



A detail of the pre-fabricated roof truss during the addition's construction illustrates how the architect and contractor were able to save time and money while still providing a custom design.



configurations." Bryson consulted with Wood Structures, Inc. of Biddeford, ME, which took about a week to make the custom trusses.

Using trusses proved to be a very valuable idea. According to Bryson, using conventional framing would have involved 25' long timbers for the rafters, while the trusses needed only 2x10s on the bottom and 2x8s on the top of each truss. The self-supporting trusses didn't need the support of the columns, and the 32' structure was applied in one piece. "It went together like a model," Bryson notes. Using the trusses saved time and money in labor, and the contractor was able to install the columns *after* the roof was attached, so there was little chance they would be damaged.

The solution was so successful that it seemed like the obvious answer. Was Bryson certain that the plan would work? Thinking back, he says, "I never thought it would fly."

Teamwork saves money

As is the case in almost any successful remodel, a good relationship among the owner, architect and contractor helped make the project work. "We tried to put together a team with ourselves, the owner and the contractor," Richardson says, "rather than taking the typical 'omnipotent power approach' that many architects use.

"There's nothing worse for an owner than getting caught in a dispute between the architect and the

The frontal view of the home and garage before the remodel shows the space now occupied by the family room and breakfast area.

