



## THE KAPLANS

**THE HOME:** Mid-century ranch

**CONTRACTORS:** Jack Finn & Co. Building Contractors LLC

**ARCHITECT:** John Reimnitz Architect P.C.

**INTERIOR DESIGNER:** Laura Ricci, Studio R

**LANDSCAPING:** Mierop Design

**PROJECT DURATION:** Eight and a half months, spent in a rental across the street.

**DEFINING FEATURES:** The master suite at right is an addition, seen in progress and after completion below. The bedroom's sliding door leads to a deck made with wooden boards reclaimed from a former Florida room on the lower level; that space now serves as a dining room beyond the kitchen. Wide planks of walnut wood not only cover the first floor, but also the stairs to the second floor, left, which run along a leather-tiled wall. The flat screen TV above barely hints at the home's technological marvels, which includes whole home audio, motorized shades and lighting that are synced to an astronomical clock, and heating and cooling that can be adjusted in different zones using touch panels and Android apps.





DOUG KAPLAN'S FOCUS:

**“We wanted to enjoy the property, and bring greenery and natural light and color in. Facing south, with almost continuous glass on the first floor, we also wanted to use the sunlight for passive heating.”**

PHOTOS COURTESY PETER MOREHAND EXCEPT BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS COURTESY JACK FINN

# TRENDS



## THE COLWELLS

**THE HOME:** Craftsmen Colonial

**CONTRACTORS:** Jack Finn & Co. Building Contractors LLC

**ARCHITECT/DESIGNER:** Rachael Grochowski, RHD Architecture & Design

**PROJECT DURATION:** Eight months; due to compromised foundation walls, the house had to be supported by stilts.

**DEFINING FEATURES:** The new back staircase lets light from the house's south-western exposure through. The kitchen ceiling is 18' high, forming the higher peak in the roof, as seen in the "after" photo above. The room's 13 1/2'-long island seats up to seven comfortably; when the mudroom door is closed, it resembles the room's cabinetry. The large space with the floor-to-ceiling custom windows at top right serves as a family hangout that can fit 30 guests. A 12' opening leads to the outdoors.

**PRAISE FOR THE ARCHITECT AND PROJECT MANAGER:** "Rachael is incredibly talented with green design, and mixing old and new. And Tom Minden, the project manager, is a perfectionist, and no detail was overlooked. If there were hiccupps, we never knew about them!!"



**SARAH COLWELL'S  
PERSPECTIVE:**

“I’m from  
England, and  
I like to have  
**the outside**  
**as part of the**  
**indoor space,**  
so there’s  
a natural  
transition.”

