



savvy carpentry and decades  
of renovation experience  
helped this Minnesota couple  
create a perfectly conceived

# bungalow on a budget

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ABOVE: To gain bedrooms upstairs, the home's roof was raised 4½ feet.  
OPPOSITE: Sometimes the smallest idea yields the biggest design impact. When the fireplace wall looked too flat, the Hugheses built out the area above the mantel by 4 inches. This step-out, along with the built-up moldings, makes the fireplace appear as if it goes to the ceiling instead of just to mantel height.

TERRY AND CAMILLA HUGHES LIVE IN THE grip of a hard-to-kick habit—they're hooked on reinvigorating tired old houses with beautiful architectural detail, if not period authenticity. The couple launched their history-tweaking brand of renovation some 20 years ago to free themselves from the rigors of demanding professions. Finding both creative satisfaction and profit in the process, they haven't looked back.

When it comes to their own residences, the Hugheses enjoy moving on to a new project about every two years. Their latest endeavor—a one-story 1924 Arts and Crafts bungalow in a resurgent Minneapolis lakeside neighborhood—might just be the place that convinces them to stay put. "Contrary to typical Arts and Crafts houses, which are filled with dark wood and eight-foot ceilings, this one had nine-foot-four ceilings and wonderful inswinging French windows," Terry says. Camilla adds, "Having looked at about 150 different bungalows, we knew right away that we could open and lighten this place up."

Calling upon their experience, the design skills of architect Lee Meyer, and the talents of a loyal crew of subcontractors, the pair replumbed, rewired, and restuccoed; tore down walls and shifted windows; raised the roof to make room for upstairs bedrooms; added a screen porch and front foyer; and turned the first-floor bedrooms into gathering rooms.

The first order of business was to build a gracious entrance foyer by absorbing part of a front veranda including a door into the living room. Renovations hold surprises for even the most experienced builders, and this project was no exception. Recalls Terry: "When the crew bared the walls of the veranda, they discovered wood rot, which forced us to rebuild the section designated for reuse."

Next the Hugheses narrowed the opening between the living room and

dining room to accommodate a pair of built-in china cabinets. The bedroom on the opposite side was turned into a sunroom, cordoned off from the living room by a half-height wall consisting of leaded-glass-front bookcases that echo those in the dining room. A heavy wood column edges the half wall. And nicely detailed features, such as three custom-made casement windows and an inventive trim treatment around the windows, wall openings and ceiling

(see sidebar page 89) foster the old-world quality that pervades the home.

The kitchen, in particular, exudes an inviting ambience. As the heart of the home, it pumps a lighthearted spirit throughout. Its well-considered “chambers”—food prep, island, cleanup, and sitting areas—dish up good looks and good times.

In a significant departure from classic Arts and Crafts abodes, the renovation’s clean and simple planes, open sightlines to surrounding rooms, cheerful painted hues, and generous floor plan envelop owners and visitors alike in welcoming comfort. A variety of cabinets and drawers provide ample storage while zippy, streamlined appliances make it easy on the cook and bring the ‘20s into the 2000s without a visual hitch.

Abutting the kitchen and located behind the family room is a screen porch the Hugheses added. While the family room encourages indoor lounging with its closet-turned-entertainment-center and cozy furnishings, views of the screen porch beckon through a pair of relocated windows. “We’ll move out there even when it’s cold outside,” Terry says.



ABOVE AND OPPOSITE: A new entrance foyer and a trio of custom casement windows that replaced a boring picture window foster an open feeling in the living room. Stepped-up trimwork above windows and cased openings and along the ceiling are comprised of stock profiles. The leaded-glass window above the front door is a custom detail in a design borrowed from a Frank Lloyd Wright window. RIGHT: Leaded-glass cabinet doors on the sunroom side of the half-wall between this room and the living room echo those on the dining room’s new built-in china cabinets.



