

There's no question that, if it's approached with an open heart and an open mind, downsizing can actually bring your life into order.

MICHAEL FARLEY



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installed. On the second level, Kathy and Michael had a chimney removed to raise the ceiling, added a walk-in closet off the master bedroom, and skylights, a linen closet, and vanity in the bath.

Before moving in to their new home, Kathy and Michael gave large items with sentimental value to their children and kept special treasures: a heart-shaped basket that Kathy's mother wove by hand, a collection of china passed down through generations. "We didn't want to look like we stuffed things in or moved things that wouldn't feel right," Michael says.

Kathy admits that shedding some of their belongings was an emotional experience. "The hardest thing was leaving our family home," she says. "Otherwise, everything that was important to me I brought with me."

"We edited everything," Michael says. "More is not always more." ❧

Vaulting the ceiling and installing skylights converted a tight enclosed space into a spacious master bedroom and bath (above and above left). "The bedroom is the lightest room in the house," Michael says. The second-floor landing (left) expands living space with comfortable seating—an ideal place for Michael to play guitar and Kathy to knit.



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