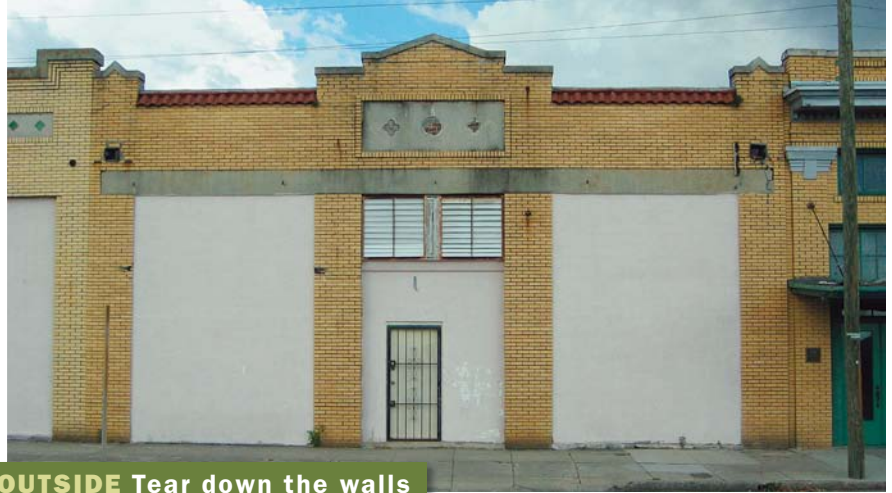


how they did it

Planning the perfect shop

BY JONATHAN BINZEN



OUTSIDE Tear down the walls

Light and visibility were pivotal in the renovation of Carl Johnson and Kate Swann's shop in Tampa (see the back cover). They wanted natural light to be plentiful and they wanted the workings of the shop to be visible from the sidewalk. When they knocked out the concrete block filling the façade and replaced it with large-pane custom windows, daylight flooded in. They augmented that by uncovering the four original pyramidal skylights and having replacements made. And they supplement daylight with a combination of ceiling-mounted fluorescent lights and halogen bulbs in pendant fixtures.

Before they began the renovation, Johnson and Swann spent many hours mapping out the workflow and optimum machine placement for their new shop. To represent potential layouts of tools, benches, materials, and machinery, they used chalk on the concrete slab and cardboard cutouts of the major machines, then play-acted their way through various woodworking processes to test the arrangement.



Removing the concrete-block infill and replacing it with glass transformed the space. Once the glass was in, Johnson and Swann installed solar shades made with a mesh fabric that reduces heat gain without blocking the view.



1

INSIDE Open up the space



2



3



A load-bearing wall in the middle of the space (1) was replaced with 8x8 pine columns topped with a Parallam beam (2). Johnson and Swann encased the beam in heart pine, mitering the corners so it appears solid. Wanting to run dust-collection ductwork and electrical wiring under the floor, they installed a flooring system of 2x6s on edge on top of the concrete slab (3). Then they screwed down two layers of 3/4-in. plywood.

