

# Metropolitan

SPLASH!

12 KITCHEN  
AND BATH  
RENOVATIONS

# Home

## HOT WHITES

SIZZLING  
DECORATING  
COOL NEW  
FURNITURE  
GLORIOUS PAINT

WARMING  
TRENDS

GARDENING  
SUMMER  
FOOD

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THE  
MET HOME  
CONTEST

MAY/  
JUNE 1995  
USA \$3.00  
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June 20, 1995



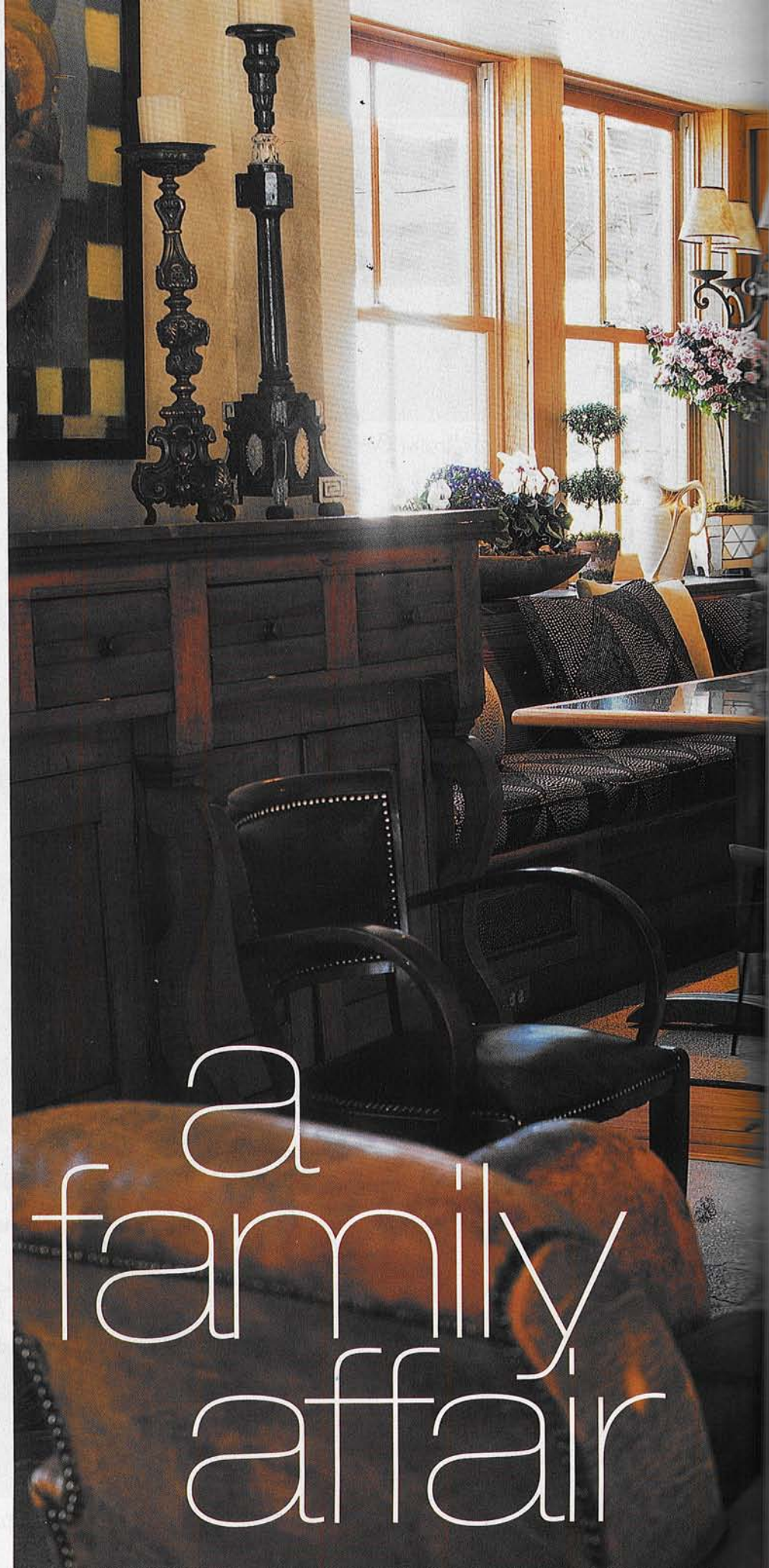
In this kitchen full of smartly detailed, subtly textured built-ins, a Colorado family finds a well-crafted new home.

