

WRITER: LIZ SMUTKO
PHOTOGRAPHER: MARISA PELLEGRINI
DESIGNER: DIANE BOYER, ASID

don't go, grow

Rather than move, one family expands
and reclaims their home

The sprawling sofa in the family room provides a cozy area for parents, kids, and their dog to hang out and relax. A pass-through (not pictured) opens the space to the breakfast area and kitchen so the family can be close even when they are in different rooms.



AFTER MORE THAN A DECADE IN THEIR four-bedroom, three-and-a-half bath house, one Essex County family of five needed more living space and a layout with better flow than found in their 1970s home. Oh, and the husband and wife really wanted a first-floor master bedroom suite. "We needed an updated house, one that would be 'ours,'" the wife says.

They searched for a new house that would suit their needs, but everything came up short in one way or another. "We had a good-sized flat lot, just under an acre, with usable space," the wife says. "We came to the conclusion it didn't make sense to move and that we'd make the house we had 'ours.'"

The homeowners contacted Diane Boyer, a member of the American Society of Interior Designers and owner of Diane Boyer Interiors LLC in Verona. Boyer and the homeowners created a

A nook in the family room provides a secluded spot for the kids to challenge each other to a game of chess.