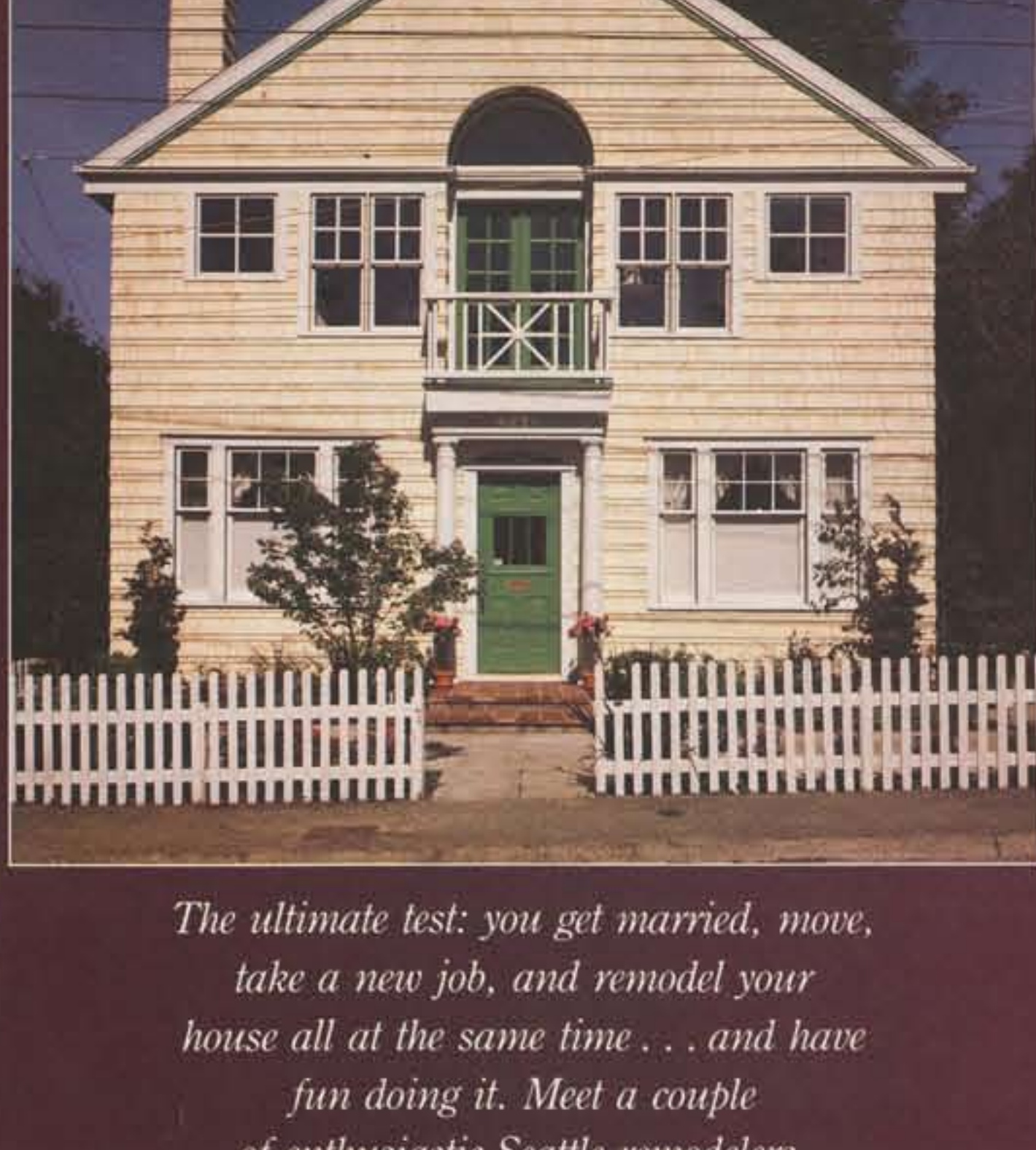


# A Second-Story STORY

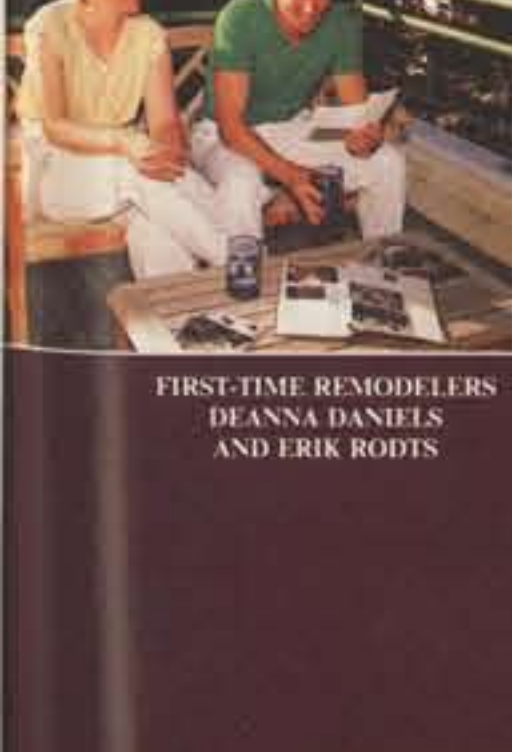


*The ultimate test: you get married, move, take a new job, and remodel your house all at the same time . . . and have fun doing it. Meet a couple of enthusiastic Seattle remodelers.*

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REMODELING IDEAS WINTER 1997/98

33



FIRST-TIME REMODELERS  
DEANNA DANIELS  
AND ERIK RODTS



◀ When the weather's fine, there's nothing so glorious as stepping out on the veranda off the master bedroom. It's covered, so rain can't dampen the fun on Seattle's wet days.

