

# CHANGING PLACE



BY MERVYN KAUFMAN • PHOTOGRAPHS BY CAROLYN L. BATES

**T**he Vermont house was an unimposing two-story Cape, built in the 1970s, but what moved Barbara and Michael Puddicombe to buy it was the site. "The property is gorgeous," says Barbara. "It's not in downtown Stowe but in a rural area with the Worcester Mountains in the distance." Michael

wanted the house to be a farmhouse. But, says Barbara, "We also wanted it to look as though it's been here and grown with the land." The Puddicombes were assured by their architect, Milford Cushman, of Cushman+Beckstrom in Stowe, that they could retain the house's "good bones," and expand it from three to four bedrooms

**Milford Cushman is a design professional with over 30 years of practice committed to creative and thoughtful design solutions. He is not a registered architect as inferred in this article.**

A large, stylized yellow letter 'S' is positioned on the left side of the image, partially overlapping the sky and the roofline of the barn.

A separate garage becomes part of the main house

The remodeled house angles across one end of a 10-acre site. Faced with rough-sawn vertical barn boards painted red, the old garage became part of the porch and entry. Yellow-painted clapboard was used to blend new and old parts of the house. A shed dormer marks a new upstairs bath.



**LEFT and RIGHT:**  
The dining and kitchen areas flow into the living room in the new wing. Hand-set stones shaped the new living room fireplace. **BELOW:** A half-wall separates the entrance hall from Barbara's office. Both were formerly part of the old attached garage.





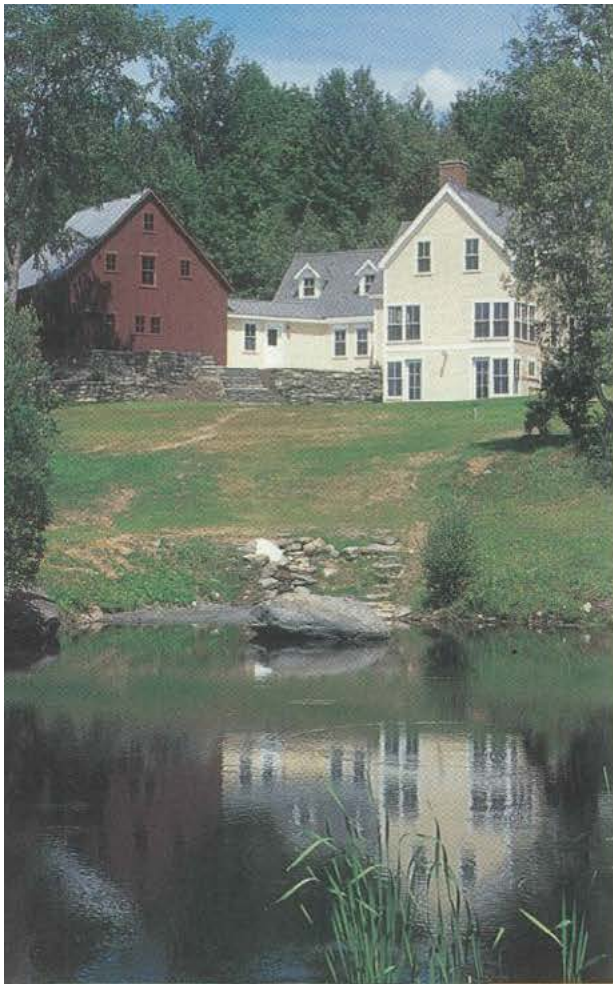
and add a much needed office for Barbara, plus a new kids' bathroom. The couple have three children, ages 7 to 18.

Cushman's design called for converting a two-car garage into an entry, adding a new wing to include a living room, master suite and walk-out basement, then building a link to a new barnlike garage. First, however, the old garage had to be moved. The architect explains, "The people who built it did not comply with local zoning and it was built over the setback line." The structure was raised on jacks and moved 30 feet—a maneuver that worked to the Puddicombe's advantage because the old foundation was found to be crumbling. Here was the chance to install a new foundation and comply with the zoning law.



LEFT: A gas-burning Insert warms what Barbara calls "the quiet room." A star-shaped inlaid wood panel from the original house hangs over the inlaid-wood mantel and fireplace surround. Both new and antique furnishings came from Michael and Barbara's former home on coastal Rhode Island.

