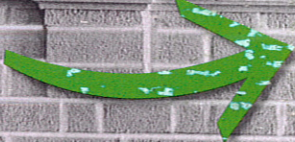


# Before & After

## Trade Drab For Fab!

- Bold Colors
- Dramatic Details
- Smart Layouts



## Storage Strategies For Every Room

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Fall 2009  
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living spaces



# great divide

Separating a living room and dining area with columns and built-ins makes both spaces feel cozier and creates attractive storage and display space.





A fresh coat of white paint brightens the brick fireplace surround in this 1911 Craftsman-style home.



“We thought it was kind of cool that the parts and plans had all been shipped right to the site.”

—homeowner  
Eric Lonergan



## LOOKING BACK

A large upper-level addition prompted the owners of this Craftsman-style home to update the existing living and dining spaces where:

- The only dining room storage was a freestanding hutch.
- The large opening between the living and dining spaces limited furniture-arrangement possibilities.
- The open floor space was unattractive and made both rooms look barren, even when fully furnished.

Crafting a subtle divider that was likely there when Eric and Karen Lonergan’s home was built in 1911 makes both the living and dining spaces more livable. The entire house probably arrived via boxcar, ordered out of the Sears, Roebuck Book of Modern Homes, designer Steve Hoedemaker says. There were 30,000 pieces to house style 264, which retailed for \$1,106.

“We didn’t know it was a Sears house when we first found it,” Eric says. “The guy we bought it from told us, and we thought it was kind of cool that the parts and plans had all been shipped right to the site. It’s like an early version of Internet commerce.”

In keeping with the original plan, the architects designed a pair of period-appropriate columns to better separate the living and dining rooms. Karen keeps books and toys for the couple’s 1-year-old son, Tate, and dishware in the cabinet space.

The changes in the living room were subtle, but noteworthy. “We painted the fireplace to brighten the room,” Hoedemaker says. A previous owner had replaced French doors flanking the fireplace with sidelights.

“We get a lot of compliments on the finished space,” Karen says. “Everyone wants to spend time in these rooms.”

RESOURCES begin on page 108.

Photographer: John Granen Field editor: Linda Humphrey

**opposite and right:** In 1911, it's likely both sides of the half-wall looked like this—simple recessed panels.

**below:** The updated columned divider matches those typically found in Craftsman homes, but with one addition—glass inset doors that open to storage and display space.

## CATALOG HOMES

In 1908, the Sears, Roebuck Book of Modern Homes offered 44 house plans and the building materials to construct them, priced from \$695 to \$4,115. Sears also offered easy-pay mortgages. To qualify, you had to answer one question: "What is your occupation?" If you had a job, you got a mortgage.

Sears got out of the mail-order-home business in 1940. In the 32 years the homes were sold, it is estimated that 75,000 were built. While many people think their home may be a Sears model, several other companies sold similarly designed kit homes, including Montgomery Ward and the Aladdin House Co., which actually came up with the idea in 1906.

