



bilevel reborn

BEFORE

Built from one of four stock house plans in a Boulder subdivision, this bilevel illustrated common problems associated with the style. The front door was recessed in a dark, low entry—and visitors occasionally bumped into the cantilevered upper level. Bilevel houses are often a mix of materials, in this case a jarring contrast of red brick and blue siding. And like many houses of its era, this one had aluminum-frame windows and minimal insulation. Architect Phil Lawrence wanted to give the facade character and address energy concerns.

AFTER

Turning to older neighborhoods for inspiration, Lawrence replaced 10-inch cedar siding with a stucco-over-mesh cladding, accented with slate tile. The original red brick was painted to match. New windows are energy-efficient.

The entry gained prominence by moving out a few feet. “Our design for the house projects the entry forward,” Lawrence says. “It centers a gable above the front door. The bilevel’s emphasis



on horizontal lines is interrupted by the new vertical element of the entry.” Gable detailing and a transom window over the new paneled front door create a distinct entry point. To emulate the welcome expressed by older homes, Lawrence added a colored concrete walkway to the front door. Punctuated by a pair of planters on pedestals, the tall, detailed entry relegates the driveway and garage to secondary status.

Photographs: Emily Minton-Redfield Field editor: Mindy Pantiel

top: A new gabled roofline and transom windows define the home’s entry, which formerly seemed hidden and unwelcoming. Slate tile gives the earth-tone facade an extra layer of detailing.

resources

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WELCOMING HOMES

Before & After[™]

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