

THE
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MAGAZINE

A Banana Cake
You'll Devour

The Dangerous
Flaws in Se
Offender Ban

Are Summer Fling
Worth the Pain



Play? Or Walk Away?

When we glorify pro athletes – and kids – who ignore pain, everybody loses.

BY SETH MNOOKIN



DESIGNING

Family Style

THE DINING ROOM IS EMBRACED IN A GO-WITH-THE-FLOW EXPANSION OF A CONCORD KITCHEN. **BY MEAGHAN O'NEILL**

Though the Concord family of five had outgrown their starter home, it took them awhile to make the decision – and find the time – to expand rather than sell the 1960s Cape. But the wait was worth it. Increasing the overall square footage from 1,600 to 3,000 nearly tripled the size of the kitchen and dining room and bucked a trend that's rendering formal dining rooms nothing more than holidays-only hinterlands.

Instead, this redesign makes the kitchen and the dressed-up dining room harmonious partners. The two spaces are open to each other, making it clear that the cook is invited to the party. The airy new wing incorporates a casual breakfast area with sliding glass doors that lead to the garden, and a mudroom with a slate floor. "This is where the activity within the house is now, within the renovated spaces," says architect Brian LaBau of Arlington. "The new spac-

es are more generous than the old, and they're just more conducive to the way the family lives."

The increased size meant Boston designer Gerald Pomeroy had to pay particular attention to proportion. The family wanted a warm retreat that felt intimate and remained true to the spirit of the house, so scale was a great concern. And, says Pomeroy, "I wanted very strong designs for the furniture, with dark stains and gravity." To anchor the dining room, he used a custom walnut refectory table that can seat 12. Around it, Parsons chairs, selected for

their comfort and clean lines, are upholstered in two fabrics for contrast.

The family has a fondness for the sea, so Pomeroy brought the shore to them in subtle green, blue, and sand tones to create a sensual space that hints at Martha's Vineyard. A large impressionist beachscape on a wall beside the dining table picks up on the tranquil mood and counterbalances the heavy furnishings, creating a softer focal point. In the kitchen, granite countertops in sea-foam green suggest the ocean, and light oak flooring, warmed with radiant heat, insinuates the sand underfoot. No matter that the family is not at the beach, Pomeroy's handiwork has them in a salty state of mind. "The space is now so visually relaxing," says the family matriarch. "It's a peaceful atmosphere."

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The tinted area is being renovated.

- 1 FAMILY ROOM
- 2 LIVING ROOM
- 3 DINING ROOM
- 4 KITCHEN
- 5 MUDROOM
- 6 GARAGE



PROPORTION CONTROL Clockwise from above: The custom walnut table in the dining room can seat up to 12; the kitchen island features a prep sink and maple counter; a flat-screen TV mounted on a swivel base can be viewed from many angles; the generous kitchen has custom cabinetry by Boston Kitchen Distributors. Facing page: Graced with a hand-forged wrought-iron chandelier by DessinFournir, the dining room flows seamlessly into the kitchen.

