## BUILDING WITH STYLE

## Knowing Where to Stop

by Gordon F. Tully

In one of my first renovations, done 13 years ago, I developed the idea of naming options by the names of autos, to give the client an idea of the cost and luxury of the scheme.

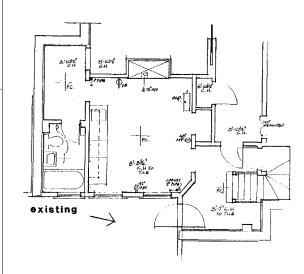
The problem involved my next-

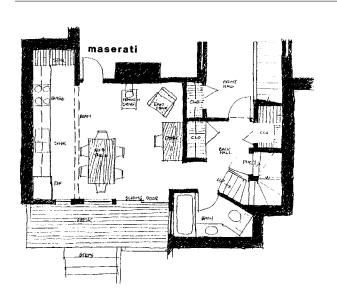
door neighbor's kitchen—we had attached houses—and she was so pleased with the process that she was inspired to attend the Boston Architectural Center and become an architect herself (granted, the idea had already occurred to her). So pleased, in fact, that eventually she designed and built her own home.

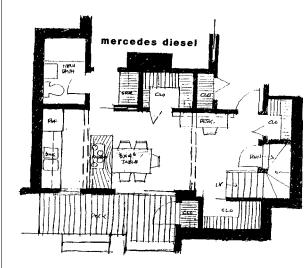
The available turf consisted of the existing back hall, kitchen and butler's pantry. The goal was a livable eat-in kitchen with improved circulation and storage, the usual kitchen renovation problem.

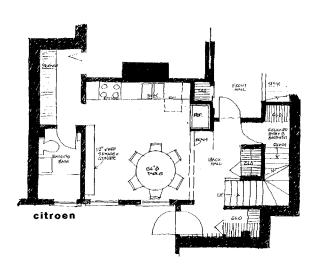
The client had unfortunately just renovated the bathroom in the corner; but I discounted this in the two most elaborate schemes.

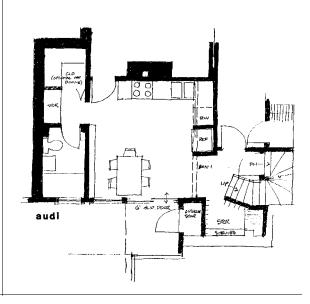
The "Maserati" did it right. By moving the bath next to the reconfigured stair, it was possible to develop a glorious "country kitchen," complete with wood stove and desk, along with a nice kitchen work area and lots of storage. A new direct door was cut into the dining room, and the back porch was replaced by a











In the "Mercedes Diesel" the bath migrated into the butler's pantry, while the shorter kitchen work-area sprouted an island. To avoid opening the bathroom directly into the kitchen. I created a vestibule between the kitchen and dining room. This left too little space next to the chimney to use in the kitchen, so the logical step was to fill that space with storage and create a long but narrow kitchen (25x9 feet), which incorporated the back hall. While a little cheaper, the Mercedes lacked the generous spaces of the Maserati. It was loaded with storage, however.

The "Citroen" (then a viable option among autos), the "Audi," and the "Saab" (the latter two were then middle-priced cars) were basically the same, in that the bath remained in place. The Citroen modified the Saab scheme by rebuilding the basement stair to create a nice back hall. In the Audi, the entry became a sliding glass door, and a direct entry was created into the dining room, at the expense of a too-small kitchen work area.

We selected the Saab because it was the cheapest, and gave us the most bang for the buck. In the built version, we exchanged the sink with

the stove, exchanged the closet next to the refrigerator for additional counter space, adopted the sliding door entry from the Audi scheme, added a pocket door between the kitchen and dining room, and added a pass-through into the dining room. The client, who had read all the latest magazines, introduced me to the "appliance garage," which was inserted next to the refrigerator.

Any morals? It was a good idea to go through the options, even though we chose the plain vanilla one. First, we both felt we had thoroughly explored the territory. Second, some ideas drifted in from other options. And third, we found we didn't miss the Maserati that much. We got a very nice kitchen for less than one-half the price of "doing it right," making us think we did it right after all.

The project came in about on budget, roughly one-sixth of what it would cost today. I don't think that cars increased nearly that much in price, which tells us something about the cost of building.

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