

# Merle Thorpe Architects

*presents*

ADDITION WITH PERGOLA

An Award-winning Design Gracefully

Extends a Family's Living Space Outdoors

Addition with Pergola  
and a number of our other projects  
can be seen on our website:  
[MerleThorpeArchitects.com](http://MerleThorpeArchitects.com)

*Merle Thorpe brings over 25 years' experience as a practicing architect to his diverse projects. Recognized for excellence in custom residential design, his work has received numerous awards for distinctive residential architecture, including an Award for Excellence from the DC Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.*

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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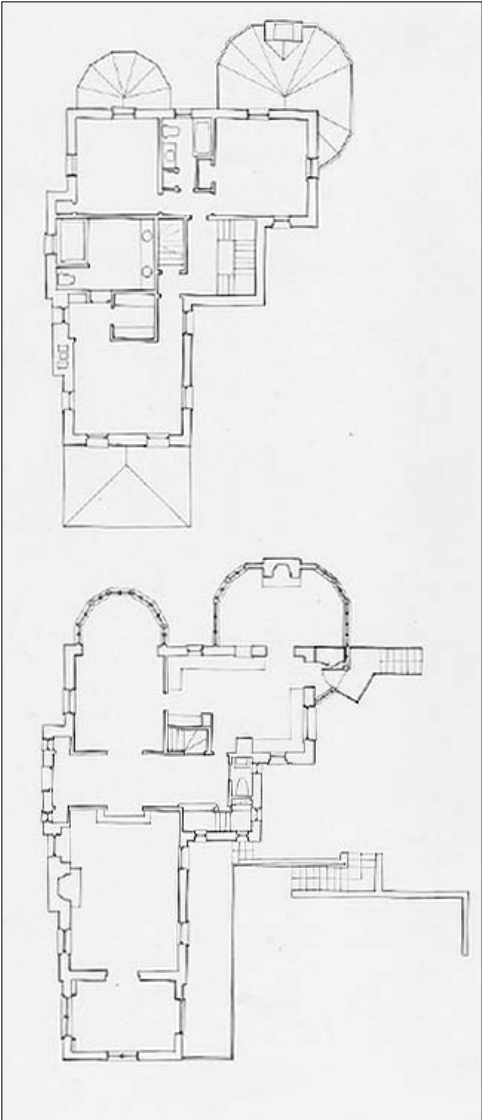
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## ADDITION WITH PERGOLA

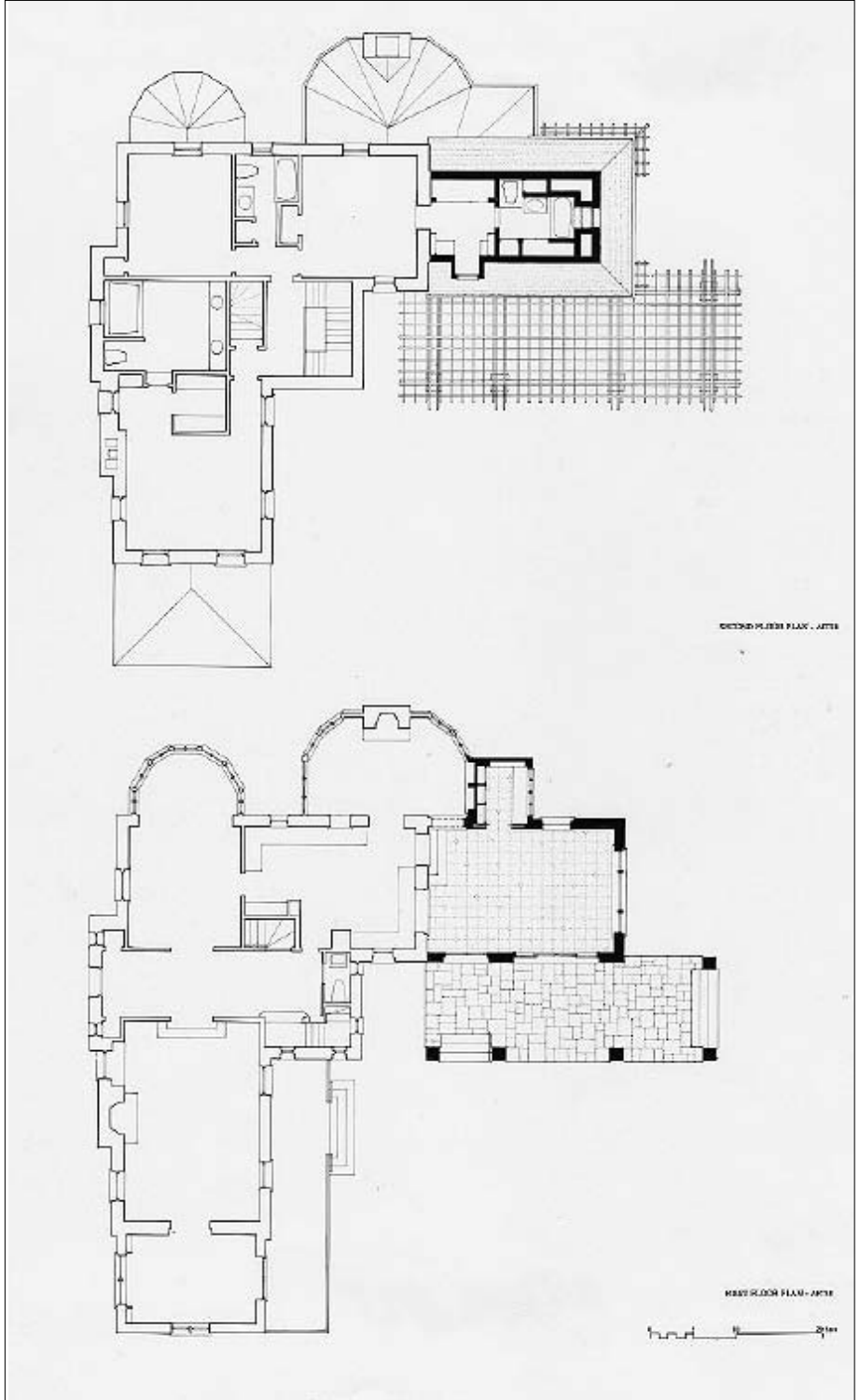
### *An Award-winning Design Gracefully Extends a Family's Living Space Outdoors*

