



Andy and Hester McCarthy with family



“We loved our Tudor house—but wanted a room with more guts!”

Winning the Demolition Derby

BRONXVILLE, NEW YORK

HESTER AND ANDY MCCARTHY are the winners of our own demolition derby: Their dramatic light-filled family room is proof perfect that an addition can preserve the original character of a house without hemming its slave. “We enjoy our town’s Tudor-style homes,” they wrote us. “The 1923 house we bought, with its beamed ceilings, stucco and brick archways, had an English country appearance until—EGAD!—we saw the 1963 louver-windowed, corrugated-fiberglass-roofed Florida room pasted on the back. Demolition was our only answer.” In Dan Dickenson, they found a forward-thinking architect who agreed with their enlightened view that “our addition should speak of the Eighties and not be a pretender to the birthright of the house.” The new room, at first glance, seems like it’s always been there. Existing themes—gabled roofline, multipaned windows, ceiling beams—are echoed throughout. Double-height ceiling, mahogany bookshelves that climb the walls like ivy (above), and 41 windows put the McCartlys’ artful stamp on their home. “This is truly a special room,” they sum up. “It’s inviting, cheerful—and it’s us!”

Written by Wendy S. Israel; Photographs by Mick Hulse



AT THE REAR OF THE McCartlys' 1923 Tudor home was a “horrible 1960s Florida room” (below). In its place now (above) is a family room with a touch of the old (in the exposed stone and timbers) and the new crispness of 41 windows. See Resources

