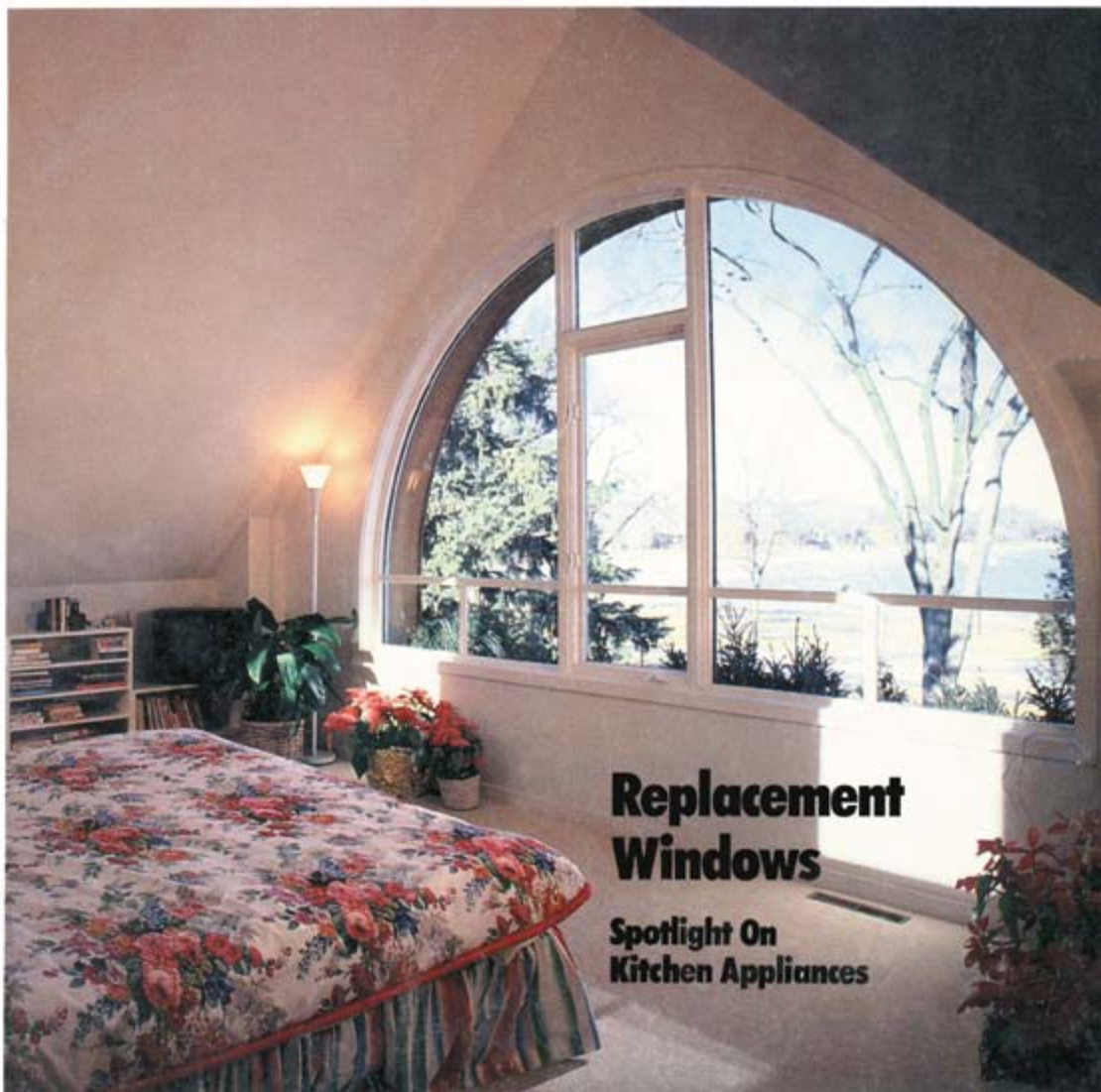


# Qualified Remodeler

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December 1991



**Replacement  
Windows**

**Spotlight On  
Kitchen Appliances**



## The Great Wall Of Glass

*Unique window installations bring a Chicago home out from the dark*

Converting an 80-year-old two flat into a modern, four-level, single-family home would seem, by itself, a difficult task for any remodeler and architect. Chris Donatelli, president of Donatelli Remodelers & Builders Inc. in Park Ridge, Ill., and Chris George, president of Chris George Architects in Chicago, however, were challenged by much more.

Their new design was confined by the home's narrow lot size (25 feet wide) and, typical of many Chicago lots, the neighboring homes that stood just a few feet away, leaving the home's interior in dire need of some natural light. Also, Donatelli, who bought the home for future sale, wanted to create a contemporary interior while keeping the exterior in tune with the traditional appearance of the neighborhood.

After gutting the interior, lengthening the building by 15 feet, and excavating the basement, Donatelli and George addressed the main objective of the new design—bringing a lot of light into the center of the building. Installing a 30-foot high glass block wall on the west side of the home greatly contributed to their goal. "Now, the home gets a lot of light, but you don't have people looking in, and you don't have to look out and see the neighbor's brick wall," Donatelli said.

At the back of the house, 37 windows, including casements, transoms, and a triple French door, pour even more sunlight into the center of the building. "We used standard windows to create a custom look," George said.





Confined by a narrow lot and neighboring homes that stood just a few feet away, the main objective of the new design was to bring a lot of light into the center of the building. The design team accomplished this by installing a 30-foot high glass block wall (opposite page, top) on the west side of the building, which offers daylight and privacy. The existing home (opposite page, bottom) did not allow enough sunlight into the home's interior. Besides adding more windows, the new design also called for extending the back of the structure by 15 feet. The front of the home (left) also features plenty of windows to brighten the home's interior. In keeping with the neighborhood's traditional look, the front of the house features double-hung windows in bay-shaped configurations, as well as cedar clapboard siding.

## W I N D O W S



*Installing 37 windows, including casements, transoms, and a triple French door, on the back of the dark 80-year-old two flat helped transform the structure into a modern, sun-filled, four-level, single-family home.*

The front of the house features several double-hung windows, as well as more transoms and casements. Even a 4' x 4' skylight was installed on the roof to brighten the interior.

In order to have room for the furnishings and reduce the view of some of the unflattering surroundings, the windows were placed up high on the walls, Donatelli said. "You still get a lot of light, but you don't have a straight view out," he added.

The next challenge was how to get all this sunlight to complement an open, flowing floorplan within an existing limited space. The design team accomplished this by utilizing the entire width of the building for the rooms, thus staying away from solid walls and corridors. Despite the open, sleek, contemporary interior, the design team made sure that the home did not stand out in the neighborhood. "We wanted it to be in character with homes of that era," George said. "The outside had to be aesthetically correct."

They achieved this by using cedar clapboard siding on the front of the house, along with traditional bay-shaped window configurations. In order to keep costs down, the rear and sides of the house feature matching vinyl siding. **QR**

### Project Highlights

#### Remodeler/designer

Chris Donatelli  
Donatelli Remodelers & Builders Inc.  
Park Ridge, Ill.

#### Architect/designer

Chris George  
Chris George Architects  
Chicago, Ill.

#### Photographer

Chris Cassidy Photography  
Chicago, Ill.

#### Major products

Semco windows, door  
Pittsburgh Corning glass block  
Velux skylight  
Wolverine Technologies vinyl siding  
KraftMaid cabinetry  
Grohe faucets  
Kohler toilets  
American Standard faucets, whirlpool tub  
Hanza America faucets  
Amana refrigerator, oven  
KitchenAid dishwasher  
York furnaces, air conditioners