

# renovation



RICHARD SWANN ARCHITECT

## Elevated Living

**T**his 1902 cottage had undergone many additions and splicing of its floor plan over the years, and its new owners wished to transform it into a town home. When architect Richard Swann came on board, the house had vinyl siding with an asphalt roof and vinyl replacement windows; the interiors had been diced up into many rooms; and the property had a narrow, shared alleyway access in the back. The goal was to retain the eclectic character of the original home while elevating it from its working-class past to match the gentrifying neighborhood. The owners wanted an updated interior with open, airy, sunlit spaces for informal living.

The renovation included a proper eat-in kitchen/gathering room, sixteen-foot-wide gliding French doors that lead to an exterior terrace for outdoor dining and socializing, a proper master suite with ample closet

space, and guest bedrooms for college-age children. A rear car court offers access to a basement-level two-car garage tucked under the wooden terrace, which is screened from adjacent houses by an arbor/trellis above. The clever design creates an outdoor “room” and incorporates a two-car garage into the home that was nearly at the maximum coverage permitted by the town.

The street frontage retains a traditional feel, with its columned porch, wood shingle roof, wooden clapboards, Marvin windows, sheltering roof lines and attic dormers, while the rear adds coveted car space and alfresco dining on the terrace. As a delightful counterpoint, the open interior, accented with the owners’ collection of contemporary art and furniture offset by the black-framed, mullioned replacement windows, is a breath of fresh air from the compartmentalized, outdated original home.



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**opposite:** The newly renovated home features a new wood shingle roof, wooden clapboards and Marvin windows. The inset photo, taken just after the house was purchased, shows the vinyl siding and plastic replacement windows. **above:** The new front room has all new Marvin sashes, and a new cased opening creates an open flow to the living room. **right:** The kitchen/gathering room was placed in a new addition, replacing the original bump-out, with French doors on the right leading to the new terrace. **below:** The "before" inset photo shows an earlier addition with a flat roof at the second floor and an even earlier gable roof addition at the attic level. The "after" photo shows the car court, looking back at the garage doors, with the terrace and arbor/trellis above.

