

Kitchens, Baths & Beyond

Paul Denys

Denys.ca



1936 ■ Malartic, Quebec - Wilfrid Frances Cook



Henry George Woodley ■ 1954

1913





2005

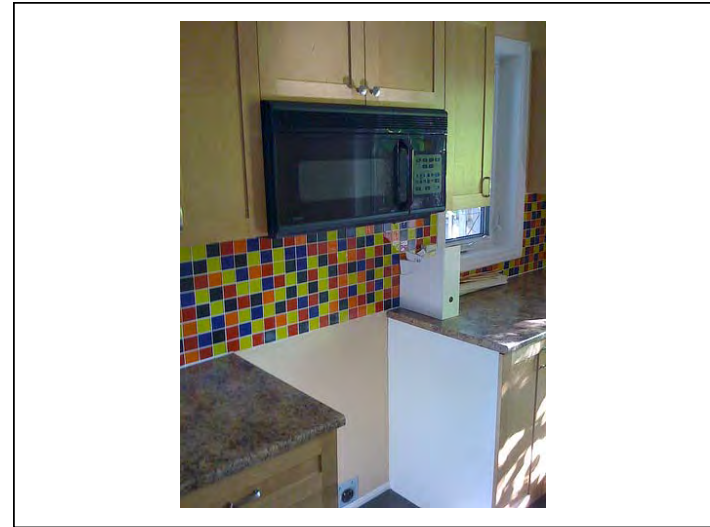


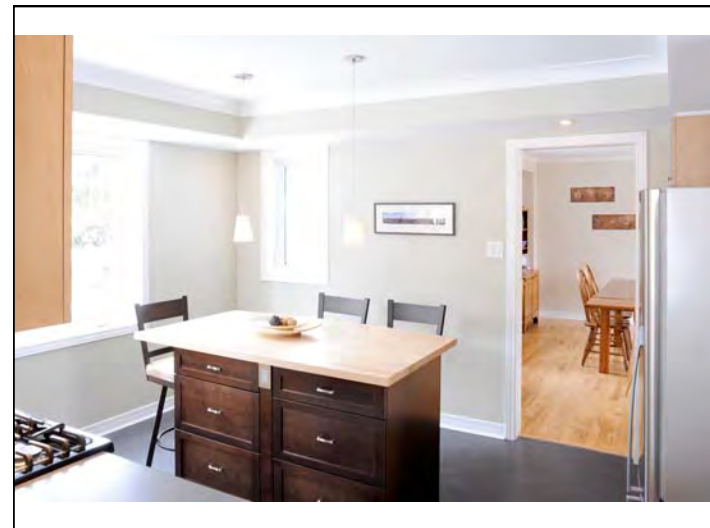
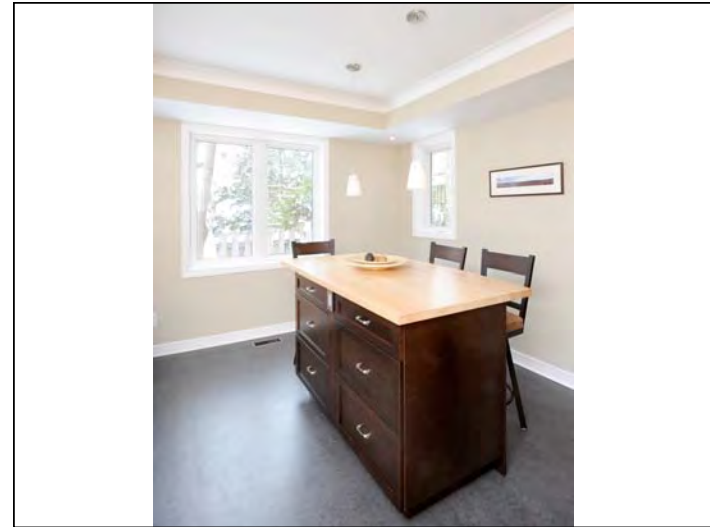
1867 ■ Restoration completed 1988

