

Mediterranean Revival

The program of this project was to redesign the front façade of the house and devise ways to utilize the front yard as a living space while opening up the house to beautiful views of Lake of the Isles Channel. Inspired by an image of the original house from 1905, the client wanted to bring the house back to its Mediterranean style origins. The plan was to remodel the main living room and study to allow integration with a new façade and front yard, as well as demolish an existing solarium that was architecturally foreign and often too hot or too cold. The challenge would be to create a more usable sunroom that fit seamlessly with the rest of the house.

The front façade has been reshaped and re-detailed to more directly express and reinforce the Mediterranean Revival origins of the house. A new sunroom was added to capture light and views of Lake of the Isles Channel. It leads the user out to the charming streetscape, while also enriching the architecture of the house. A new front door, new front terrace, new tile roof canopy over a new balconette, along with a new chimney top were the main changes to the façade. Additional detailing and a new color scheme all work to integrate a richer, more three-dimensional whole.

A large arched opening and new French doors connect the living room to the Sunroom and to the new front terrace. The connection to front lawns with walkways, French doors, and terraces are common along broad boulevards and parkways such as this. The elevated front yard terrace with masonry wall is very much keeping with its neighbors, while simultaneously giving the owners a sense of space and pleasing separation from the street. Extensive vegetation makes the large space more dynamic and interesting. This exterior area is now used as a hangout space for the owners and their neighbors. The overall result of this renovation is a house that has a much friendlier and a more positive street-side expression.