▶ Built in space formerly occupied by a back bedroom, the kitchen is not only larger but functions more efficiently in its new U shape. Cabinets cover a bad view.

As soon as they got back from their honeymoon, Deanna Daniels and Erik Rodts started remodeling. And they kept remodeling—working closely with an architect and builder—for eight months of their first year together.

They slept in the living room and took showers at the Y. They strung a tarp over their bed to keep off the plaster dust.

Finally, five months into what was to have been a three-month job, they temporarily moved out. By that time there weren't any walls left.

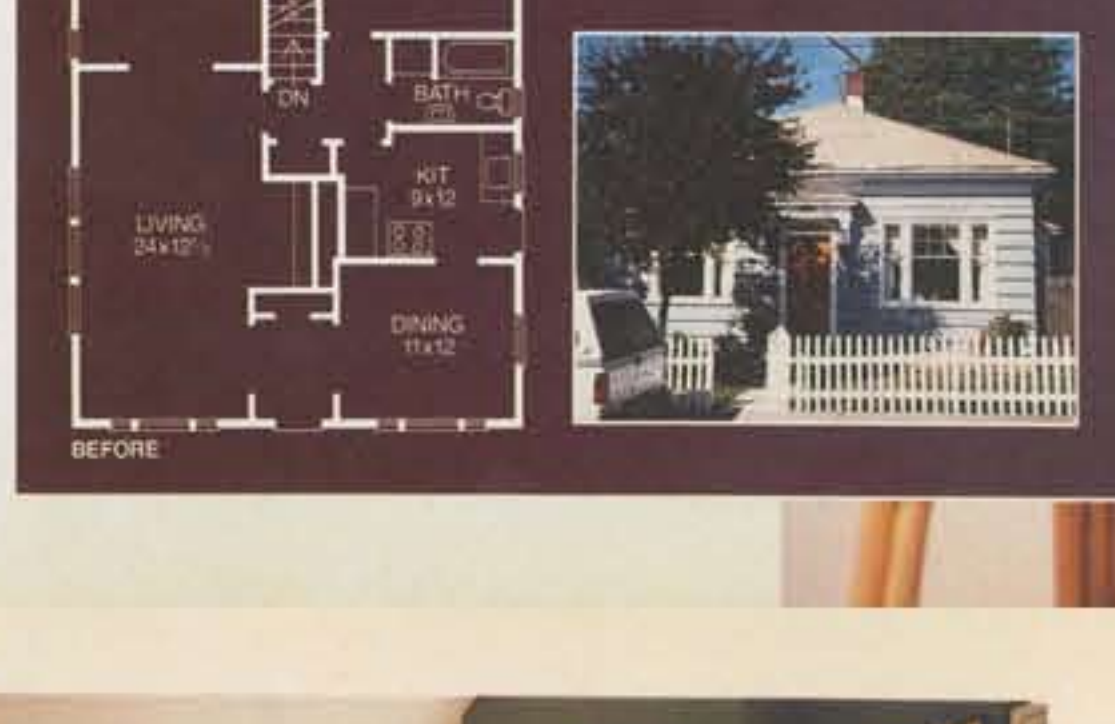
But don't think this is the start of a remodeling horror story. On the contrary: They thoroughly enjoyed the whole thing. And they won't be moving anytime soon; they have too much of themselves invested in their house.

"We like older houses," says Erik, "and we like the neighborhood," explaining their attraction to the original one-bedroom, one-bath house. And the couple knew they could build up to gain space and capture the view.

Now the house totals 1,892 square feet. Upstairs, it has a new master bedroom and den, both with adjacent bathrooms, and a new kitchen and dining room downstairs.

So what's their secret? First, the couple entered into a full-service contract with an

## FIRST-TIME REMODELERS ADD UP



34

◀ Deanna had fun with color in the upstairs library/den. "The painter thought he'd come in and spray everything off-white," she says. "But we gave him a list of eight different colors."

▶ The library/den can function as a guest bedroom and bath—complete with its own fireplace. Double doors open onto a balcony above the front door.



architect—Richard Fisher, of Seattle. He drew the design for a second-story addition, moved the stair to what had been the attic, and relocated the kitchen.

Also important to their success was the couple's close communication with the contractor. Living in the house during most of the construction enabled them to answer questions directly. Erik says they dealt with "everything from the ductwork and the plumbing to the finishes and the flooring."

As with most remodelings, this one evolved along the way. When Deanna and Erik decided to add work that wasn't spelled out in the contract, they sat down to negotiate with the

contractor. At least once a month they reconciled their account, going over all invoices and writing a check at the agreed-on intervals.

Deanna says that doing the whole thing at one time was important. She doesn't like the idea of stretching out the job into bits and pieces that go on for years. It may have been an intense stretch of time, but better that way.

What about the look they wanted? Before the remodeling, the house was like a cottage in a neighborhood full of bungalows. They wanted to retain the cottage feeling and keep the house in scale with its neighbors.

The architect considers the original house's small size a plus. "You can always throw square footage at a house," says Fisher. "It's nice to work with a minimal amount and make each room work. It's not just a box; the house has its own character."

So do the homeowners. Erik and Deanna embraced the complexities of remodeling with a can-do spirit. Their attitude: jump right in and give it your all. Not a bad approach to any remodeling. □

For Resources, turn to page 112.



◀ Erik and Deanna decided they didn't need a tub in the master bathroom, so they made the shower larger and enclosed it with glass block.

37

