



A Photograph Worth Framing?

I hadn't thought about it. The oversized photo — exposed, unprotected — has been pinned to a workshop wall for years. It was taken about three decades ago by old friend Steve Emmons, who perhaps was at my home in connection with a woodworking project that he often starts and sometimes finishes. It shows my workshop when it was in the garage, years before I built my current 500-square-foot, above-the-garage workshop and moved my equipment up to it. I liked Steve's photograph mostly because I liked the way I looked. Inspired by another old friend, Alan Dirkin, I had taken up jogging, and there I was, a youngish 40-something and slim-waisted. But Yoshi, recently, saw something else when she made a rare visit to my upstairs workshop. The photo could sort of symbolize

our huge efforts to turn a drab home into a quite nice one, inside and out. The next page shows before-and-after images of our home. I insisted that the workbench in the garage, with its shelves and cabinets and drawers, had to be built first, before tackling anything else. Today the garage workbench is still there, except that a refrigerator has replaced the radial-arm saw. Anyway, Yoshi said the photo should be framed. So I took it to Joe the Framer, whose shop is less than a mile from my house. Knowing my home, Joe answered my doubts with a quick "Yoshi's right," and that was that. The large photo will hang where it has always hung, but under non-glare glass and encased in a hardwood frame.

Jackson Sellers, Lake Forest, December 2005



Before and After — Above, our home in 1970. That's Yoshi with our daughter Keiko and dog Pochi in the front yard. I still drove a Buick Riviera then. When the Riviera died, I bought a 1972 Datsun 510 stationwagon that now sits in the garage with its 347,000-mile odometer reading. The olive tree is the only thing that survives in the 2005 landscaping below. It and other trees hide the main house. The brick wall that creates a private front courtyard took me six months to build. I don't know how much the house is worth now, but it's more than the \$31,500 I paid for it.

