

INSIDE: 2008 HOME OF THE YEAR WINNER

SEATTLE HOMES & LIFESTYLES™

*Warming
trends*



SeattleHomesMag.com
NOVEMBER 2008



BUILDING FR



"WE UNIFIED IT," GRACIELA RUTKOWSKI SAYS ABOUT THE WAY SHE AND THE HOMEOWNER INCORPORATED PIECES THE OSLERS ALREADY OWNED, SUCH AS THE PORTRAIT ON THE MANTEL, A FAMILY HEIRLOOM. THE MANTEL ITSELF WAS REDONE IN A DARKER HUE TO CONTRAST WITH THE NEUTRAL WALLS AND FURNITURE. "IT WAS GREAT TO USE THE OLDER PIECES AND KEEP THE INTEGRITY OF THE HOME AND MODERNIZE IT," KATHY OSLER SAYS.

FRIENDS

AN INTERIOR DESIGNER AND ARCHITECT HIT IT OFF WITH A LAURELHURST FAMILY IN THE PROCESS OF REDESIGNING A HOME FOR FIVE

WRITTEN BY LINDSEY ROWE PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID PAPAIZAN

Design Details

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Graciela Rutkowski,
Graciela Rutkowski Interiors,
(206) 527-1962, grinteriordesign.com

ARCHITECT

Anne Adams, Principal,
Stuart Silk Architects, 2400 N. 45th St.,
Ste. 200, (206) 728-9500, stuartsilks.com





OPPOSITE: ELEGANT TOUCHES, SUCH AS THE GLASS CHANDELIER, ENCOURAGE A CERTAIN SOPHISTICATION. BELOW LEFT: ADAMS USED RESAWN CEDAR SHINGLES ON THE ROOF TO CONTINUE THE CRISP, TAILORED LOOK BEGUN WITH THE ORIGINAL BRICK ON THE MAIN LEVEL AND THE HEAVY SPLIT SHAKES ON THE UPPER FLOORS. THE TOWERLIKE TURRET MAKES THE HOME LOOK LIKE AN INDIGENOUS SHINGLE-STYLE BUILDING. WHEN THE WEATHER IS NICE, KATHY OSLER SPENDS MUCH OF HER TIME ON THE PATIO (BELOW RIGHT).



This is a story of design-savvy people meeting at a serendipitous time. In May 2003, homeowner Kathy Osler went to a party at the home of interior designer Graciela Rutkowski, held for a mutual friend who was moving away. When the two met, they knew they could be confidantes. "I still remember what [she was] wearing that day," Rutkowski says. Kathy, who had bought a house in Laurelhurst two years earlier—two blocks away from the interior designer—remembers how beautiful Rutkowski's home was. "I just wanted her house," Kathy recalls. "I wanted her interiors."

Seven months later, Kathy hired Rutkowski to help her with a small project: selecting paint colors for the main floor. Together they picked a neutral beige that would work with most future design choices. Then the pair decided to re-cover the sofa in a classy brown mohair. "We slowly started reupholstering pieces, just to get the right color," Rutkowski says. Next was a pair of chairs. They re-covered them in a creamy white, and then Rutkowski patterned nail heads along the bottom edges for a subtle touch of eclecticism.

In tandem with the relaxed redecorating, Kathy and her husband, Geoff, decided to add a third story to their home for extra square footage four months before their third child was born. "I guess you could say I

was nesting," Kathy says with a laugh. Enter Anne Adams, principal at Stuart Silk Architects, who augmented the design duo, creating the perfect trio of homeowner, designer and architect with an appreciation for the finer things in life.

This is where the story picks up pace. In order to add a third story to a structure on a sloping hill, Adams had to bolt the house to the foundation. Then she created a third story with a turret to house the staircase—the small tower being the most effective way to include stairs and still maximize space for an extra floor in this addition. The 600 square feet the third floor added rounds out the house to a comfortable 4,200 square feet. "It's a great use of space in a small footprint," Adams says. The Oslers' two older kids, who have bedrooms upstairs, love it. "It's really enchanting for the kids to have the spiral stair in the turret and go up to their own little world," Adams adds.

After reinforcing the structure and adding the third floor, Adams bumped out the kitchen. "We made that bigger to accommodate a growing family," Kathy says.

The remodel itself took nine months. Because the family had a newborn when they started and wasn't living in the house, everyone involved was inspired to finish the project as quickly as possible.