

Growing Up Green

The existing layout of this simple bungalow proved challenging to its growing family. The home's single bathroom was accessible only through their toddler's bedroom, while the homeowners' room sat at the other end of a narrow kitchen, better suited to circulation than cooking. The family was devoted to life in the Fulton neighborhood, but with a second child on the way, tip-toeing to the bathroom was growing old.

The family needed at least two more bedrooms and one bath, but after additional space and improved function, the homeowners' immediate concerns were neighborhood context and sustainability. To gain the necessary spaces it was clear the design had to go up, but modern construction methods and code requirements can quickly add height. With that reality in mind, the mass of the addition was broken up into a deep, low-sloping bungalow form with a simple shed dormer at the front and a north-south orientation of the ridge to ensure minimal impact on the neighbor's solar exposure. Existing two-story homes on the other three corner lots of the intersection and adjacent neighbor create an appropriate context.

The addition's grey-blue siding is a grounding counterpoint to the original white stucco, and galvanized metal siding over the original dining room bump-out is extruded upwards to visually connect the materials. The paneled siding and trim is a durable, low-maintenance fiber-cement product and the galvanized metal is both heat-reflecting and recyclable, with a life-span far surpassing asphalt shingles. Galvanized sun-shades and brackets provide passive cooling with a playful twist on traditional bungalow detailing. Interior products include natural linoleum, formaldehyde-free particleboard paneling, and water-saving plumbing fixtures.

The family already enjoyed a sunny side yard and patio, but the extension of the second story over the side entry added a shady outdoor porch without disturbing any existing vegetation. The detached garage and retaining wall remain, retaining neighborhood context as well as rainwater runoff.

The family is now enjoying their new addition—both of them, actually—in a home that functions for and inspires inhabitants of all ages.