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Places to Wine, Dine
and Have a Good Time

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The desire for more living space became the impetus for a renovation that turned one busy family's garage into a family room and changed an outdated galley kitchen into a cook's dream. And those weren't the only changes. What was once the family room was transformed into a spacious dining room. Coming full circle, the original dining room became a sitting area, effectively doubling the seating capacity of the new family room.

Often, dramatic improvements can be made with-

out going too far beyond a home's original footprint, simply by rethinking and repurposing the existing spaces. "The lower floor of the center hall colonial was completely gutted," says Phyllis Harbinger of Design Concepts/Interiors, Croton on Hudson (914-271-5440). Only a recently renovated powder room remained unchanged.

To create visual interest, the homeowners wanted a variety of levels and angles from floor to ceiling. The kitchen is now two steps up from the family room and



alterations to the rooflines produced multiple ceiling heights. A high tray ceiling with a skylight now opens the family room to natural light.

Because the new kitchen and family room function as one integrated space, they share many design elements. An analogous color scheme builds on warm hues from yellow-orange to red-orange. Walls are painted a cheery sunflower gold and warm cherry stain was chosen for the custom cabinetry in both spaces.

The focal point of the kitchen is a large island that contains a cooktop along with a pair of Dacor ovens, mounted side by side. The kitchen's stainless steel appliances and brushed aluminum chairs are echoed in a round mirror that rests on the fireplace mantel and the contemporary ceiling fan.

The entire project was really about coming together as a family, explains Harbinger. Through a balance of durable materials, clean-lined furniture and whimsical accessories, she successfully created a gathering place every member of the family can call home.

Phyllis Harbinger:
Family Ties