Aylmer House ■ KITCHEN

A little goes a long way





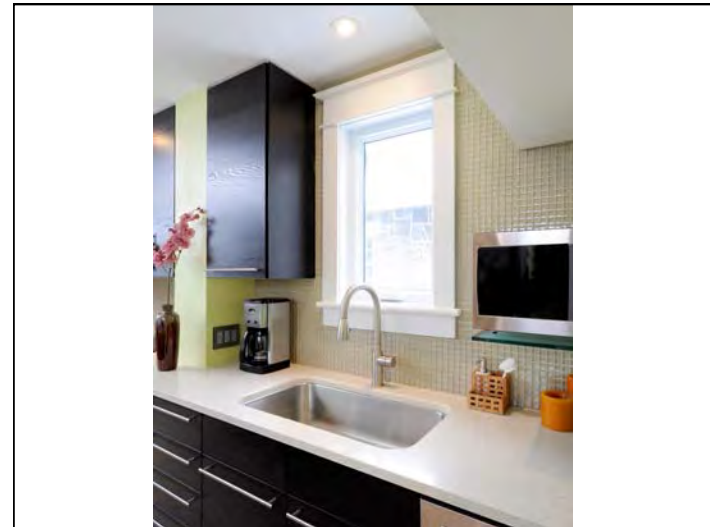
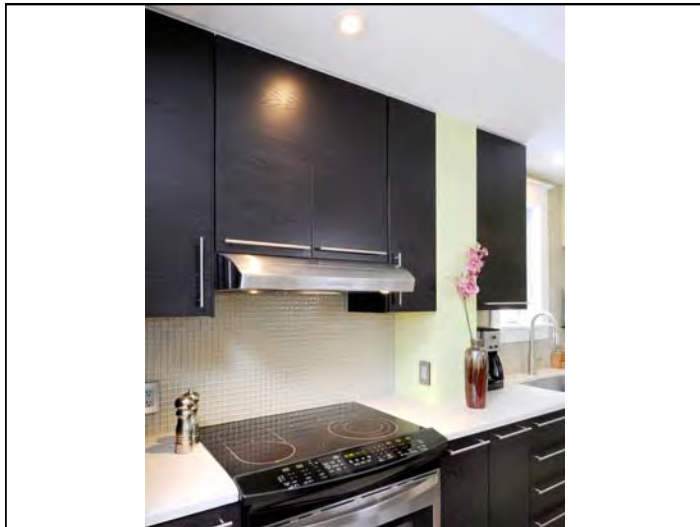
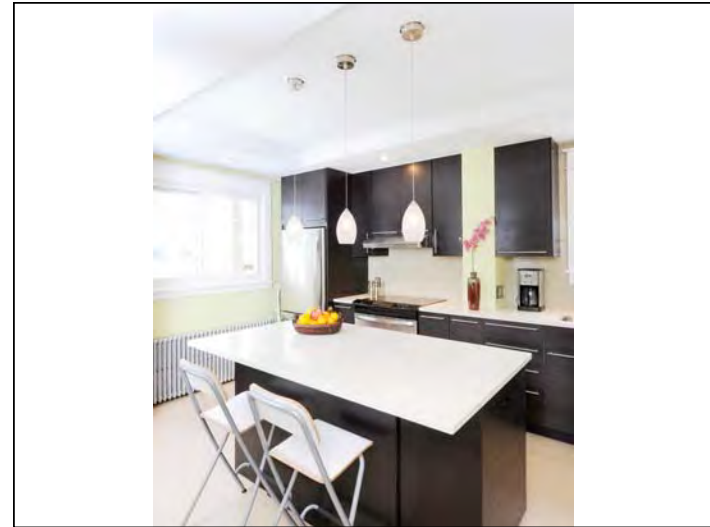
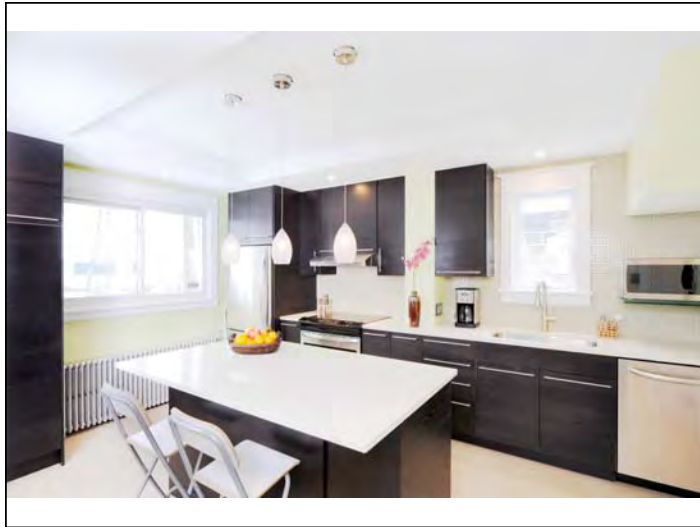


