

Garage in Tandem

The Challenge

- Protect the mature backyard trees which provide a shade canopy for the house and yard.
- Preserve the large back and side yards.
- Integrate the 30 inch height drop between yard and alley.
- Gain a garage with storage for 2 cars, bikes, lawnmower, canoe, trash and recycling, snowblower, gardening equipment, sporting goods, etc.
- Add a large garage without overwhelming the site and adjacent properties.

The Solution

- The one stall wide garage is tucked close to the alley maximizing back yard space and distance to the trees.
- The tandem design stacks one car behind the other but the two opposing doors allow for separate access or drive through.
- Careful calculations of turning dimensions and storage needs results in a smaller garage with just enough space for each season's equipment. Out of season gear storage swaps from garage to attic above via a dumbwaiter and pull-down stair.
- The garage to yard height is easily navigated with stairs inside the garage, shovel free in the winter.
- The mass of the garage is understated with regard to neighborhood houses.
- A small side bumpout with shed roof, similar to the house dormers, gives a covered entry to the garage.
- The compact driveway curve on the north end of the garage leaves more yard space to protect tree roots and a wider overhead door helps the car turn in/out of the garage.
- Roof water is directed to planting beds.
- Shingle siding and trim details on the house repeat on the garage. Careful placement of windows let in light where needed and add visual interest to the exterior.