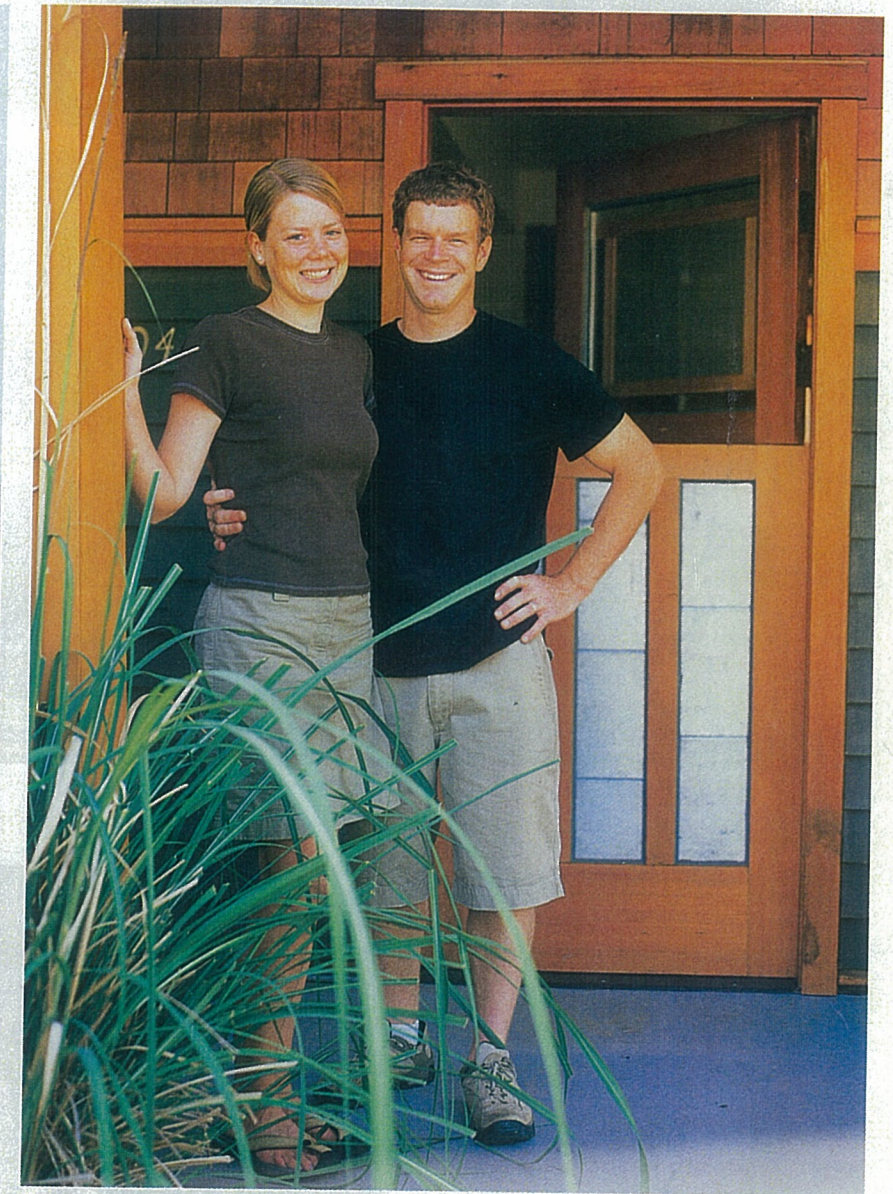


ONE CLEVER

SOLUTION



A PORTLAND BUNGALOW IS RENOVATED USING SCRAP WOOD AND RECLAIMED MATERIALS



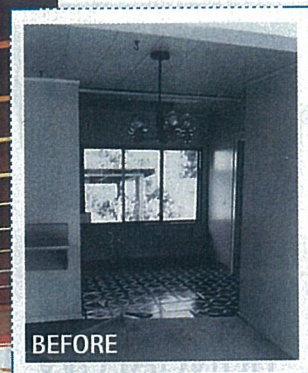
ABOVE: Ryan and Holly Walsh pose by their front door, which Ryan made into a two-part Dutch door. It keeps the family dog, Wally, inside and lets air flow through the house.

