

# creating curb appeal

**Take cues from these exterior remodeling solutions for foolproof style up front.** By Julie Collins

## put on a happy face

**Problem:** A ho-hum appearance outside and lack of space inside prompted the homeowners to wish for a brand-new house.

**Solution:** Bump up the square footage and reface the exterior. After purchasing a lot to build a new home, Mark and Nancy Nelson realized their current house was ideal after all. Instead of abandoning it, they contacted a builder and began renovating.

Lining up the garage with the front facade allowed space at the back for a main-level laundry, powder room, and mudroom. The restructured garage features custom doors. A crisply angled dormer, one of two added, provides light for a new upper-level office.

Replacing the old siding with hand-cut cedar shingles and covering the red brick on the chimney with a thin veneer of natural stone upped the cottage feel. A front portico with red-brick steps and white columns adds architectural interest. Divided-light windows and white trim complete the facelift.

photographer: Susan Gilmore



**before**

**right** A pitched, hipped roof and cedar shake siding boost the home's previously bland exterior.