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ASPEN

MAGAZINE

SUMMER 2016

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LAKE HOUSE

A melding of architectural styles comes together beautifully in this West End home.

By Linda Hayes

Photography by Robert Millman

Connecting with the past took on a whole new meaning for CCY Architects' Rich Carr and John Schenck as the firm endeavored to rehabilitate a historic Victorian home in Aspen's West End. "A big part of the design was finding appropriate solutions to honor the historic resource and bring it back to its original status while adding a modern addition," says Carr, principal in charge of the project. "It was a dichotomy."

Built in 1890 on Lake Avenue, a singular locale near Triangle Park and just a short walk from town, the home had the added distinction of overlooking peaceful Hallam Lake and the surrounding Nature Preserve. Typical of the period, the quaint 20-foot-wide, 30-foot-deep Victorian structure featured white clapboard siding, simple double-hung windows (some with the original wavy glass), gabled rooflines, scalloped shingle detailing and a sheltered front porch—all set on a stone foundation.

Working closely with their client (the house has since been sold to its current owner), as well as Aspen's Historical Preservation Committee, the architects embarked on a plan that included removing later-year, nonhistoric add-ons from the Victorian home and shifting it slightly forward on the site. "It enabled us to showcase it from the street while preserving its historic walls," Carr says. It also provided room needed for the addition.

To that end, Carr and Schenck, who acted as project architect on the job, designed a contemporary three-level structure that gives a nod to the Victorian without overwhelming it. From the street, the 4,000-square-foot space mimics the scale of the siding on the Victorian home. The remainder is faced primarily with dark metal siding, accented with limestone and topped with flat roofs that visually differentiate from the historical building.

The client's desire for indoor-outdoor living was addressed at the rear of the main level of the addition, which features kitchen, living and dining areas that open broadly to the lake and surrounding landscape via Schüco aluminum window systems from Germany, fabricated by Tru Architectural in Los Angeles. Access is via a connecting gallery that flows invitingly from the front entrance. "The big effort was to [allow people] to come in the front door and be drawn to the main living spaces," Carr says. "The gallery steps down and engages the view downward to the surface of the lake. You're totally engaged in the natural environment."

The interiors throughout the home, including the upper-level master suite and guest bedrooms, feature limestone floors, walls and fireplaces with a limestone finish matching the outside material. They're paired with rift-cut oak ceilings and acrylic plaster walls with a smooth, clean finish.

To this serene environment, New York interior designer Steven Gambrel, who has worked on several of the current owners' other homes around the country, introduced furnishings that mesh with its concept. "Our approach was to work with the materials in the building to create





INSIDE OUT
The new addition encompasses main living, dining and kitchen areas that open directly to the outdoors.



ORGANIC STYLE
New York interior designer Steven Gambrel combined sourced or vintage furniture pieces with those he designed himself.

DESIGN DETAILS

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ALL TOGETHER
From exterior
materials to
repetition of
forms, the original
Victorian home
blends seamlessly
with the new
addition.



CLEAN LINES Open to the living room, the kitchen features a crisp white island that offers function and form.

something organic that connects with the landscape, but that also adds something slightly unexpected and that expressed the owners' taste and personality," Gambrel explains.

Furnishings Gambrel selected, such as the modern claro walnut dining table by BDDW in New York, were paired with vintage pieces, such as the industrial table in the gallery, and pieces he designed or custom commissioned, including the upholstered living room chairs. Lighting is of particular note, especially the trio of custom-designed bronze lanterns by The Urban Electric Co. in Charleston, S.C., that hang above the kitchen island, and the brass-and-frosted glass Dante V five drum chandelier over the dining table.

An integral element and dramatic feature of the home is an interior glass-and-steel-railed stairway that sits in the gap between the new construction and the Victorian, the latter of which houses a mudroom and casual parlor. "It lets the Victorian live, in theory, and winds around to connect [to] the second floor of the addition," Schenck says.

As obvious as the home's significant architectural attributes may be, others are not so apparent. An underground two-car garage is accessed by a car lift from the street-level two-car garage. The rooftop houses a hot tub terrace as well as photovoltaic solar and solar thermal panels. Everything from lighting to window coverings to audiovisual equipment is controlled remotely by a central Crestron automated home system.

"What we were able to do with this property—the sort of Rubik's Cube process of solving the issues of the site, restoring the Victorian addition, designing the contemporary space and getting all the diversity of experiences—was pretty magical," Carr says. "It all works quite well," Schenck adds. "The connection is seamless." ■