LEFT: The home's vinyl siding was ripped off during a demo party Ryan hosted after buying the house.

OPPOSITE: The remodeled home's cedar clapboard came from dismantled houses; the cedar shingles were leftovers from other construction projects.

WRITTEN BY MICHELLE TAUTE ■ PHOTOGRAPHS BY REBECCA MACK

SEE BUYING GUIDE FOR DETAILS



BEFORE
 ABOVE: Original details such as built-ins and trim were already gone when Ryan took ownership of the 1925 house. He moved the kitchen from one side of the house to the other—a sunnier spot.

LEFT: Exposed ceiling beams create an interesting pattern in the kitchen. Original to the house, they're made of Douglas fir.

BELOW: The unusual kitchen sink came from an old industrial building that had been torn down. Ryan spotted it while driving by the demolition site.

WHEN IT COMES TO REMODELING, most homeowners think about how they want a space to look and feel before they rush out and buy materials. But Ryan Walsh approached the renovation of his 1925 bungalow in Portland, Oregon, in nearly the opposite way. He started with a trip to the backyard to sort through piles of scrap materials and figure out how to use them. Without a huge bankroll to finance improvements, he decided to use what he had and invest his sweat equity into the house.

An architect who works at a design-build firm by day, Ryan built the home's kitchen cabinets, for instance, with relatively short pieces of leftover ipe—a Brazilian hardwood he was able to acquire from deck projects over the course of a year or two. He called on his

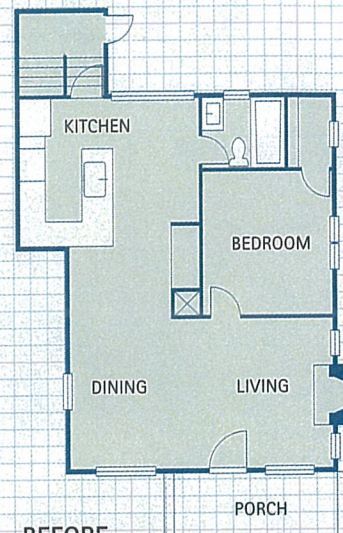


construction skills and design savvy to turn these short boards and warped pieces into cabinets that rival high-end custom work.

Today, eight years after he bought the house, Ryan lives among this and other handiwork with his wife, Holly, and their young daughter, Eliote. Their home, nearly complete, has

come together one piece at a time, with Ryan designing a little then building a little. He gutted the interior, ripped off vinyl siding and tore down a small garage. Gradually, walls went up inside, and he built a new shop/office structure across the backyard. In 2005, he and Holly built a master suite at the rear of the house. These additions,

ABOVE: Ryan built the sliding glass doors for the new master bedroom with wood reclaimed from a church. The addition links the old part of the house with the new office/shop on the opposite side of the yard, creating a central courtyard.