Everything started with the wood: three tons of antique long-leaf pine trucked to the new Denver home of Cliff and Susan Weinberger and their two young sons. For months the wood sat in the family's living room. "If we hadn't dried it thoroughly, it would have warped and separated," says Cliff, a real estate investor. "The builder visited periodically to test the recycled wood for moisture content." At the same time, Cliff's wife, Susan, an editor, and Mell Lawrence, an architect, designed a Japanese-inspired kitchen in which the pine would become cabinetry and floorboards.

When both the lumber and the blueprints were dry, they came together in a surprisingly sophisticated mix. Instead of swathing the kitchen in the pine—a natural temptation, given its rich hues—Lawrence mixed the wood with charcoal-colored slate, hammered tin, ribbed, translucent glass, and gray-grouted white "subway" tiles. The result is a collage of tone and texture.

Before the redesign, the Weinbergers, who recently relocated from San Antonio, lived with a kitchen too small for them to eat in (page 129). They were able to enlarge the room (knocking down a guest bathroom and pantry) but couldn't raise its eight-foot ceiling. Determined to make the most of that height, Lawrence replaced the single window with a wall of three from Marvin (right). Ingeniously, he hid the windows' upper and lower trim in the ceiling and sill. That way, there's both more light (it bounces across the ceiling, he says, and animates the room) and more view. Not surprisingly, the cushioned windowseat has become the Weinbergers' favorite

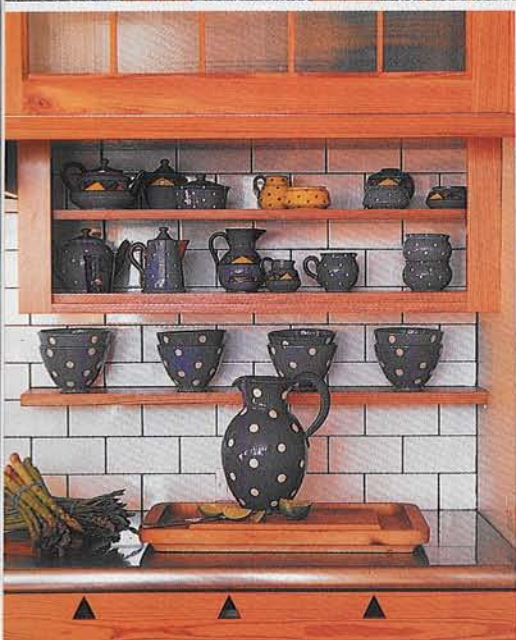
**Produced by Newell Turner and Rima A. Suqi. Written by Fred A. Bernstein.**



a  
family  
affair



The furniture includes two Parisian bistro table bases, a pair of French leather club chairs, an antique break-front—and the cabinets. See Resources.



hangout. "Like many families, we live in our kitchen," says Susan. Here, that means living with favorite objects. Thanks to the floor-to-ceiling, glass-fronted cabinets, everything is artfully displayed and ready for everyday use.

Throughout the kitchen, cabinet doors don't swing open, but slide. Says Lawrence, "Doors this big would have been too heavy to hinge, and would have blocked traffic whenever they were open." Fascinated by tonsu chests and antique apothecary cabinets with lots of small compartments, Weinberger conceived her kitchen cabinets as oversized furniture with dozens of interlocking pieces: Architect Lawrence created an array of variegated, asymmetric built-ins. "There's order," Susan says, "but it's an unexpected order."

The mix of materials is equally unexpected. Some work surfaces are stainless steel; others are matte Italian slate. A slate-covered island (left, top, which houses a Dacor convection oven) is the kitchen's main work surface.

Instead of using hardware, Lawrence gave all the drawers triangular "fingerholes" like the eyes in a jack-o'-lantern. While Cliff jokes, "I tell people we saved money by not buying pulls," for Susan the holes were an irreversible design decision. "My goal," she says, "was to make a few original moves, but not too many. Good design is about taking the right number of risks."

**WHAT THE PROS KNOW: SUBWAY TILES**  
For a backsplash, the Weinbergers chose "subway tiles," the 3"x6" ceramics that are trendy as well as traditional. Susan Weinberger opted for machine-made tiles (handmade versions, about twice as expensive, have irregular surfaces that shimmer in the light) with straight, as opposed to beveled, edges. She selected dark-gray grout, thinking it would be easier to clean; Lawrence says it gives the tiled walls "personality, perspective and an added patina." **MH**



**A Russell Range  
is flanked by  
stainless steel  
countertops.  
With metal appli-  
ances and Eng-  
lish cottage  
plate racks, the  
room is both ur-  
bane and homey.  
See Resources.**