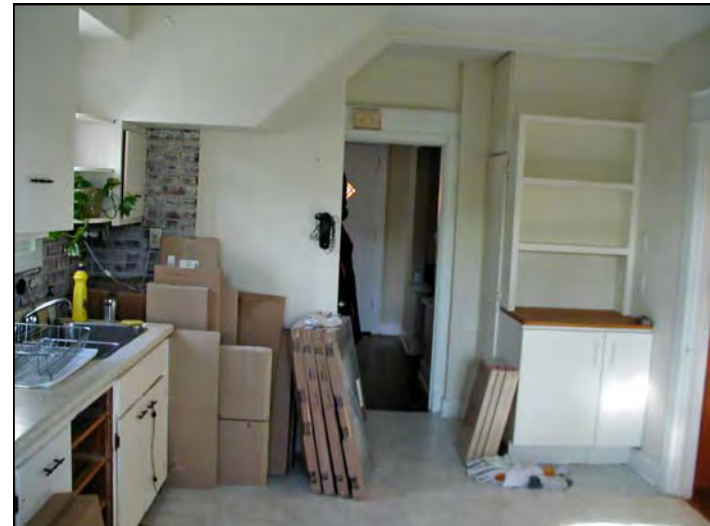
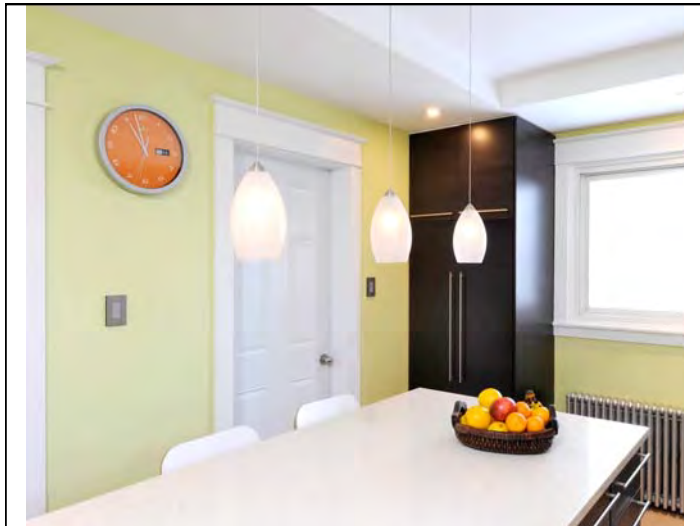
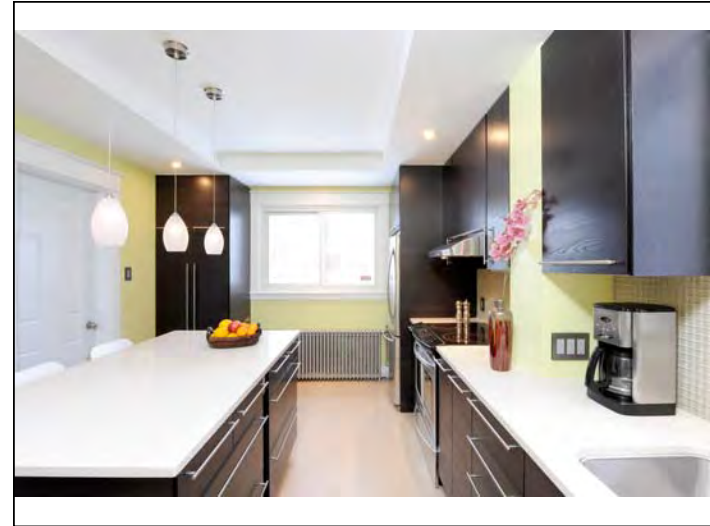
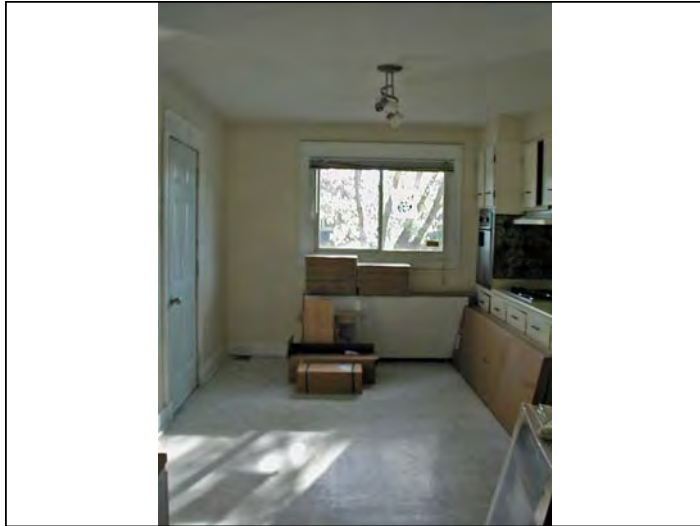