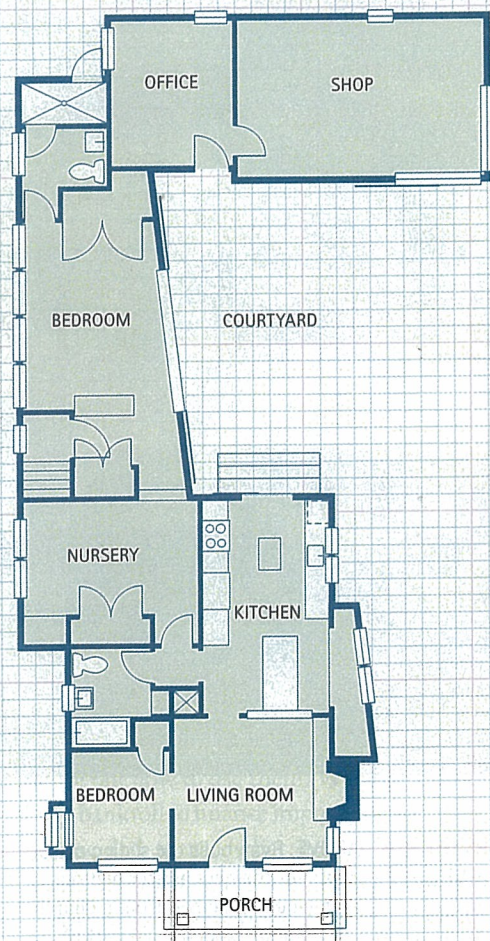


BEFORE

The original one-bedroom, one-bath home was only 750 square feet, and its layout placed the bedroom and bathroom in the part of the house with the best sunlight.

WHAT WAS DONE

- ▶ Gutted the home's interior
- ▶ Changed the overall layout and room locations
- ▶ Replaced vinyl siding with wood
- ▶ Added a master suite onto rear of home
- ▶ Tore down the garage and built a shop/office in the backyard



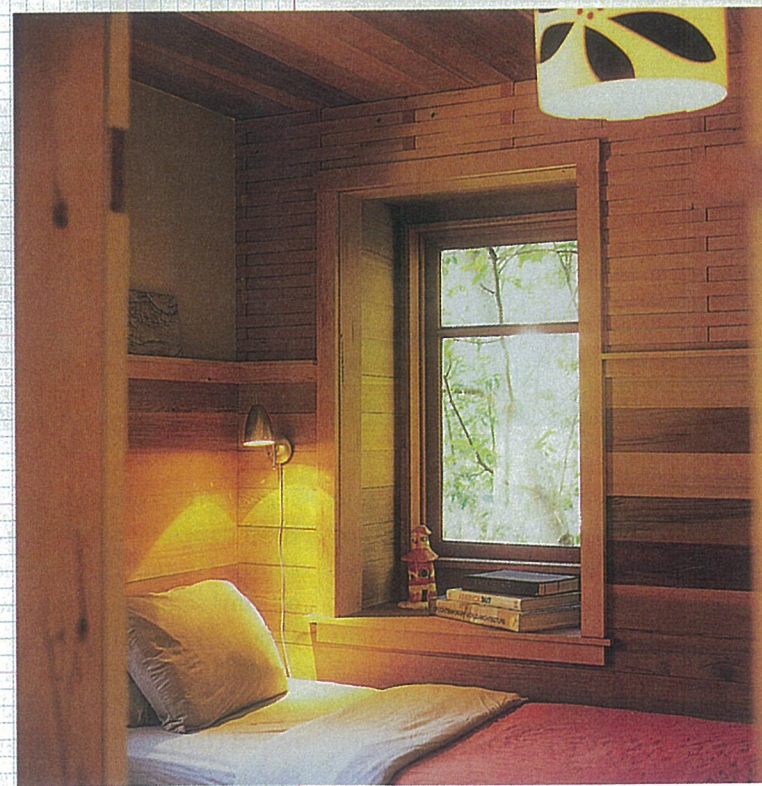
AFTER

To draw light into the main living spaces, the new floor plan places the living room, dining area and kitchen on the south side of the house. There's now 1,200 square feet in the main living area with roughly another 600 square feet in the office and shop areas out back.

