



ENCLOSING PART OF A NEW
MULTILEVEL DECK CREATED A SUNNY
SPOT FOR YEAR-ROUND RELAXING.

Up and Away



Above right: A multilevel addition provides many gathering areas for a family of seven. Crowning the structure, a sunroom offers indoor space for quiet relaxing.

Below: Meredith (foreground) and Samantha Bakken enjoy the deck just outside the sunroom.

Opposite: Homeowner Patty Bakken filled the sunroom with comfortable, low-maintenance furnishings, but banned the TV.



The inspiration for a new sparkling sunroom came from an unlikely source: a single magazine photo of some pretty windows. Homeowner Patty Bakken saw the photo and decided right then to enclose the upper level of the three-tier rear deck she and her husband were adding to their 1950s ranch house.

The Bakkens and their architect, Marc Therrien, conceived the idea for the deck as a solution for a troublesome, steeply sloping site. The house sits flush with a hill on 4 acres that includes a stream and towering trees. When the Bakkens purchased it, the home offered no level space for gathering outdoors or even cooking hot dogs on the grill. The Bakkens wanted to create a space where they could enjoy the beautiful setting with their five school-age children.

The multilevel addition hugs the slope of the hill and includes a deck and a screen porch on the lowest level, an outdoor sitting and grilling area on the next level, and on the top level a deck and the sunroom, which was originally intended to be a screen porch.

Now the 15x19-foot space perches atop the addition and nestles among the leaves of surrounding trees. Because the house already included plenty of gathering room for the family, the sunroom evolved into a quiet space, which is exactly the type of room a mother of five needs most.

Resources on page 108

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design strategy

★ Solution for a Sloped Lot

The Bakkens' sloped lot defied conventional approaches to building an addition: any structure they built risked appearing like a room on stilts. Taking a cue from the vertical orientation of the steep hillside, architect Marc Therrien decided to stack multiple spaces to give the family the outdoor living space it wanted. The effect is one of solidity, plus the multiple decks provide organic connections to the sloping site.