

Merle Thorpe Architects

presents

RESIDENCE ON INDIAN LANE

Residence on Indian Lane
and a number of our other projects
can be seen on our website:
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

PLEASE CONTACT: MERLE@MERLETHORPEARCHITECTS.COM

3235 P STREET, NW · WASHINGTON, DC 20007

TEL 202·298·7771 · FAX 202·298·7776



RESIDENCE ON INDIAN LANE

This project involves a substantial two-story addition and kitchen renovation. However, a subtle, profound aspect of this project also involves the owners' desire to raise the overall quality and elegance of their residence. To meet this goal, we introduced a variety of exterior and interior changes to reinvigorate the form of this classic Georgian colonial. Close collaboration with a landscape designer ensured that the improvements were balanced with appropriate changes in the landscape.

We added architectural rigor through a variety of changes to the windows and front walk and by putting greater emphasis on the entry. Unshuttered windows draw attention to the building's fine brick masonry while a path of dry-laid fieldstones set directly into the lawn replaces the original brick-paved walkway. The new two-story brick addition (at left), just visible beyond the walkway, is set back discreetly to balance the existing wing (at right) and maintain a deferential position in relation to the primary plane of the front façade.



Before Renovation – THE RESIDENCE BEFORE THE RENOVATION BEARS THE CLASSIC HALLMARKS OF A CENTER HALL COLONIAL IN SPRING VALLEY, BUT ALSO SOME HALLMARKS OF AGE: THE WALKWAY TRAVERSING THE FRONT LAWN OCCASIONALLY WAS COVERED WITH WATER OR ICE RUNNING DOWN THE SLOPE AND THE PILASTERED PEDIMENTAL ENTRY AND SURROUND OFFERS NO SHELTER FROM INCLEMENT WEATHER. THE SHUTTERED WINDOWS AND OVERGROWN SHRUBS STRIKE A SOMBER NOTE ON THE FRONT FACADE.

FOR THE REDESIGNED FRONT ENTRY, WE REMOVED THE TRADITIONAL COMBINATION OF PAINTED WOOD PANELED DOOR AND SIDELIGHTS AND ALUMINUM STORMDOOR. IN THEIR PLACE STAND A PAIR OF TALL, CUSTOM-MADE FRENCH DOORS, FRAMED BY A LIMESTONE AND PAINTED WOOD SURROUND. A PROJECTING PORTICO SUPPORTED BY FREE-STANDING COLUMNS NOW SHELTERS THE ENTRY. THE OVERALL EFFECT OFFERS A MORE GENEROUS SENSE OF ARRIVAL.





BEFORE

THIS PROJECT BEGAN WITH TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO FIT A BREAKFAST TABLE INTO A 40-YEAR OLD KITCHEN. AFTER CONSIDERING A VARIETY OF OPTIONS, WE ADDED A NEW BREAKFAST ROOM OFF THE RENOVATED KITCHEN, IN THE LOCATION OF THE FORMER GARAGE.



BACKYARD, BEFORE THE RENOVATION

RETAINING WALL FOR NEW TERRACE
UNDER CONSTRUCTION





THE OWNERS ENJOYED CONSIDERING EVERY DETAIL DURING THE PLANNING PHASE, AND EVEN PARTICIPATED IN THE DESIGN OF CUSTOM-MADE FURNITURE TO AVOID A COMPLETELY FITTED INTERIOR. THIS CUSTOM-DESIGNED HUTCH PRESERVES THE BREAKFAST ROOM'S ELEGANCE WHILE CONCEALING A TELEVISION FOR THE OWNERS' MORNING NEWS UPDATES.



BEFORE THE RENOVATION, THE BACKYARD WAS BARELY ACCESSIBLE FROM THE GROUND LEVEL ROOMS.

REAR GARDEN. THE BREAKFAST ROOM NEEDED A GRACIOUS, MORE ACCESSIBLE BACKYARD, SO WE RAISED THE BACKYARD GRADE TO GROUND LEVEL, AND ADDED A TERRACED GARDEN, PERGOLA AND MANY SPECIMEN PLANTINGS. THESE AND OTHER CHANGES ALLOW THE LANDSCAPE TO BECOME AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE INTERIOR LIVING SPACES.





REAR TERRACE AND BREAKFAST ROOM