is a study. The breakfast room's French doors allow easy access to the garden areas. "The kitchen was opened up with a diagonal view into the breakfast room and the garden beyond," Greg says. French doors replaced standard windows in the living room to give a full view of the new landscaping.



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Landscaping Is a Key Component

"The goal was to extend the inside of the house outward to make a much bigger and usable garden," Lila says. "The original house faced a steep embankment that completely removed the residence from the majority of the rear portion of the property," Greg notes. Lila also satisfied the family's desire for private areas in the back portion of the house. A terraced staircase has a midpoint seating area that is hidden from the neighbors' view and more secluded seating is found in the upper garden.

The result of this collaboration is improved interior living spaces that respect the home's original character and open it up to a whole new world outside. It's a winner inside and out.

ALICE WELSH DOYLE

The old porch was removed, but the new addition retains its spirit. The lower level is a sun-filled breakfast room (below, right), and the upstairs space serves as a study (right). The backyard was completely redesigned, creating a garden and terraced seating areas.

inset: Greg Wiedemann, architect

WHY IT WON

Our judges agreed that this addition's strength came from its well-executed design and wonderful connection to the newly landscaped outdoors. Here are some of their comments.

- "The strength of this project is the relationship between the series of exterior garden spaces and the modest-size addition. The small gestures make a big difference to the rear of the house." Joan Fabry, AIA
- "The rear of this house is transformed by the subtle reconfiguring of the back porch and living room. These areas are beautifully integrated into the backyard through the landscape. Very nice detailing."

Gordon Wittenberg, AIA



PHOTOGRAPHS: VAN CHAPLIN / STYLING: LISA POWELL