

By Anthony Zampano

Photos by Anton Grased Photographic

ROOM
ADDITIONS

RAISING THE ROOF

For architect Preston Richardson, of Pfeufer/Richardson P.C. Architects in Cambridge, MA, the situation was a common one: A growing family with evolving lifestyles, on a limited budget, needed more space. But this common situation also had problems which needed some *uncommon* solutions. These solutions were brought about through the ingenuity and teamwork of the architect and contractor, John Bryson, of J.M. Bryson Custom Building & Repair in Attleboro, MA.

The Medgyesy residence, a 1960s California-style ranch located in Attleboro, MA, suffered from a lack of natural light, dark interior finishes, and what Richardson calls "a dead-end kitchen." The owners wanted the kitchen upgraded to accommodate both the family's needs and a growing catering business. In addition, the owners requested a more formal entry sequence for adult guests, along with a mudroom/side entrance to accommodate the children, their friends and assorted boots

An architect, builder and owner worked together to solve a roofing problem while keeping the project under budget

and gear. Finally, the homeowners wanted to establish an enhanced connection to a rear courtyard area, which is often used for *al fresco* dining and socializing.

Kitchen is the key

According to Richardson, "The kitchen served as the central organizing element of the project and established a key plan relationship between the formal entertaining spaces and the informal character of the family room addition." The design involved utilizing the exterior space between the existing house and garage for the addition, while renovating the kitchen within its location. This decision, the architect says, helped achieve the most for the available budget, and is what made the kitchen key to the interior planning of the entire project.

The limited kitchen space allowed only one person to work comfortably. The kitchen also wasn't connected to most of the other rooms, and it lacked windows. After the remodel, the kitchen was transformed from a congested space iso-

The family room/breakfast area provides easy access to the kitchen and both entrance areas. Because pre-fabricated trusses were used, the columns don't have to support the roof; they serve decorative purposes only.

