

A porch for all seasons

This is a story about the love for, and stewardship of, an unassuming 1916 Minneapolis bungalow. The homeowners have spent 22 years bringing back this home's heritage and have touched nearly every surface in the process. They called upon us to help with their last, and most transformative, project—the renovation of the front porch.

The light-filled space of the original open porch had been enclosed with ill-fitting storm windows, and furniture placement was difficult due to the badly sloping floor. The porch felt 'dismal' and they wanted a better designation of entry to the house, a warm year-round transition space between indoors and out, and a place to enjoy their morning coffee. They wanted the porch to resemble the original porch as much as possible, be more integrated with the house, and have larger, more welcoming stairs.

The porch's roof and exterior walls were retained but the remainder was completely renovated. New windows were installed, matching the head height of other windows on the house. Custom windows and doors were designed to replicate the design of the house's original casement windows. The slate mosaic floor is heated, making for toasty winter-time toes.

The homeowners consider themselves “the stewards—as well as the owners—of this house, and it feels good to renew it for the next 100 years. We love this place and care about it deeply.”