



my home for about a third of the cost of more elaborate homes in my area. Here are my thoughts on building an affordable house with architectural integrity and how they translated into the house I love and live in today.

Keep the box plain and simple I chose a flat lot because sloping properties can add to the site work and require a more complex foundation. I didn't agonize over the style of the house because there was only one choice, given my budget: a Cape Cod. This house is a rectangle, allowing for a relatively inexpensive foundation pour and a second floor situated within the roof structure. Headroom can be an issue in capes, so I added a shed-style dormer, which was economical to build.

The exterior of the house is straightforward and symmetrical. Wood rather than vinyl or aluminum-clad windows were used to lower costs and allow me to change the color eventually. I ordered them primed, then painted them green before they were installed.

Think curb appeal I knew it made sense to spend money on the side of the house that peo-



A WARM, ENVELOPING KITCHEN The short cherry cabinets over the windows add storage space without sacrificing the view, but they also lend a sense of shelter to the space. The hardworking island on wheels has a sturdy stainless-steel top and lots of storage underneath. Erica found it in a thrift store and restored it with a little elbow grease.

