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"Every house has an order to it: the scale of the windows, the roofline. There's the individual order of the house; then there's the governing style of the particular architecture, such as Queen Anne style."
— David Heide

Photo courtesy of Minnesota Historical Society

Northwest Architectural Archives' drawings by Harry Wild Jones, and historic photos, aided in the home's fine restoration.

Hail to the Queen

A major restoration leads to numerous awards—and a lustrous, livable turn-of-the-century home for a young family.

BY HILLARY BLACK
PHOTOGRAPHY BY SUSAN GILMORE

THERE'S A LOT TO LEARN FROM AN AWARD-WINNING RESTORATION TEAM. While many homeowners deserve awards for their DIY excellence (and many local preservation groups bestow such honors), to understand the scope of a restoration such as the one completed on this Minneapolis, Minnesota, Queen Anne, it's best to hear it straight from the team's leader. "Essentially we touched every

The location of the parlor and dining room were switched. Restoration included the fireplace and millwork; the collonade was reconstructed based on photographs from the Minnesota Historical Society.

room and surface in the house," says David Heide, principal of David Heide Design Studio in Minneapolis. From the kitchen and bathrooms to a dozen new stained-glass windows based on historic photos, complete furnishings and much more, Heide and his team restored and renewed the Harry Wild Jones-designed beauty with respect and honor.

Although a Queen Anne Victorian was a dream home for the Noel family, which includes three young children, their complaints were familiar to Heide, who has won awards for his work on historic structures: small bedrooms, no closets, compromised or poorly located kitchens and no mudroom or transition entry space. Plus, the home had been divided into a rooming house. "It had no kitchen and one bathroom upstairs," Heide says. Not exactly family-friendly, even for a modern clan that appreciates Victorian architecture and craftsmanship.

ALMOST FROM SCRATCH

But the family followed their dream and took on the challenge of what turned out to be a three-year process—not surprising, given that when purchased, the 1892 gem had been gutted of its late-Victorian-era finery. Fortuitously, the home's first owner had been an amateur photographer, so there were numerous construction and interior finished photographs to help determine how to bring back the grand structure.

"We knew a tremendous amount about how this house originally looked," Heide says.

FAMILY FIRST

The process began by pinpointing desires and needs in order to maximize functionality and, ultimately, the family's long-term enjoyment. Heide and the Noels had very open converations to clearly identify how they would live in the home—their expectations, needs and habits—before any design decisions were made. In fact, Heide's willingness to dig deep with clients means few surprises so everyone is happier at the end.

The studio recreated the original designs of the missing stained glass. "For colors, we looked at other homes where the art glass was intact."

"Lighting is the jewelry of the house. We wanted historic lighting; some is antique and some we designed. We decided it would be a collection of appropriate lighting and used the shades to bring a close combatibility," Heide says.

"Throughout the planning process, the kids' experience of living in the house was just as much a focus as the parents' experience," Heide says.

He wanted to create living spaces that honored the original home as much as they would honor and support parenting and family dynamics. To that end, the studio designed details like a secret passageway between two closets so the two youngest girls can visit each other. In the parents' bedroom, a sitting room provides a private retreat. Just off the kitchen there's a large mudroom where the kids can get ready for school and easily remove snow-caked boots," according to the David Heide Design Studio's website.

SEAMLESS, SENSITIVE RESTORATION

A four-story rear addition was added to the Queen Anne to give the family more living space, but it's also a sensitive addition. "We worked to ensure our work was subordinate to the original architecture," Heide explains. It may look seamless, but the team's design clearly respects and doesn't mar the home's historic integrity. For example, the wood-shingled base meets the stone foundation original to the home, visually appealing but clearly separate. Clear glass was used throughout the addition, allowing the new to be subordinate to the richly colored windows in the original home, for instance.

"We want to thoughtfully integrate changes between new and old," Heide says. "But we also don't want to blur history and mislead."

The Noels now feel that their home is a masterpiece where they can grow and experience it together.

A Queen Anne's Crowning Achievements

The historic gem's restoration received numerous honors for David Heide and Associates, including the ASID Minnesota Historic Preservation/Restoration award, the Residential Architect Design award for Renovation and the Minneapolis Heritage Commission award for a New Addition to a Historic Building. Visit dhdstudio.com.

The home's 4-story addition includes a master bedroom suite and dressing room.