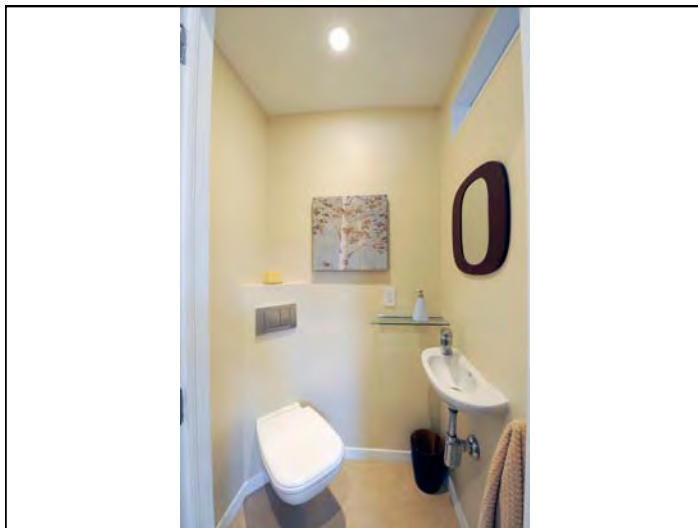
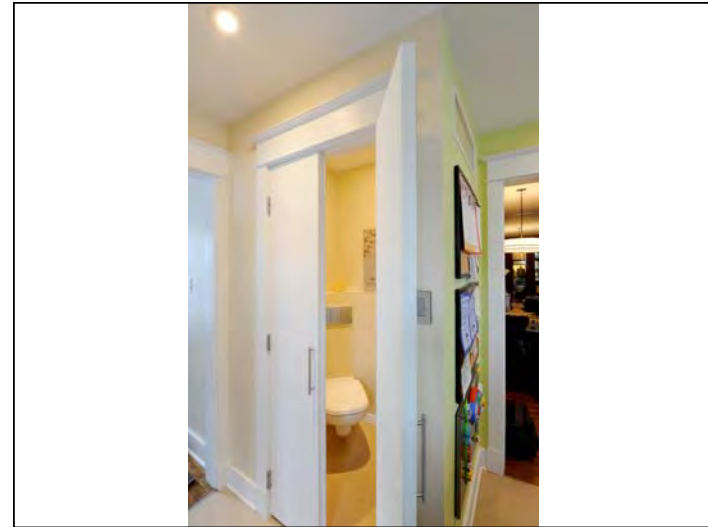
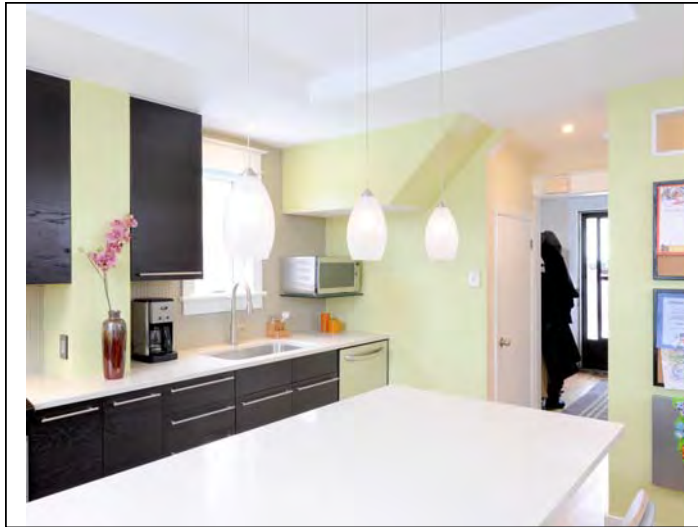
Beckwith House ■ KITCHEN