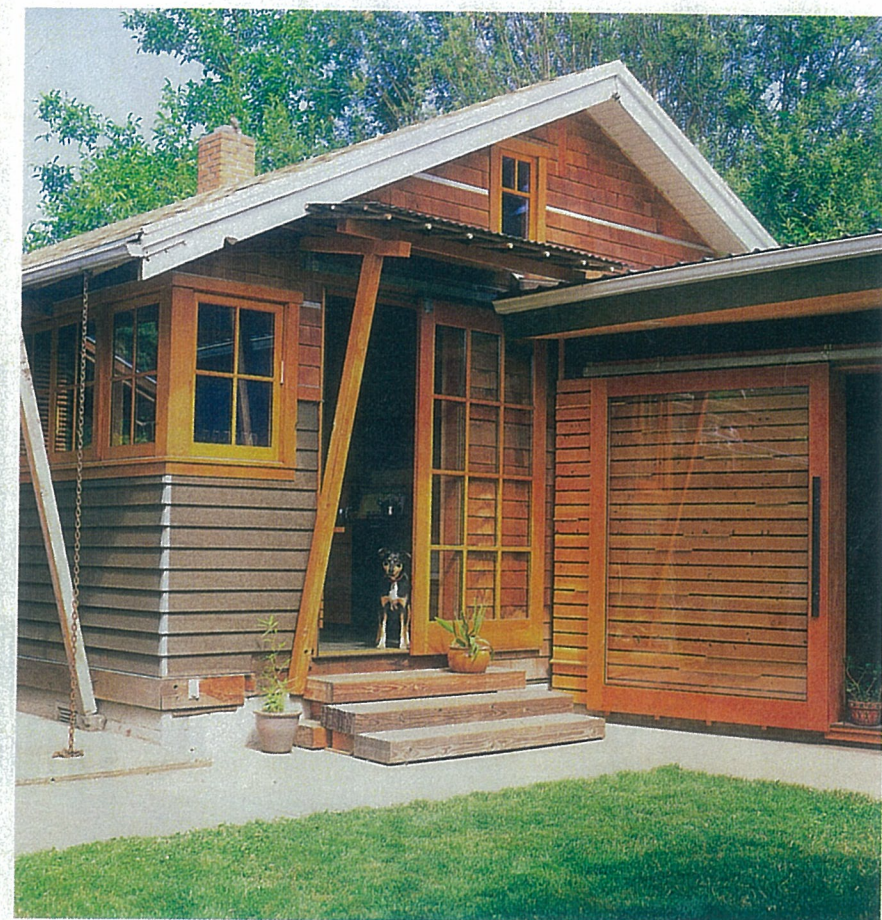
BELOW: Small spaces, and plenty of wood, make the house feel a bit like a boat. Lots of built-in storage keeps the living areas clutter free. "People are always remarking when they come over, 'Where is all of your stuff?'" Holly says.



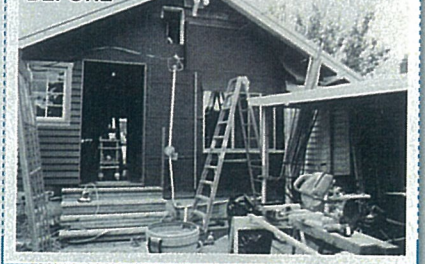
ABOVE: Ryan created this wood mosaic wall with scraps of lumber. The right half opens up to a closet and the door on the left heads to the master bathroom, which includes an outdoor shower.



FLOOR PLANS: STEVEN STANKIEWICZ



BEFORE



TOP: Sliding glass doors let light into the kitchen (at the top of the stairs) and master bedroom (at right) and give easy access to a charming courtyard.

ABOVE: Before the remodel, there was no door from the rear of the house to the backyard.

along with the existing home, create a U-shape around the backyard, forming a pleasing courtyard.

Since he was, essentially, his own client, Ryan approached the project as an experiment where he could try out his ideas. "Many times I moved things around," he says. "Walls were just studs for a while, and they would change as I lived in the space and learned where light was and how big spaces needed to be."

Despite the absence of a master plan, his process led to a house with enviable style. The rich woods, and perhaps Ryan's approach to putting them together, create a cohesive look and feel

that's slightly reminiscent of a boat. Ryan, who grew up sailing and still goes out on the water, says it's the result of subconscious influence rather than any concerted effort. There are some subtle similarities to a boat, such as all the wood and the use of every inch of space.

The 1,200 square foot house includes hidden storage, a sleeping loft and exposed ceiling beams in the kitchen. Plus, many of the home's features, like the oversize sliding glass doors in the master bedroom, let you directly experience nature. "It gets fantastic light," Holly says. "You feel like you are outside even though you are inside." In other words, the best of both worlds. ■