

## A GROWN-UP HOUSE

Amy had lived in her story-and-a-half bungalow in for 12 years. It was small, but it was packed with enough original 1930's charm to make up for the tiny kitchen and small warren of upstairs rooms. When houses around her neighborhood started expanding, though, she was usually disappointed in what "more room" looked like. If she was going to have more room, it was not going to look, in her words, "like there was a double-wide trailer grafted on".

Her goals were to expand the tiny kitchen to the point of being able to entertain – to acknowledge and celebrate that no matter how nice the rest of the house, people gather in the kitchen. She also needed a mudroom and storage at the back door, functions that were currently being held in a small, uninsulated back porch. Finally, she needed an adult-sized master suite to replace the 2 small connected bedrooms that functioned as storage and dressing. All of this was to be done while keeping the interior and exterior character of the house intact.

The main level would not support another bedroom without consuming the yard. Pushing the kitchen back into the yard, however, allowed the nicely-sized existing dining room and recently-remodeled bath to remain intact. The space above the kitchen expansion worked nicely as a master bedroom, with the existing spaces serving as a guest bedroom and jack-and-jill master bath. The second-story spaces were carefully tucked under new roof forms to prevent the house from growing top-heavy and looming over the neighbors to the south. In the end, the ridge height of the house grew less than 3 feet while providing 255 square feet of new upstairs floor area. Other than a fresh exterior finish, the final view of the house of the house from the street is nearly indiscernible from the existing house and the original houses on the block.

The exterior was carefully considered to maintain as much of the neighborhood character as possible, introducing new shingle siding on the upper level to break up the massing. Exterior window and roof trim, roof pitch, brackets, and overhangs were all selected with an eye toward the original house, and what was still original to the house and the neighborhood.

The new garage, coupled with tall fences on either side of the back yard, make the back yard into a small but neatly-defined space. The design takes advantage of this definition by making an outdoor room that takes on entertainment use when the seasons allow, and further allows the house to *use* space without *building* space.

At the end of construction, Amy threw a party for her friends and everyone involved in the construction process. With 15 people in her kitchen and 30 others milling about the new spaces, inside and out, she smiled, knowing that her little house had - finally – grown up.