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A bright, sunlit living room with large windows. The room features a white sofa with red cushions, a wooden coffee table with books, and a dining table with chairs. The room is filled with natural light from the large windows, and there are several potted plants and a lamp.

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# The Next Step

This Princeton couple undertakes a second remodel

TEXT | MARY NESTOR  
IMAGES | JONATHAN HARPER

**W**hen Catherine Knight does work around the house, anything can happen—she may sweep the floor or redesign it altogether. As a principal at Knight Architects and practicing since 1978, she has settled into the specialty of residential construction and renovation. Last year, she took on a personal challenge and directed the second remodel of her own Princeton home.

She says it's definitely easier to work with one of her many wonderful clients than it is to oversee her own renovation project. But inspired by their changing family needs and a desire to continuously update their solid, 1970's period Colonial, she and her husband, Donald Denny, revisited an earlier remodel and took it a step further.

They completed their home with a jewel of a sunroom, a re-imagined family room, an additional guest suite, and a three-car garage, above



🌳 Two acres of lush, mature landscape surround this Princeton home.

📜 Rolled-up blueprints attest to the timelessness and beauty of good design.



① The new pergola creates a shaded enclave beyond the blue waters of the backyard pool patio.

② Three walls of windows and a pyramid-shaped copper roof make the sunroom sparkle.

③ The sunroom is a study in precision. Its siting maximizes the home's attributes and captures the imagination.

which Knight's new attic-style architectural office features state-of-the-art systems alongside good old-fashioned blueprints.

Because Knight's home office is both a focal point and a calling card, clients get a life-sized model of her work when they arrive.

The couple purchased the home in '92 and did the first renovation in '96. More recently, they decided the earlier renovation needed a "next step." The kitchen had already been remodeled from the original avocado green and



features high ceilings and windows with views of two sides of the yard.

Dramatic ceilings were essential to both phases of the remodel and especially important in Knight's new sunroom. There, the roof line stair-steps skyward into a pyramid shape, capping three walls of unobstructed windows that extend the living space, helping to make the intimate backyard pool area even more private. An oak floor that is painted and stained to resemble large, diamond tiles runs from the sunroom across the length of the family room at the back of the home.

white linoleum version to a much more contemporary space, complete with a knock-out breakfast nook and laundry room. Crown Point cabinets, stainless steel appliances, and Kashmir White granite countertops now give the room a modern appeal.

The master suite is also a relative newcomer. Following the initial renovation, the bath now features an elegant claw-foot tub, centered in an arched alcove and surrounded by white Carrera marble amid a classical structure. The bedroom

① The geometric precision of tiles stitched into the Oriental rug in the master bedroom contrast with the soft bed coverings.

② In the master suite, the claw-foot tub is framed in Carrera marble and classical structure.

③ Yellow and cream triangles form the backsplash surrounded by white-washed, glass-fronted cabinets in the family room wet bar.





⌚ This family room was made even more comfortable by adding a wall of windows, an intricate wood floor, and a cabinet-style wet bar—complete with a wine refrigerator.

⌚ Family room built-ins accommodate good old-fashioned hardbacks, alongside high-tech HDTV, Camera marble, and classical structure.

⌚ Above the new three-car garage, Knight's home office is lit with Artemide halogen lamps. Dormer windows add subtle depth without overwhelming the upstairs roofline.

Again, a clean line of sight on the updated family room windows helps establish the entire back yard as an integrated part of the whole. "I work a lot with windows, doors, and trim more than color," says the architect and homeowner. "I figure out the three-dimensional spaces first."



In the sunroom, as well as the changing hues of natural light on the diamond oak floor, creamy white furniture (on cast-iron framework) is capped with accents from red accessories. The family room features a seating arrangement of oversized chairs, a soft leather couch, a wet bar with a wine refrigerator, a fireplace, and a built-in home theater.

Outside, a new hot tub offers a popular gathering spot for family and friends, while the white wooden pergola, draped in summer

color, is an easy place to gather and relax.

The entire space flows together for entertaining—which makes sense in this well-loved family home. "We like this lot and this location," says Knight. So, making the home evolve with their lifestyle is a natural progression. After two substantial remodels, the 6,500-square-foot, six-bedroom home, complete with the backyard hideaway, has blossomed into a stately presence, anchored among the green lawns of Princeton. ■

