



Howard's End

By Robin Jovanovich

When Jen and Rob Howard bought their current home on the Boston Post Road last August, it was listed as a Tudor. Within months they had transformed it into a Shingle-style Colonial.



The overall look of the house was changed when the Howards took off the siding and rearranged the windows.

"The first thing we did was take off the green roof and the vinyl siding," Jen said. "Then we replaced the stairs and got into

the interior spaces."

The Howards are comfortable doing all kinds of home alterations — he's a builder, she's a designer — and this is their seventh home in Rye. But unlike their previous homes, this was a renovation, not a home they'd built from scratch.

"We didn't add a square foot. The project was a good lesson for me because so many clients are scaling back and we've learned to



The kitchen is designed for family living and entertaining

use what we have," said Jen who owns JWH Design & Cabinetry, further north on the Boston Post Road.

Jen's main business is kitchens but she's often hired to do one thing and ends up with another. "The need for practicality is always battling with the desire to make a home perfect," said Jen. "Luckily we're flexible!"

Styles and tastes are changing. "Just a few years ago, whatever the FAR (Floor Area Ratio) allowed was built. People are more conscious of expense and energy efficiency."

This home is smaller than their last and has well-defined spaces. "There is good flow — you don't need big, open spaces to have that — and every room has a purpose.

I know the house works for two working parents and five kids," she said.

Their children, ages 9 – 17, love being almost next door to Rye High and Middle Schools. And Jen and Rob, whose office is at home, love coming home and counting the shoes in the front entry — it's how we know how many are home!"



All seven of the Howards make their way to the living room at the end of the day.



Each child has a cubby in the Oriental red front-entry cubby.



The large chandelier, brought from their previous house, provides welcoming light

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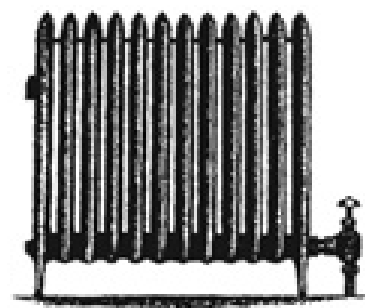
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