

The Old Becomes New Again

A Loudoun County estate gets an innovative facelift while maintaining its historical feel

BY MIRIAM McCULLOUGH



Embracing the new while preserving the old is never an easy task. BOWA project leader Joe Burke was faced with this challenge two years ago, when Loudoun-estate homeowners enlisted his help with transforming their home just outside Leesburg.

When originally built, the estate had been inspired by historic Carter's Grove Plantation near Williamsburg — a classic example of Georgian architecture and a national historic landmark. As such, the Loudoun house featured distinguished architectural characteristics involving an even, symmetrical shape made out of bricks with rows of white-trimmed windows, ornamental columns, Palladian windows above the paneled front door, arches, decorative pediments, and so on.

But while the house featured these distinctive characteristics reminiscent of an historic Georgian home, it lacked many modern-day comforts and conveniences such as an upstairs living space, entertainment room, and, of course, space for three wild and woolly Wheaten Terriers. That's when BOWA stepped in.

"This project truly represents what BOWA does," says project leader Joe Burke. Burke is referring to BOWA's ability to help homeowners realize their vision through thoughtful, large-scale home renovations. The Maryland, D.C., and Northern Virginia-based home renovation company has more than 20 years of experience and prides itself on being a one-stop shop for designing and constructing homes. "We transform ordinary houses into unique homes," Burke adds.

Let's take a look for ourselves in this tour through one of BOWA's latest projects.



The estate (above) is startlingly similar to the Williamsburg colonial plantation, Carter's Grove (right), which inspired it. The even, symmetrical shape of the brick house with rows of white-trimmed windows, ornamental columns, Palladian windows above the paneled front door, arches, decorative pediments all seen here are classic characteristics of Georgian architecture.



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The homeowners' request for an upstairs living space resulted in an upper-level porch with columns fashioned in the Georgian style. The porch was created so as to layer, soften, and better integrate the wall of glass windows in the upstairs living room that showcase sweeping views to the east of the Tysons Corner skyline. With the porch addition, the wall of windows was not as obtrusive against the classic Georgian design. Furthermore, in an environmentally conscious effort to reuse materials, new outdoor arches were made with the handmade bricks originally used in the home's structure. Despite being new additions, the arches and columns paid tribute to the historic feel of the estate and tied the custom renovation together.

The kitchen was remodeled to be more open and country chic. It features a reclaimed heart pine floor, soapstone countertops, an island made out of distressed wood, and cabinets painted in a light, airy color.





More than anything else, the estate's homeowners were interested in having some sort of upstairs living room. Thus, a problematic and leaky rooftop terrace was transformed into a cozy family retreat featuring a wall of glass windows leading to a balcony with beautiful vistas. The windows, ceiling treatment with beams and planks add a nice texture to the room. A custom-built television and movie cabinet is another highlight. According to Burke, the upstairs living space was the project's highlight for everyone involved. "It was created out of nothing and so well integrated," he says.



From the beginning, "we were given marching orders to create space for the dogs," Burke says. The three Wheaten Terriers now have a comfortable space all their own to house their doggie beds and other doggie items.