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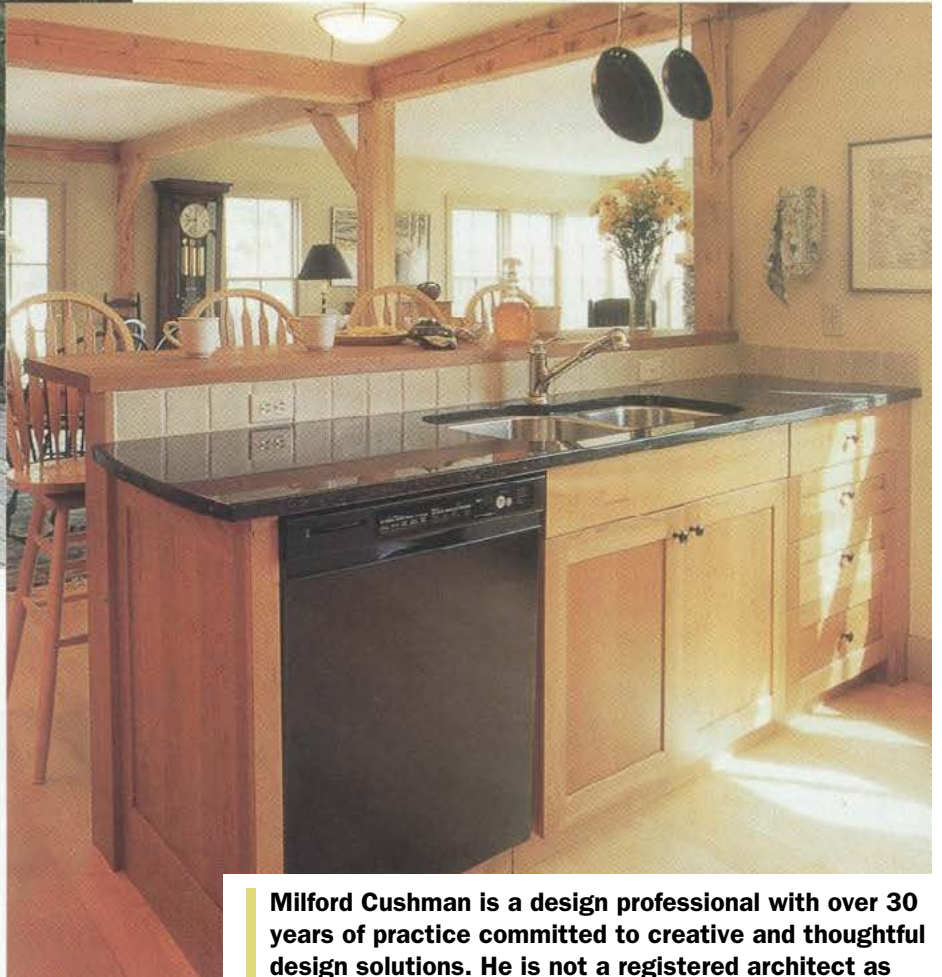


FLOOR PLANS: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ


After a new foundation was poured the structure was shifted onto it. The contractor, Steve Sisler, was careful to retain the timberframe elements but replaced the old casement windows with larger energy efficient two-over-two double-hungs. “We were very careful in remodeling the house, we nearly doubled its size,” says Michael. “Although we tore it apart before putting it back together, its bones are unchanged. What I love about New England architecture is its continuity with history and its connection with the surrounding landscape. That’s what I wanted this house to reflect.” ■



TOP: The original house stands between the barnlike garage at left and the new addition at right. TOP RIGHT: The design called for converting a two-car garage into an entry and adding a new wing. A new garage is designed to angle off from the main structure. ABOVE: Barbara relaxes on the deck with her children Samuel, 7, Gretchen, 12, and Fern, the family pet.



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THIS PAGE: Portions of the original timber-frame—with its cracks, knots and rough planes—add regional flair to the kitchen, built where its predecessor stood. Counters are granite; the breakfast bar is cherry. Flooring is maple throughout. OPPOSITE BELOW RIGHT: Stainless steel undermount sinks are set into a granite counter, which is six inches lower than the slab of solid cherry that forms the breakfast bar.

## What Was Done

- Moved the old garage off of a decaying foundation until a new foundation was laid, in keeping with local zoning laws
- Shifted the old garage onto a new foundation, 15 feet from the old one
- Transformed the old garage into a covered porch, entry and office
- Built a new garage in the style of a Vermont barn and linked it to the house
- Razed the breezeway that once connected house and garage
- Added a new wing containing the living room, master suite and basement
- Replaced old casement windows with double-hungs more typical of the region

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