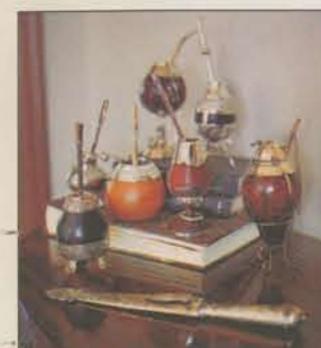
## NORTHWEST LIVING

PHOTOGRAPHED BY BARRY



A collection of formal Argentinean maté cups graces a table in the living room. The sterling dagger is the kind used by gauchos at outdoor barbucues.

## HONORING the Old with the New

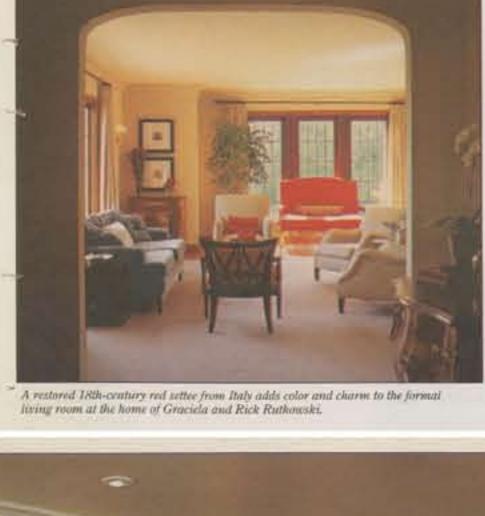
A major Laurelhurst remodel celebrates lives past and present

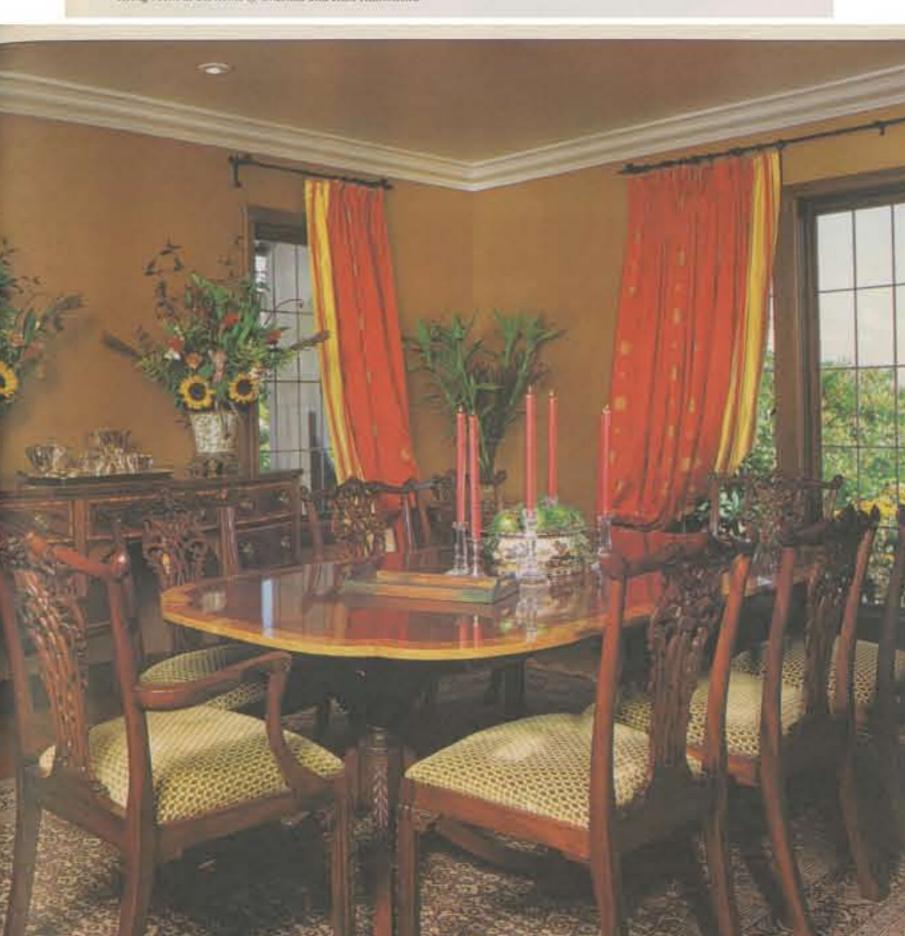
TAKE A CRAMPED 1928 English Tudor house with an overgrown yard in a good Seattle neighborhood. Add owners who appreciate its style and comfort, but who find its spaces don't allow them to properly accommodate their mutual passion for cooking or to adequately display the artifacts they love to gather on their frequent travels. Now give them two young daughters who want bedrooms of their own and spaces to play, and the dilemma is clear:

Should the owners move? Should they have the house torn down and rebuild? Or remodel? Fortunately for the neighbors, Graciela and Rick Rutkowski decided to remodel after four years of living in their house and learning what they needed it to be. With the help of architect Richard Fisher, and after nearly a year in a condominium, they moved back into a gracious stucco house that is almost entirely new but looks as if it has always been there.

Fisher, who grew up in the

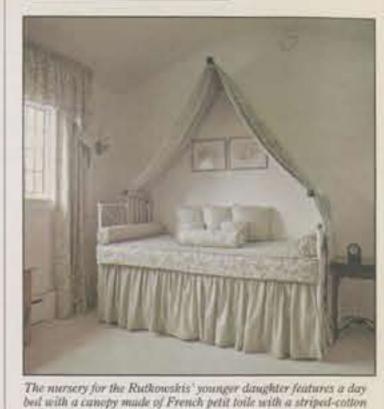
same Laurelhurst neighborhood, understood his clients' desire to preserve the best of what they had while adding space and modern conveniences that fit their lifestyle. "We wanted more square footage and to keep our old bouse," explains Graciela, who acknowledges that it probably would have been cheaper to do a teardown. (All that remains of the old bouse are the entryway, a staircase to the second floor and four kitchen windows.) To fully appreciate the trans-





The dining-room table and chairs are reproductions of the Chippendale style. Graciela did the flower arrangements on the reproduction 18th-century mahogans sideboard. The Italian-silk drapes are her favorite.

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formation, imagine a 2,400- binations of furnishings from square-foot house with no different periods. The entry-

view, a very cramped second story and a thicket of a yard bordered by blackbernes, overgrown rhododendrons and a mature cedar with the top chopped off.

The new reality is nearly double the original square footage. On the new second

story, the spacious master suite has a panoramic lake and mountain view. The cedar is gone, as are the brambles and rhodies. The owners are not gurdeners, so landscape designer Martha Keck included attractive low-maintenance shrubbery and a lawn where the girls can play. Above a new garage is an inviting small patio featuring a pair of lovely decorative urns rescued from a salvage yard in France. The wrought-iron railing surrounding the small, tiled balcony off the master suite is another find from the same salvage yard. The Rutkowskis spotted potential beneath rust and grime, just as they recognized the potential in their old It's immediately apparent upon entering the house that this family loves antiques, rich colors and a traditional look achieved through fearless com-

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from a flea market in Paria. The red settee in the formal living room is 18th-century Italian; the white one in the master bedroom is 18th-century French. A lovely painted antique side piece in the living room is typical of one you might find in Provence, The diningroom table and chairs are reproductions of the Chippendale style.

"We are pretty influenced by our travels and love picking up pieces," says Graciela, who did the interior design berself

way mirror, for example, is

after failing to be inspired by
the ideas of the professional
she first hired. All the furniture and furnishings are either
custom-made or antique. Graciela, who has since taken on
friends and friends of friends
as clients, uses words such as
"traditional," "eclectic" and
"European" to describe the
style of her home. "There are
pieces from the '40s along
with 18th-century pieces," she
says.

The home very much reflects the Rutkowskis' heritage
and their life experience. Graciela's father was Crechoslo-

vakian, her mother, Italian. >

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