

## Special Section: Outdoor Living



# family favorites

A stately Massachusetts home gets the outdoor living and dining areas it sorely needed, thanks to a thoughtful renovation.

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY SAM GRAY







Like many houses of its era, Carolyn and Joseph Campanelli's 1905 Colonial had plenty of architectural detailing, but few modern family comforts. The kitchen was grim, the family room was a badly enclosed former screen porch that wasn't easily accessible from anywhere, and the backyard was unkempt with only a small, dilapidated deck on one side.

Still, the couple loved the neighborhood and felt the spacious home would work for their family, so they embarked on a remodel that began as a simple kitchen and bath renovation but grew into a comprehensive whole-house makeover. During the process, Carolyn; Joseph; and children Allie, 14; Connor, 11; and Jac, 6, gained the open kitchen, family room, and breakfast area they needed, as well as a large, curving deck that leads to the back and side yards via three graceful stairways.

Architects David Foley and Paul Fiore of Foley Fiore Architects in Cambridge, Massachusetts, designed the deck to replicate the look of the front of the house. "We were trying to make the back look like an original part of the house," Fiore says. "We found the balusters for the railings in a catalog—they were very close to the ones on the front—and the windows of the [new] family room have divided transoms, which was another detail that we carried around from the front."

They specified Pau Lope, a farm-raised type of ipe—an extremely hard Brazilian hardwood—for the decking, sealing the wood to retain its rich color. A pergola lends structure and smooths the architectural transition from inside to out, an effect the architects intended. "We

OPPOSITE TOP: Architect Paul Fiore describes Joseph and Carolyn Campanelli's Massachusetts home as a center-hall Colonial that's been gussied up a bit.  
OPPOSITE BOTTOM: The new deck was part of a comprehensive remodel that included updating the kitchen, adding a family room—the bay that leads out to the deck—and enclosing an upper-level sunporch to create Joseph's home office.  
LEFT: Several seating areas, including a spot for dining, make it easy and comfortable for the Campanellis to entertain outdoors.



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ABOVE: Connor, Jac, and their big sister, Allie (not pictured), consider the deck an extension of the backyard. Carolyn likes that they can play outside so near the kitchen and family room.

OPPOSITE: A bluestone patio edged with cobblestones leads from the garage to the deck. Each side staircase has a slight curve, a motif picked up from the rounded bays on the back of the house.

wanted the progression to be gradual,” Fiore says. “You step down once to the deck, then again to the backyard. The pergola links the deck to the house.”

In warm weather, the Campanellis eat many meals on the deck, sitting around a dining table set in the large, curved section off the main staircase. Joseph, the resident grill master (“and six-burner-stove-master, too,” Carolyn says), cooks outdoors year-round on a grill tucked out of sight on the bluestone patio. And the kids play on the deck and in the yard, in sight of their parents in the kitchen.

“What we love about the deck and patio is that they’re so nicely connected to the house—they function as just one more room, really—and yet when you step outside you feel like you’re in another world,” Carolyn says. “It’s almost like being in a park.” ■

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