

Lake of the Isles Revival

Built in 1905, this house has undergone many renovations and additions over the last 100 years. Inspired by a historic photo of the house, the owners wanted to bring the structure back to its original shingle style charm. They sought to engage the neighborhood, one lined with open porches and historically rich architecture.

The goal of this exterior renovation was to not only restore and strengthen its architectural character, but also repair the damage left by years of poorly executed renovations. Several layers of improperly installed siding, and metal wrapped windows and roof trim had allowed the windows and walls to suffer decay. The outer layers were peeled away and the walls were properly covered with a drainage plane and cedar shingles. The windows were re-flashed and re-trimmed with period appropriate painted wood casing. The pre-weathered gray cedar shingles and the restrained painted wood trim were all used to stay true to the shingle style architecture of the original home.

The front porch had been closed in with exterior siding which concealed much of the original architectural character of the porch detailing. Opening the porch again as it once was restores the connection between the home and neighborhood street life. The porch is once again a place to spend warm summer nights relaxing and catching up with neighbors.

The structural framework of the porch was completely deteriorated. Inspired by the historic photo, the new structural system is concealed in modestly detailed square double columns. The columns both physically and aesthetically support the grand sweeping roof over the open front porch, creating a graceful transition from the large roof plane down to the scale of a pedestrian. New detailed painted wood roof trim, eave boards and a rebuilt upper balcony add further architectural character and charm to the front of the home, creating a sense of welcoming to the passer by.