

I was 37 years old then and game to undertake a renovation. But it would be three years before we were ready to bring our old Newton house into the 20th century. In 1995, after six months and \$131,000, we had a new kitchen and central air conditioning. No more debating whether I should carry the food processor from the pantry to the kitchen, or carry the food from the fridge to the pantry to use the food processor. I learned never to take kitchen counters for granted.

Over the course of 19 years, we tore up the asphalt patio and replaced it with bluestone, azaleas, rhododendrons, and lilacs. We moved the boys up to the third floor, where we had discovered a hidden room, and created a wonderful suite for them with secret passageways, bright colors, and a laundry chute (our cat would sit at the bottom of it, howling until one of the boys stuck his head in the opening at the top and said hi to him).

In succession came elementary school, middle school, high school. For my husband: junior partner, senior partner, independent consultant. For me: volunteer fund-raising, freelance advertising work, and my furniture-design business. I liked challenging myself to create new things, learn new skills, adapt to new technology. I was able to reinvent myself by recognizing change as opportunity, and I welcomed change. I was productive: consulting to magazines to boost their ad sales, raising funds to buy a marimba for the middle school jazz band, creating a furniture business with worldwide reach on the Internet.

## Lorem ipsum dolor

With college, our boys moved to the next phase of their lives, and my husband and I reached a crossroads. Should we stay put in our careers, our lifestyle, our town, our house? After 19 years, the house needed attention to maintain its charm. Sooner than I had expected, my husband

## 5 things that make the biggest difference

1. Good lighting
2. A lively color scheme
3. Painted vanities and cabinetry
4. A really comfortable sofa
5. New appliances

