



Suddenly chic:
Susan Ramsey
on sunflowers, D8

HOMES

AND REAL ESTATE

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Editor: Liz Pogue • Telephone: 38

BEFORE



• Before the reno: the same wall, with two smaller windows flanking a hanging cupboard.

• After the renovation: the new kitchen window runs the full length of the counter to let in the light.

AFTER



Small house gets big style



• Before: The kitchen served as an eating area, a laundry room and an entryway from the side door.

• After the reno: The view of the redesigned kitchen from the casually elegant dining room.



• Before the renovation, the house had the small windows and drab siding that gave it the look of a mobile home.

• After the reno, right, the angled entranceway and baton board cladding give the home a whole new look.



"Before" photos courtesy of the homeowners

DETAILS

2,600 square feet
5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms
Year built: 1964
Year remodelled: 2002
Renovated by David Coulson



Marley relaxes on the bricked patio.

STORY BY JOANNE HATHERLY • PHOTOS BY BRUCE STOTESBURY
Times Colonist staff

B

arb laughs as she describes her and husband John's first impression of the house they bought on Mount Tolmie in 1991.

"It looked like a double-wide trailer on the outside," says Barb. But first impressions were quickly put aside when Barb and John, who prefer to keep their surname private, walked inside. A vaulted ceiling in the living room with exposed cedar beams and sweeping views of Victoria and Mount Douglas, along with a private, park-like setting, sold the couple on the home.

In 2001, with the dust settling from raising their family, the couple began planning a major renovation. They spent a year plotting before starting the project.

"We wanted the East Coast lobster shack style, but without the rundown look," says Barb. Working closely with Duncan-based renovator Dave Coulson, the couple gave the circa-1960s home an inside-out facelift so that the home that once drew double-wide-trailer comparisons, now looks like a woodsy Whistler chalet.

Coulson tore off the house's brick and plank ceiling and replaced it with green-tinted, marine grey board and batten, framing the windows with contrasting white rough-sawn trim. Cottage-craft black metal light fixtures and exposed cedar soffits add to the rustic chalet style.

The entryway once had two doors, one

to the foyer and the second to the kitchen, each only an arm's length from the other. "We were always getting two phone books left on our doorstep, because people thought it was a duplex," says Barb.

Coulson bumped the entryway walls out to create an angled foyer, erasing the old dual-doorway plan. Burnished dark terra cotta tiles give way to the undulating grain of red oak hardwood floors leading down the hall toward the living room.

The living room is walled in wide-plank cedar and features a cosy music-room nook on the south side. The fireplace is made of handpicked Cowichan river stones.

Please see EXPOSED, D2