

# A bungalow that's better bigger

**Sensitivity to local character paid off on this Seattle addition**



MARY JOHNSTON

**REMODEL GAVE BUNGALOW a usable second floor and a generous new porch, while retaining original windows.**

**P**EOPLE WHO LIVE IN GREAT neighborhoods made up of modest-size houses often prefer to add on to those houses rather than move to bigger ones elsewhere. But if too many big additions go up, the neighborhoods lose the style and character that made them great in the first place.

Seattle—very much a city of neighborhoods—is largely defined by blocks and blocks of charming little wood houses built in the '20s and '30s. Shaela and Tom Hull, owners of such a house, needed more space for their growing family but didn't want to move. Fortunately, they also felt strongly about retaining the charm that initially drew them to their neighborhood.

The jury was happy to present a special award to architect Mary Johnston for successfully solving this generic problem that thwarts far too many designers. "A lot of our practice is this kind of neighborhood work," Johnston told us. "We try to help all these overeducated, underpaid people improve their lives within their means."

For the Hulls' addition, Johnston said, "It was crucial not to overdesign the project; the scale and modesty of the setting—and the budget—dictated restraint."

In addition to redos on the kitchen and bathroom, the two original bedrooms downstairs became a family room opening to a new deck. Upstairs are two new bedrooms, a new bath, and a new master suite that looks out to a panorama of the Olympic Mountains.

Simple, clean exterior detailing respects the bungalow aesthetic that defines the neighborhood but doesn't attempt to duplicate the original. "Sidewalk critics have given the house a vigorous thumbs-up," Johnston said. "That's the most important endorsement of all."—B. C.



**INSIDE, remodel opened kitchen to dining room, turned two downstairs bedrooms into a family room, and added three bedrooms and two baths upstairs.**

