

## AND BABY MAKES FOUR...

The story-and-a-half bungalow had served its small Fulton family well for 14 years. It wasn't huge, but it was packed with original 1920's charm and had undergone a careful kitchen remodeling and basement recreation room remodeling to better fit 21<sup>st</sup> century living. Some day, the family thought, they might expand, but they weren't in a rush.

Their schedule changed when mom became pregnant with their second child. Another baby was coming, and it wasn't going to wait. This 2-bedroom house needed to become a 3-plus-bedroom house in fairly short order. A master suite and 2 additional bedrooms on the same floor would bring the house up to current living styles, but the family wanted, above all, to not look like "the house with the addition". Design priority was given to making it look like it had simply always been there.

The main level, even with an addition, would not support another bedroom without consuming the yard. A survey of the surrounding houses and neighborhood showed that a 2-story scheme would fit their block and their site well. The square footage gained by essentially doubling the floor area of the house would fit the program beautifully and take full advantage of the existing structure and foundation, reducing construction cost and shortening schedule. The final form of the house, after some pushing and pulling, is indiscernible from nearby 1920's 2-story homes.

The challenge came in the form of the existing attic stairs, an impossibly steep ship's ladder that threatened to eat up the pristine central dining room on the main floor if it were modified. A new central stair with detailing to match the existing house was added, changing a now-expendable main floor bedroom into a study. The existing stair was abandoned in place behind its door, where it awaits conversion to a closet.

The exterior was carefully considered to salvage as much of the existing original stucco as possible, while introducing appropriate new lap siding on the upper level to break up the massing (as well as avoiding the expense of the nearly-lost art of stucco texture matching). The proportions of these 2 materials, as well as the color and texture of the lap siding, were very carefully considered in terms of what would look most "original". Final color selection was changing up to the last day before painting. Exterior window and roof trim, roof pitch, and overhangs were all selected with an eye toward the original house.

The house sits behind an irreplaceable 36" maple tree in the front yard. Removing or even trimming this magnificent tree was not an option. The design tucks neatly under the tree's canopy, and the builders did a commendable job of keeping not only the tree, but also the entire site, from undue disruption, maintaining friendly relations between neighbors.

The contractor worked extraordinarily quickly without compromising quality, aided by time-conscious decision-making by the homeowners. Near the end of the project, when the interior paint was just barely dry and the wood floors sealed, mom gave birth to a healthy baby boy.