

# Before & After



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## Outside In: A Kitchen with Porch Appeal

The owner of this beautiful Newton home has retained Feinmann for a series of projects. We completed an attic renovation, added a kitchen, finished the first phase of a landscape program and are now beginning the design and construction of a new master suite.

Of all of these projects, perhaps the one that most transformed the house and the every day life of the homeowner was the kitchen addition. Although this home was grand on the outside - the existing kitchen was outdated and small. Originally intended as a servant's galley, the space was inadequate and simply didn't fit the needs of the homeowner who wanted a bright new kitchen to serve as the heart of her home.



*The kitchen of this home was outdated and uninviting.*

Our challenge was to create a new space that would honor the home's architectural style while providing a functional and beautiful place - one that would work as well for entertaining a crowd as it would as a retreat for one.

The homeowner wanted loads of natural light and architect Barney Maier complied by creating an entry with a row of skylights, interior windows and a large transom window over the door. "The side door was used as the main entry into the house, and it wasn't very welcoming," Maier explained. "We created a new side entry that links the existing home with the new space. It's a dramatic approach that honors the home's history and proportions." The abundance of natural light, the numerous windows and the clapboard exterior wall, which now is a design feature as an interior wall, all work to make this new space feel porch-like and connected to the outdoors.



*The clapboard wall and row of skylights give the new eating area a porch-like ambience.*

What was an exterior window in the existing living room now looks into the kitchen eating area, visually connecting the new space with the rest of the home.

In the kitchen, large windows frame views of the property's carriage house and expansive lawn. A generous L-shaped window seat provides comfortable space for casual groups or for more formal gatherings.

Feinmann designer, Rebecca Chase, helped the homeowner put the finishing touches on the room. "We chose a wrought iron table and chairs to continue the transitional feeling of a porch. On the walls, various shades of yellow and ochre add dimension and warmth. We even found dishes that coordinate with the fabrics and colors."



*The new kitchen is bright and functional. Original elements, like the butler's pantry - visible in the rear - were retained and reimagined.*

## New Faces at Feinmann

### Several new and talented professionals have recently joined the Feinmann team.

Licensed Architect and Project Developer **Liz Karp** (AIA) comes to Feinmann with twenty-five years of experience in residential, health care and corporate design. A resident of Cambridge, Liz is also an accomplished dress designer who recently created her daughter's wedding gown. "I think of sewing as soft architecture."

Licensed Architect **Peter Grover** has also joined our design department. A graduate of Wesleyan University, Peter earned a Master in Architecture from the University of Minnesota. Prior to joining Feinmann, he specialized in the design of high-end homes and resorts in the San Francisco-area and most recently shared a private practice in Acton designing residential additions. Peter is also chairman of the Acton Historical Commission.

Production Administrator **Claire Hsu** came on board in January to assist Tammy with customer service, orders and just about everything that keeps projects running smoothly and on schedule. An Arlington resident with children ages 4 and 2, Claire is currently attending The Boston Architectural Center and taking classes in Kitchen and Bath Design. "This summer, as part of a studio class, I'm designing a new kitchen for my landlord," Claire says.

## Going Green

It seems like everyone is talking about going green. At Feinmann we don't just talk about it - we do it. We always have. We've built our reputation on helping our clients to make choices that are right for them, right for the project and right for the environment. Using beautiful, sustainable materials, creating efficient systems and working to preserve existing structures are just some of the ways that we've been going green - not because it's suddenly the cool thing to do, but because it's always been the right thing to do.

### To make this summer a little greener you can:

- Keep your air conditioning set to 78 degrees. For each degree below 78 degrees, you use 3% more energy.
- Avoid using pesticides or fertilizers on your lawn and garden. Chemical fertilizers are a source of nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas. Try using organic products - they are better for our environment and healthier for your lawn and your family.
- Turn off your water heater when you go on vacation. It wastes energy and money to keep water hot when it isn't needed - and it doesn't take long to heat up when you return.

## Feinmann's Referral Program

Thanks to all of you who have referred clients to Feinmann, Inc. We reward any referral that becomes a Feinmann client. For more information, call 781-643-6269 or email us at [info@feinmann.com](mailto:info@feinmann.com).

## Seminar Series

Over fifty people attended Feinmann's Spring Seminar Series. Hosted by Peter Feinmann, with architect Liz Karp, the series addressed topics including: Designing a Great Home, Steps to Remodeling and Kitchens and Baths.

A new fall series is already scheduled. Mark your calendars.

### Feinmann Fall Seminar Series

**October 15 - Designing Your Home**

**November 13 - Kitchens and Baths**

Let us know if there's a topic that you'd like us to address in a future seminar.

## Company News

**Feinmann, Inc.** recently sponsored "Shake it For Shelter," in conjunction with Parenting Resources Associates of Lexington. The event featured a raffle, live and silent auctions and great music. Proceeds benefited Compass, which provides services for homeless families.



*Students listen to professionals speak at Arlington High School's Career Day*

**Peter Feinmann** was a featured speaker at Arlington High School's Career Day. He also presented at North Bennett Street School's Evening of Traditional Crafts and was a panelist on the topic of historic renovations at the Newton Historical Society.



*Peter Feinmann (right) with other presenters at AHS Career Day.*

The recently renovated home of Feinmann client **Mary Britton**, has been selected by Bose, the Framingham sound system company, as the location for its new print ads.

Architect **Barney Maier** is coaching The Twins, an Arlington AAA Little League team of 7-9 year-olds.

Project Manager, **Marina Novona** was married on March 3rd at Café Escadrille in Burlington.

**Feinmann, Inc.** sponsors the traffic island at the corner of Massachusetts Ave. and Paul Revere Street. Watch it bloom!

## Happy Birthday To Us!

Feinmann, Inc. is turning 20! We'll be celebrating later this year with a party for all of our friends. Don't worry; you're invited!

### Coming in the next issue:

- News about our new building
- Unveiling the new Feinmann website
- And another beautiful "before and after" project.