



BUILDING ON HISTORY

Two historic homes in the Woodland Heights tell unique stories of renovation and preservation

BY SANDRA COOK | PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK SCHEYER

Several years ago Wendy Parker was a successful single woman looking to buy her own home. Wendy initially looked at townhomes near the Rice Military/Memorial Park area, but happened upon a listing on HAR.com for a 1920s Craftsman two-bedroom, one-bath in the Woodland Heights area.

“I wasn’t sure if this house was for me, but it was in my price range and it looked really cute inside, so I told my Realtor that I wanted to take a look,” says Wendy Parker. “And it was one of those things: I stepped onto the front porch and I walked in the door and I knew, I just knew this was the house.”

Before that day, Wendy had never considered living in the Heights area or thought about living in a historic home, but it seems that this was meant to be. Within two years she had met and married her husband, Kevin, and soon after they were talking about starting a family. The couple thought about looking for a bigger house in the area, but decided they would rather add on.



ABOVE: During the 2010 renovation, the Parker's house was raised and the brick columns and the floor of the porch and were replaced with reclaimed bricks and wood. The exterior was painted in a fresh new color scheme. The wood columns and railings of the porch are original, but the stairs and railings were added to fit the new elevation.

OPPOSITE: Wendy and Kevin Parker added a master suite, large screened porch and expanded the kitchen of their 1920s home. Wendy insisted on the spicy red color for the cabinets, rather than basic white for her enlarged kitchen. The original wood floors were uncovered during the project, and the beadboard backsplash and the stained glass window over the sink were added. Layers of trim were added to the windows, ceilings and columns to give the home a more formal look. In the new space below stairs, several drawers serve as a recycling center.

"I think now Kevin feels more like it's his home, too, our home together," says Wendy.

NEXT CHAPTER

During the fall of 2009 the Parkers chose Heights-area specialists Bungalow Revival, lead by Gilbert Perez, to develop the design and handle the project. The homeowners and the design team sought to create an addition that didn't look obvious and out of scale. This was a difficult task considering the house next door is an exact copy built by the original owner in 1920.

Wendy and Kevin told the Bungalow Revival team that they wanted to have room for a child and for guests, as well as a comfortable master suite and a modern utility room. The decision to do a second-story addition for the master suite and laundry room resulted in a grand screened-in porch on the back of the house.

"We feel like we didn't sacrifice our green space in order to gain more room in the house," says Wendy. "I love our neighborhood. The view from upstairs is all green treetops."

The extensive project was completed in October 2010. And by December of that year, the Parkers welcomed their adopted baby girl into their expanded—and completed home.

WOMAN WITH A VISION

As director of risk management for a large commercial real estate company, Wendy is very detail oriented and avid researcher. She selected many fixtures, colors and details on her own in addition to collaborating with Perez.

"It's been such an amazing transition," says Wendy. "It was a cute, cute house before, but I'm so happy with everything now. It looks exactly as I envisioned. We spend so much time at home now, especially in the screen room." ▶



A soothing green wall color was pre-existing when Wendy first purchased the home and was so pleasing the Parkers opted to keep it and extend it up the stairway. The shape of the dining area did not change during the renovation, but it is now connected to the new stairwell and the entry kitchen was enlarged considerably. The circa 1915 inverted dome chandelier in the dining room, found at August Antiques, is made of leaded slag glass.



WENDY'S ADVICE TO HOMEOWNERS

- Don't settle. "Kevin said to me, 'we're only going to do this once, so let's do what it takes to do it right.'"
- Expect to pay 40 percent more than your original budget. "We ended up paying exactly 40 percent more."
- Don't live in your house during a major remodel project. Make arrangements with friends or relatives in order to preserve your sanity.
- Don't be afraid to open your mouth and say I don't like this part and I want to change it.
- Hire a contractor with both construction and interior design experience. ▶

ABOVE: The generous screened-in porch sits beneath the new master bedroom. The wine bottle chandelier was designed and fabricated by Alberto Bonomi, a local furniture and lighting designer. Gilbert Perez of Bungalow Revival found brackets for the mantle over the fireplace that matched the style of home's exterior. The fireplace hardware was found at Adkins Architectural Antiques and replated.



ABOVE: Upstairs, the new master bedroom features a Craftsman-style fireplace with built-in bookshelves, a quintessential Craftsman feature that didn't exist in the original home. Wendy found the two antique stained glass windows on either side of the chimney through eBay. She also tracked down the decorative tile piece above the fireplace. The Pottery Barn rug provided the inspiration for all of the color choices throughout the home.

OPPOSITE: The ceiling in the entire master suite is the same Benjamin Moore color, Stone Brown. The same color is painted on the underside of the antique bathtub, which was found on Craigslist for \$40 and overhauled by the Bungalow Revival team. The vanity cabinet is an antique buffet purchased from B.J. Oldies Antiques and fitted with matching sinks. The light fixtures were found at August Antiques.



RESOURCES

Design & Renovation: **Gilbert Perez & Bungalow Revival**, 713.861.7494

Painting: **Campas Painting**, Frank Campas, 713.240.3978

Landscaping: **Embark Tree & Landscaping**, 713.462.3261

HVAC: **Autumn Air**, 713.864.8368

Vanity piece in master bath (antique buffet converted into vanity) :

B.J. Oldies Antiques, 1435 Westheimer, 832.651.8477

Light fixtures: **August Antiques**, 803 1/2 Heights Blvd., 713.880.3353

Fireplace hardware: **Adkins Architectural Antiques**, 3515 Fannin Street,
713.522.6547