not so big remodeling
Tailoring Your Home for the Way You Really Live
If you're concerned about having more formal dinners take place directly adjacent to the kitchen, there are several ways to limit the view between the two, such as with a raised countertop or with sliding partitions that separate kitchen from dining area.

The informal dining area, if designed properly, can serve both formal and informal functions, and since the formal dining room is typically located adjacent to the kitchen, in many cases this room provides all the additional space that's needed. So unless you take particular pleasure in throwing formal dinner parties that require a separate room, consider eliminating the dining room and dedicating the relinquished space to the kitchen.

**Framed Openings**

When we think about borrowing space to make a room bigger, we usually assume we are talking about adding square footage. But there's another way that you can borrow space without actually adding to the size. When a room is linked to another visually, so that you can see a substantial or focal part of one room from the other, you'll find that both rooms end up feeling bigger. This can be done by adding framed openings between rooms.

A framed opening is essentially a doorway without its door. This type of opening is most effective when it provides a wide connection between spaces while still differentiating room from room. If you remove all trace of the wall between two rooms, the result is essentially one room instead of two. Paradoxically this feels smaller than when there's still some small visual cue to tell you that the two rooms are separate. The role of the framed opening is to identify room from room, and when used effectively it can make the spaces concerned feel spacious instead of cramped with only the most minor of remodelings.

**Creative Storage**

Often when an area of the home is dedicated for storage it ends up being poorly used—especially if that storage is too deep to easily reach to the back of—so it's not unusual to find yourself wanting to repurpose some of this underutilized storage space for kitchen floor space. Creative stor-
No room in the house has as much impact per square foot as a powder room. It may be small, but it is certainly not unimportant. If you allow yourself to treat a powder room as an opportunity to express some personality, it can become a real jewel—a place that household members can enjoy every day, as well as a spot for guests to feel well taken care of.

In the case studies that follow, you'll see three powder rooms of the jewel-like variety, but here I want to focus on some of the more practical concerns that often get overlooked but are at least as important as the character of the space.