

house beautiful

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saving grace

WHEN THE ORREN PICKELL REMODELING GROUP, BASED IN Bannockburn, Illinois, took on this 1920 house, it looked like a tear-down. Years of neglect had transformed the once-handsome brick residence set on Chicago's North Shore into a neighborhood eyesore. In order to rescue the forlorn structure and to render it livable for a prospective buyer, the company needed to renovate it from top to bottom. "It was a fantastic house in a great location that called out for saving," explains Tony Perry, the project architect.

To achieve a grand master suite that would measure up to today's standards, it soon became apparent that an addition would have to be built onto the rear of the home. Still, so meticulously carried out was the new construction, it's not possible to detect on the exterior where the original building now merges with the new. And inside, nothing appears too recent or out of character. Interior designer Thomas Girot

Above: Mission-style furnishings suit the home's era. Awarding the bed its own alcove is a way of rendering the sleeping area in a large room more intimate.

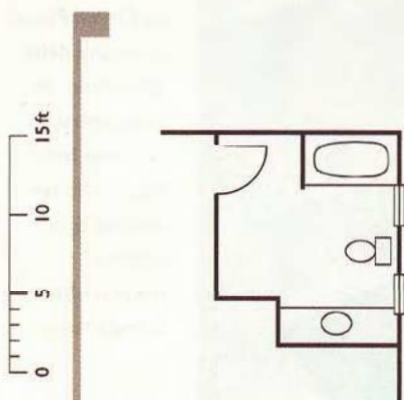
PHOTOGRAPHS BY LINDA OYAMA BRYAN

CABINETS BY WOOD-MODE

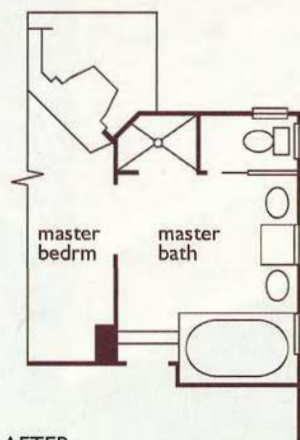
A gorgeous old home
benefits from an addition that
adheres to very classic standards

comfortzones

Left: Jan Shinske, senior designer at CabinetWorks, an Orren Pickell company, deftly integrated the oval mirrors with the bead-board. Vintage-looking light fixtures maintain the old home's flavor.



BEFORE



AFTER

Above: A kirckstone (natural stone similar to slate) counter unites the sinks and serves as window ledge. The original house contained about 4,000 square feet; the addition provides space for a family room and the new master suite, which measures about 900 square feet (see plans).

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Old or not?
A host of well-planned period
details cleverly reinvents
the spirit of the past

WHAT THEY LOVE:

Privacy is at the top of the "why we are content" list. A small entry foyer separates the newly-added master suite from the hall and the other sleeping quarters. The windows in the master suite overlook the lush, landscaped yard and the pool, enhancing the sense of being removed from the fray. For added luxury, opposite the bed, there's a fireplace and a paneled wall that makes room for the television. And no need to undertake a late-night run to the kitchen—tucked unobtrusively into this same wall, there's a convenient built-in refrigerator the owners stock with wine and soft drinks. But even more valued by today's occupants are the outstanding architectural details that marry this new part of the house with the old. Pocket doors, for example, neatly divide the bed and the bath. Such space-saving doors are found throughout the home, as is the beadboard which the remodelers installed in the bath. The beadboard conjures a perfectly fitting persona for the new room, making it look like it's been there as long as the house itself.



comfort zones

of Thomas Sarti Girot Interiors Ltd. in Parkridge, Ill., planned classic rooms that could be easily altered with color and accessories. "A neutral palette," Girot says, "has universal appeal and over time can be adapted in scores of different ways."

In keeping with the home's style, honey-colored wood floors unite the sleeping and bathing areas. The bed is awarded its own cozy cove with recessed lighting, and there's a fireplace to chase away winter chills. "So totally private are these rooms," says Girot, "the owners can close the doors and really feel like they are miles away."

Nevertheless, on those mornings when busy schedules dictate practicality, dual his and her pedestal sinks are there to help. The bath is distinguished with beadboard—that mimics the old beadboard found in other rooms—and twin oval mirrors that enhance the room's openness. A large skylight installed in the middle of the ceiling floods the washing and bathing area with welcome light. And a four-drawer unit affords convenient storage for those toiletries that are called upon every day.

Put together with the same studied simplicity as that of the bedroom, the bath can be easily transfigured to fit the owner's whims with brightly-colored towels or a single bunch of fresh flowers. White fixtures will never appear dated or out-of-sync with the architecture, which means years down the road, this bath—like the bedroom—will look as appealing as it does today. ■