Fresh Chocolate Lime



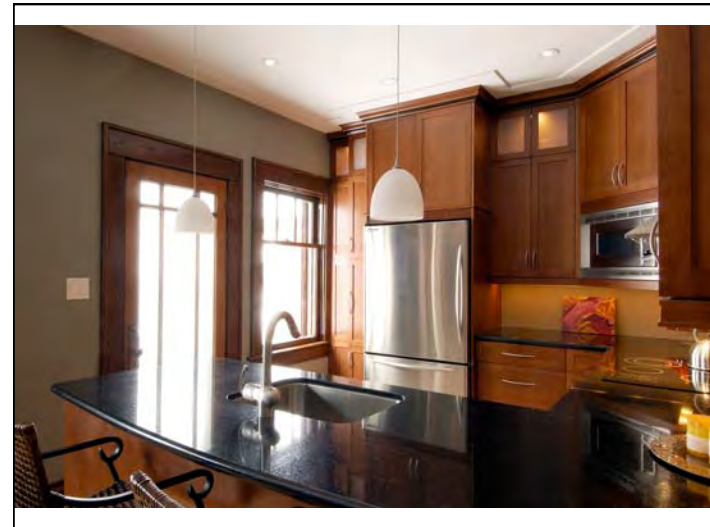
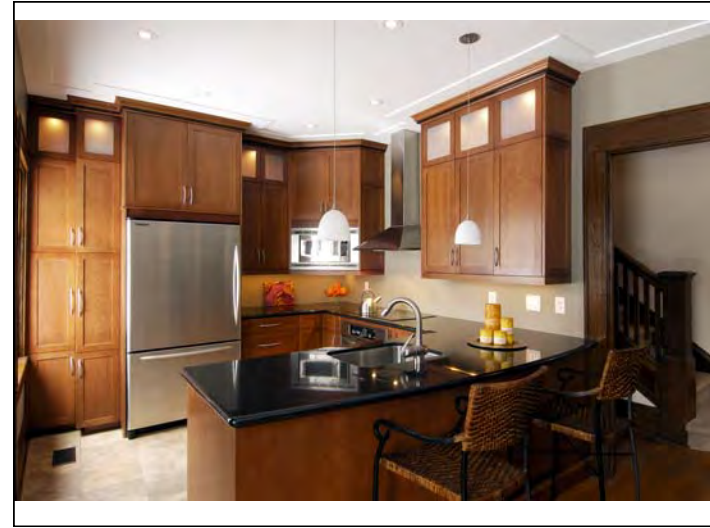