Our firm also designs house additions that dramatically enhance a family's use of its property. While the primary purpose of additions is usually to enlarge a family's interior living space, our work with this house in Bethesda, Maryland shows how a well-integrated landscape and building design can transform an unwieldy backyard into a graceful outdoor extension of that living space. In 1996, the design won an Award for Distinctive Residential Architecture from the National Capital Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.



PLAN OF THE ORIGINAL STRUCTURE

PLAN WITH ADDITION AND PERGOLA



EAST ELEVATION / BEFORE



BEFORE OUR WORK, THIS SUBURBAN HOUSE SAT AWKWARDLY ON ITS SITE, UNCONNECTED TO ITS RICH NATURAL LANDSCAPE OF MATURE WOODLAND PLANTINGS AND HIGH TREE CANOPY. THE BACKYARD WAS DOMINATED BY A BASEMENT-LEVEL CONCRETE TERRACE, GARAGE AND DRIVEWAY, WITH GROUND FLOOR ACCESS LIMITED TO A STAIRWAY LEADING FROM A KITCHEN SERVICE DOOR.



SOUTH ELEVATION / BEFORE



THE TWO-STORY ADDITION BEHIND THE KITCHEN PROVIDES A FAMILY ROOM AND HOME OFFICE ON THE GROUND FLOOR AND A STUDY AND BATHROOM ABOVE. THE BACKYARD WAS IN-FILLED WITH EIGHT FEET OF SOIL TO BRING THE ADDITION TO THE GROUND FLOOR'S GRADE LEVEL. THIS PRESENTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADD A NEW PERGOLA AND TERRACE TO ONE SIDE OF THE NEW FAMILY ROOM, AND A GENTLY SLOPING LAWN TO THE NEWLY PLANTED REAR GARDEN. THIS COMBINATION OF LANDSCAPE AND BUILDING DESIGN WORK EFFECTIVELY RECLAIMED THE BACKYARD FOR THE FAMILY'S HOME LIFE.





FAMILY ROOM



STUDY

LARGE WINDOWS AND FRENCH DOORS WITH SIDE LIGHTS AND CLERESTORY INFUSE THE FAMILY ROOM WITH RADIANT NATURAL LIGHT, WHILE SUBTLY REFOCUSING THE RESIDENCE TO THE REAR GARDEN. A CAREFUL SELECTION OF DETAILS AND MATERIALS REINFORCE THE ROLE OF THE ADDITION AS MEDIATOR OF THE FAMILY'S INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR LIVING SPACE