### fit and trim

“We generally look for houses built around the turn of the century with good millwork—or ones that deserve to have their millwork back,” says Camilla

Hughes. She and husband Terry saved all the trim pieces during the demolition and expansion phases of their renovation, but still ended up reworking it. Their solution not only reinstates the early ‘20s sensibility of the bungalow, but it also exaggerates the vertical dimensions and feel of the rooms. Throughout the house, existing cove moldings along the ceilings were enhanced with stock profiles, and casings above the windows were replaced. They achieved the wider look by inserting a piece of 5/4 stock material above the original cove and a thin picture molding below it. To boost the height of the windows (from only 6’8” off the floor), they added an 8-inch-wide piece of casing and two stacked, stepped-out pieces of “one by” material to their tops. (This was also done atop the closets in the foyer.) By similarly stacking two pieces of “one by” to the tops of the cased openings, they ended up the same height as the windows, thereby creating a sense of harmony from room to room. The Hugheses saved thousands of dollars by avoiding new windows and costly custom millwork. “This was a simple, inexpensive way to accomplish our objective,” Terry says. “And the stepped look is very Arts and Crafts.”



the arts and crafts style is very popular right now, anything with that label commands a high price. so we did some hunting and came up with cost-cutting ways of staying true to the spirit of the style.

— camilla hughes

**CAP MOLDING:** The Hugheses used a typical cabinet top molding but added "one by" material to its upper edge. Because it projects out in stepped fashion like the ceiling cove, it establishes a visual bond between the ceiling and the cabinets, and helps provide a broader, more secure display surface above them. "That one inexpensive stock piece makes it look like a heavy crown that you had milled for a fortune," Terry says.

**TILE ACCENTS:** Accent strips forming a rectangle above the cooktop highlight the area and run the length of the backsplash at windowsill height. "We like to do this to add dimension and interest," Terry says.

**WAINSCOTING:** Beaded-board wainscoting above the cabinets provides visual continuity and an informal backdrop to display pieces. Newly opened to the kitchen, the dining room also has beaded-board paneling below its window bank.

**CABINERY:** Opting for a flat panel versus a raised panel door and running a wider rail at the bottom than along the other three sides results in an asymmetry that adds eye-grIPPING variety to an otherwise spare environment. By painting the straight-sticking cabinets, the couple pays homage to the simple lines of the Arts and Crafts style without buying into its heavy wood look.

**CABINET FEET:** Corner legs, comprised of six-by-sixes at the bottom of the island and under the stacking ovens, are fitted with base shoes that draw attention to the legs and lend the cabinetry a furniture-like look.

**KNOBS:** To get the classic hammered metal detailing identified with the Arts and Crafts style but avoid the high price tag, the couple purchased \$3 square taper knobs at Restoration Hardware, stripped their black finish, and lacquered them to achieve the look of hammered steel.



## design savvy

The Hugheses replaced the kitchen's plastic laminate cabinetry with custom-built, straight-sticking units and installed red oak flooring to match original flooring in other parts of the house. An oiled cherry top on the island complements the rich, warm tones in the backsplash tile. A lighter palette in the cabinetry is complemented by light-colored countertops that resemble soapstone. "We chose not to go with a dark surface that would offer up a contrast to the cabinets," Terry says. The cooktop, ovens, dishwasher, and refrigerator add modern flair and convenience—proving that historical authenticity isn't as important as a design scheme that remains respectful of a house's origins.



With the arrival of warm weather, the backyard draws the couple outside. Greenery and vistas of eye-pleasing architectural details knit the various parts of the rear of the house together: the railing on the screen porch, the screen panels' grids that replicate the pattern of the windows, a gridlike adornment on the covered porch.

The Hugheses find that visitors are drawn to each and every area. "With this bungalow, we got the best of all possible worlds," says Terry. "The coziness of deep eaves but the airiness of painted woodwork and an open plan."

Given the couple's penchant for renovation, they might fall prey to the recurring affliction they affectionately dub "the two-year itch." If they do, a perfectly conceived bungalow awaits a new owner who more than likely will not be able even to recognize the extent of its changeover. Respectful of its roots, the house now has a style that admirers of both tradition and modern convenience dream about. ■

Architect: Lee Meyer, Lee Meyer Architects  
For more information, turn to Sources on page 118.

LEFT: Terry and Camilla Hughes brought outdoor lightness inside. A new covered porch leads to a screen porch and vestibule/mudroom that opens to the kitchen.



Formerly a bedroom, the family room takes advantage of its backyard-facing position with a new door leading to the screen porch and a repositioned pair of windows.

### smart Savings

In keeping with their goal of structuring a fluid, open plan, the couple took down the wall between the dining room and existing kitchen and bumped out the cooktop and oven wall by integrating the area of a 4-foot-wide side porch. "One of the things we look for when choosing a project house are adjunct rooms that we can knock down and use to enlarge adjacent spaces or add on without needing to finance a new foundation," Terry says. "These let us build a whole lot less expensively."

They also relocated the basement staircase to open the kitchen to a family room fashioned out of the first floor's back bedroom and added a second window above the sink.

