

# Sunset

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PAGE 144A

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# Kitchen update

A small addition makes an old house fit a young family's lifestyle

BY PETER O. WHITELEY PHOTOGRAPHS BY JOHN GRANEN

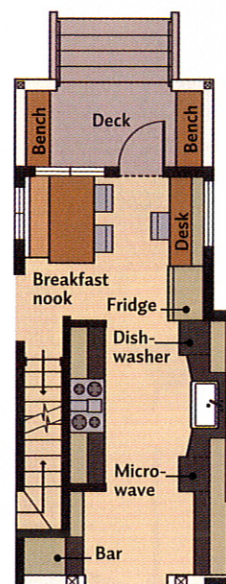
**ADD A LITTLE, GAIN A LOT.** That's the lesson Monica and David Stephenson learned when they made a small addition to the cramped galley kitchen in their Seattle home. Somewhere along the line, the kitchen had been poorly remodeled and "had no relationship to the rest of the house or backyard," Monica recalls. It simply didn't work for the bustle of daily

Curves in the range hood and shelf-support brackets add softness to the geometric cabinets, tiles, and appliances. Open shelves keep cooking staples within easy reach.





Twice-yearly oiling of the honed granite counters restores them to the perfect finish. **BELOW** Sunlight pouring in from the back windows and door brightens the front part of the house.



Adding only 8 feet to the rear (plus a new back porch) and 18 inches to one side created the space the Stephensons needed, resulting in an easy flow from the dining room to the backyard.

life with 2-year-old daughter Sophia, infant daughter Annabel, and two big Akitas.

Although the couple yearned for an updated kitchen with more space, they wanted it to fit the style of their 1918 Craftsman bungalow. Also on their list: a breakfast area with a backyard view, a home office, storage space, and a more generous back porch where muddy boots and paws could be cleaned. The challenge was to fit all that into an expansion of only 8 feet to the rear and 18 inches to the side. "We agonized over the cost of that 18 inches, but it was so worth it," Monica says. It visually widens the center of the kitchen and eliminates the galley feel with a curved counter that insets the farm-style sink.

Office and breakfast nooks added to the rear of the room flank the door to the new porch. "The little office was important because when Sophia was born, our office became her bedroom," Monica explains. The small addition and remodel—which includes a former bedroom converted into a family room, adjacent to the breakfast nook—completely changed the way the family uses the house. "With the kitchen now open to the dining room, I'm not closed off in a tiny space when we have guests," Monica says. "We spend 90 percent of our time back here now. It's the best decision we ever made."

**INFO** Design: Kevin Price, J.A.S. Design-Build, Seattle ([www.jasdesignbuild.com](http://www.jasdesignbuild.com) or 206/547-6242). Resources: See page 162. **>100**







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## Home | Remodel



**FROM TOP** Built-in  
dividers make organi-  
zation easy in the small  
office nook; the break-  
fast nook overlooks a  
private backyard and  
provides storage space  
under the bench.



#### Welcoming palette

Cheerful colors and  
lots of windows give  
the new kitchen an  
open, airy feel. Wood  
surfaces, stainless  
steel appliances and  
accents, and honed  
black granite counters  
provide the perfect  
balance. All paint is  
from Benjamin Moore  
Paints ([www.benjaminmoore.com](http://www.benjaminmoore.com) or 800/344-  
0400). The trim, bench  
seat, and table legs  
are Seashell; cabinets  
are Salisbury Green;  
walls are Light Khaki. ■

Seashell  
(OC-120)

Light Khaki  
(2148-40)

Salisbury Green  
(HC-139)

Absolute Black  
granite countertop