

This Old House

Kitchen & bath special

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From disjointed to delightful

A 1960s house gains much-needed polish and more pleasing proportions

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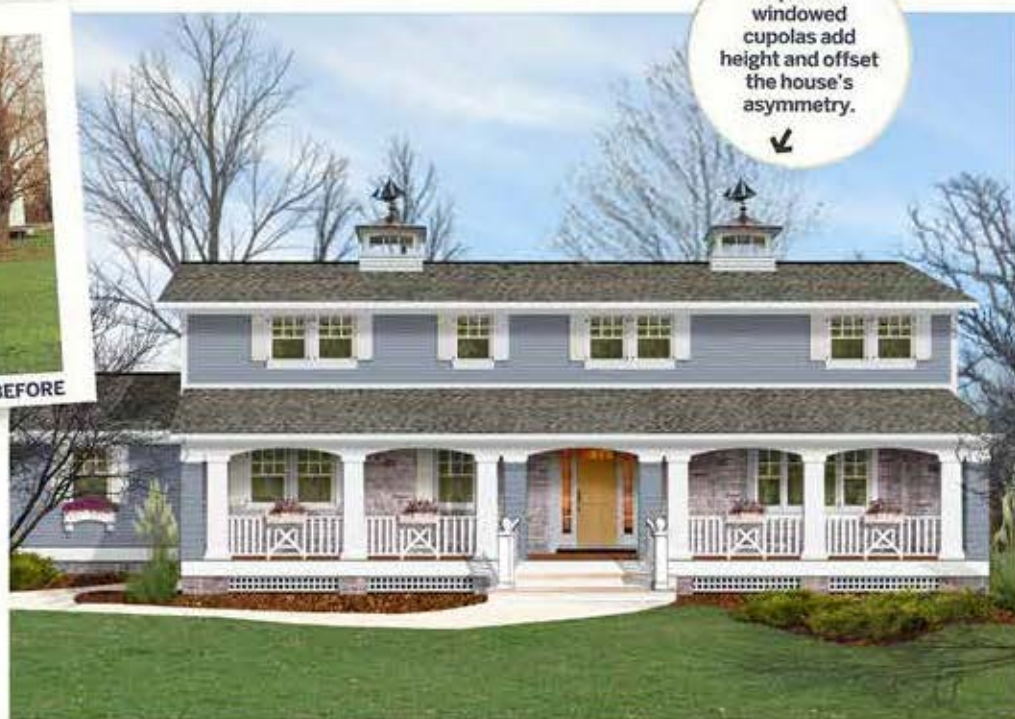
BEFORE

“IT NEEDS SO MUCH,” Robin Mart says of the Fort Wayne, IN, home she shares with her husband, Brian, and their five children. Built in 1966 by the original owners in their spare time, it’s an awkward mix of materials and proportions. We asked local designer Mark Wyatt for ideas to give it some charm.

To add depth and offset oddly spaced elements, Wyatt’s first move would be to put on a detailed front porch spanning the first story of the house, which gets handsome stone veneer. This helps the new front door appear more centered and the attached garage recede visually. Shutters, window boxes, and grilles fill out the small windows and make them feel more in scale without altering sizes. Gray-blue clapboards unify the rest of the house, while white trim looks clean and crisp. “The changes feel achievable,” Robin says, “and it is a jaw-dropping transformation!”

WANT TO SEE YOUR HOME HERE?

To be considered, send photos to redo@thisoldhouse.com



A pair of windowed cupolas add height and offset the house’s asymmetry.



finishing touches

Thoughtfully selected details disguise the home’s shortcomings and score style points



window boxes

Composite boxes filled with flowers appear to lengthen the squat windows, especially upstairs. 24" Laguna Flower Box, \$110; hooksandlattice.com



entry set

A polished-brass handleset is a classic accent. Large door handle with thumb piece (lock not included), \$127; houseofantiquehardware.com



stone veneer

Panels of lightweight faux stone go up easily to unify the siding behind the showpiece porch. Austin Stone Gainsboro Flats, \$95 for 10 sq. ft.; homedepot.com



cupola

Copper-topped cupolas enhance the existing low-pitched roofline and cost less than adding dormers. Good Directions Guilford Vinyl Cupola, from \$720; wayfair.com