



Milwaukee's
Lifestyle Magazine



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Role Reversal

When Kevin and Kate Moss' Wauwatosa home was built in the 1930s, the front door faced Menomonee River Parkway. Though they imagine guests in the 1930s might have entered the home that way, the street-side door is more convenient than walking all the way around the house for both the homeowners and their guests.

So when Richard Scherer of Deep River Partners architects suggested swapping the kitchen and the foyer in a prospective remodel, the homeowners were thrilled. "That was a completely new idea," Kate Moss says. "That was the thing that made all the difference in the world."

"The kitchen becomes the heart of the home, the central point from where the other spaces radiate," Scherer says.

Now, when visitors enter from the street side, there is a new foyer and home office where the kitchen was; the new kitchen overlooks the parkway and the yard, and a new rear entry and mudroom are much more functional for family living.

"It is much more fun to have people over," Moss says, "Even just day to day the family can gather easily." **M**

The new kitchen is conducive for cooking as everything is within reach, and also for entertaining with the large island and adjoining table. The window overlooks the backyard and expands the room visually. "A skylight ceiling emulates natural daylight and brings a brightness and freshness to the room," says architect Richard Scherer. The white and off-white tones enlarge the space and give it a feeling of openness, he says.