



FANTASTIC FACELIFT



The inside was great, but the outside left a little to be desired. This Seattle couple took the remodeling plunge to bring the two elements into agreement.

BY LISA LAVIA BYRD

Juliet and Stephen Romano liked their plain-Jane 1960s rambler in Seattle just fine. They weren't attracted to it for its aesthetics in the first place. With three children and a dog, their house hunting had been more about location and square footage than about loveliness. But as they spent more time in the home, Juliet grew impatient with its physical shortcomings.

So the Romanos decided to remodel—in stages. A series of projects over four years created an all-new interior that was more livable

and aesthetically pleasing. But one obstacle remained: From the outside, the house was still less than inviting.

Juliet took pen in hand and set about redrawing the home. Before long, she had a distinct vision of the transformation she believed possible. With a little imagination and a great deal of initiative, the family's functional warehouse of a home could be remade into a Shingle-style two-story with a Southern accent.

"I've always liked the combination of something rustic with something polished," Juliet says. "I wanted something traditionally Southern, with big columns and lots of architectural detail. But at the same time, we live in Seattle. We needed



top In a nod to Juliet Romano's Southern heritage, columns add a colonial plantation touch to the home's traditional Shingle-style exterior.

left The new covered lattice entry gate, flanked by pillars and coach lamps, directs guests to the home's main entrance.



an exterior that would fit into the Northwest, not some genteel colonial-style that would horrify the neighbors.”

With ideas in hand, Juliet visited architect Pete Sandall and contractor Joseph McKinstry, who were forced to deal with two major obstacles before putting Juliet’s plan into motion.

The orientation of the house was the first challenge. Because of the home’s sitting, the front entrance was difficult to see from the street. For years, people had been entering and exiting through a door next to the garage, and Juliet and Stephen wanted a more inviting entrance. Sandall solved that through a redesign of the entry path, creating a walkway with a gated entrance that leaves no doubt as to the location of the main door.

The roofline presented the second challenge. A Shingle-style roof would have been difficult to carve from the existing one, and Sandall advised the Romanos to spend their money elsewhere. He used dormers to break up the roofline’s expanse, but also used the newly designed front entry to take the primary focus off the roof altogether.

“When he did that, the roof became just a component of the house rather than the first thing you notice, as it was in the old design,” Juliet says. “You don’t even

notice that the roof really isn’t like the roofs on other Shingle-style homes. Diverging the eye was a great idea.”

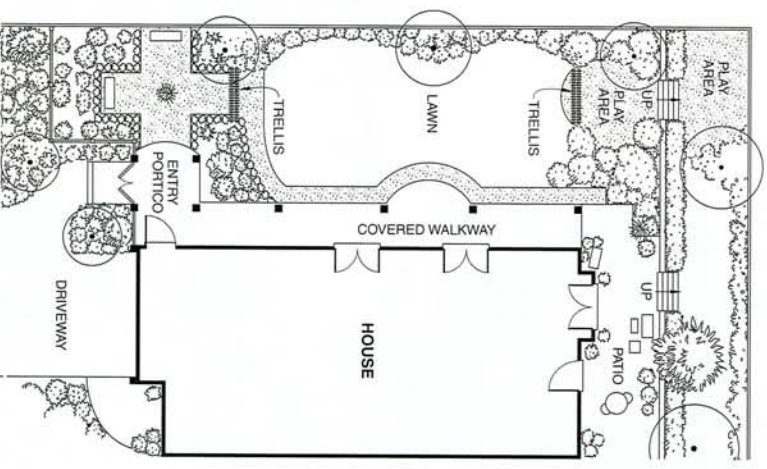
McKinstry’s biggest challenge was convincing the Romanos to move out during the remodeling process. “During their other projects,” he says, “they were great about making lemonade out of lemons and just readjusting so they could stay put. But this was a little too much, even for very organized people like them.” The Romanos eventually agreed and moved to a rental house in the immediate vicinity.

As the new exterior took shape, Juliet realized the next hurdle would be landscaping. “Our previous landscaping had more to do with kids and dogs than with anything we really wanted,” she notes. “We decided that to do this the right way, we needed landscaping that would match the entry and complement the new front.” She queried professionals and proposed plans until she found Carol Eland.

Eland, an area landscape designer, removed all of the old landscaping and started from scratch. She hauled out truckloads of mud, regraded the yard, and installed a new irrigation system and 8 inches of new topsoil. From that point, she used Juliet’s preliminary sketches as a guide, incorporating some of the family’s favorite annuals and perennials, and

left A gabled back entrance, built-in benches, and an elaborate privacy fence lend architectural interest to the Romanos’ landscaping. Landscape designer Carol Eland incorporated Juliet’s practical suggestions with new trees and plants into a revamped yard the whole family can enjoy.

below Elaborate exterior moldings and millwork create the architectural details the Romanos had been missing.



adding magnolias and white lilacs as a nod to Juliet's Southern heritage.

Eland created two gravel play areas and a gravel path to the house that looks good and keeps the kids from tracking mud into the house. "When they come in by way of that path, their shoes are scraped off before they even get to the door," Juliet says. "From a mom's perspective—what a great idea!"

Now, when driving up to their house, the Romanos see an exterior that matches

the inviting interior. "I look forward to the compliments we receive as soon as people pull up in front," Juliet says. "I wish we hadn't waited so long." □

FOR RESOURCES, SEE PAGE 116.

Photographer: Stephen Criddle
Illustrator: Carson Ode
Architect: Pete Sandall, Sandall Norrie Architects
Builder: Joseph McKinstry, Joseph McKinstry Construction Co.
Landscape designer: Carol Eland
Field editor: Lynda Turner

below The rear patio, a private section of the backyard, is accessible from the dining room or the kitchen. The concrete patio stayed in place from the home's first remodeling, and a thickly planted bank and high fence help seclude the area.