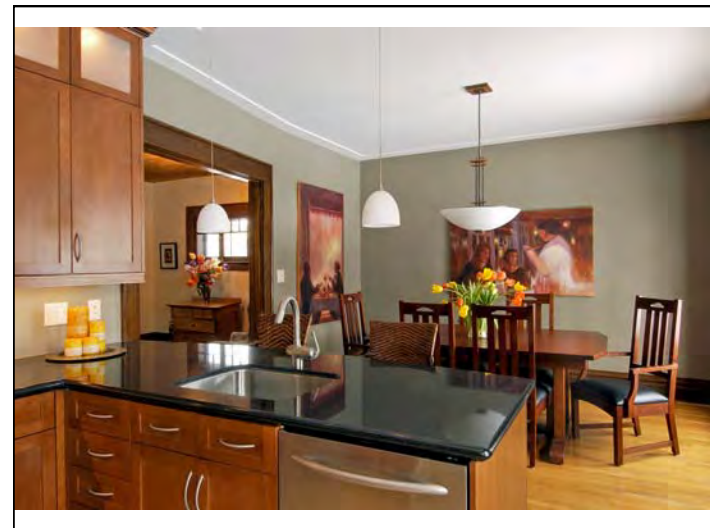
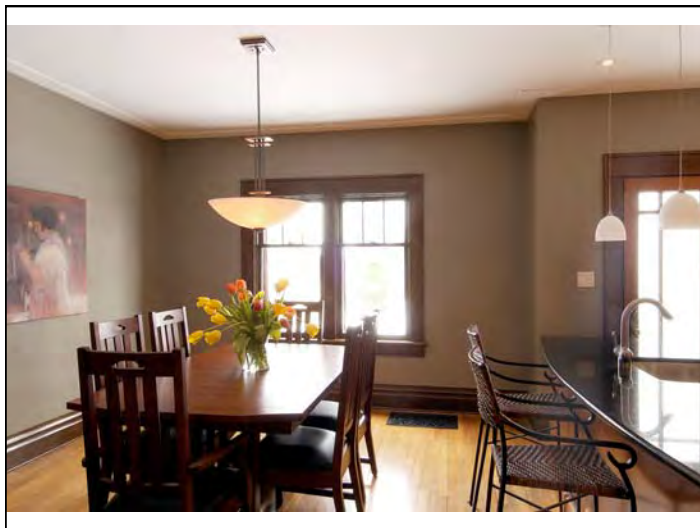
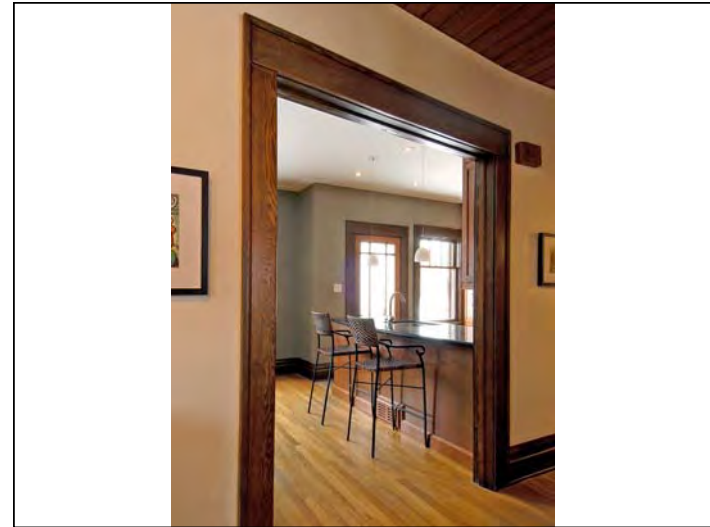
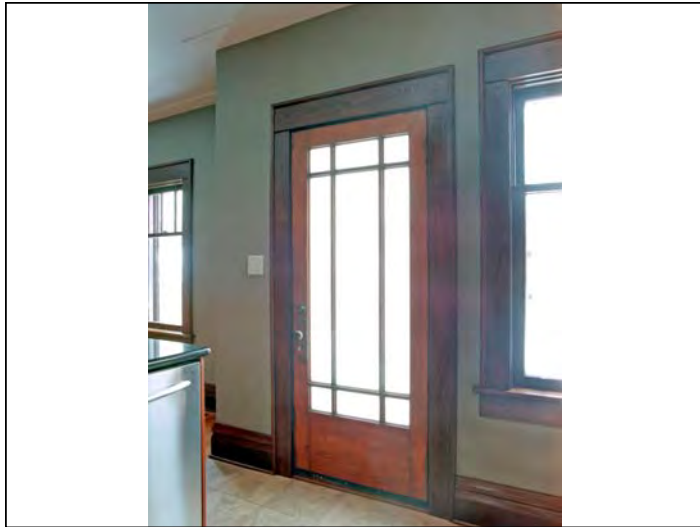




Glen House ■ KITCHEN

A Modern Mission

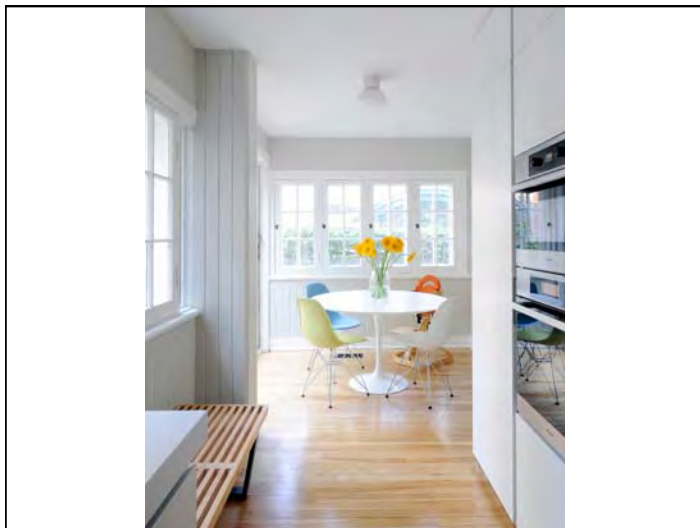
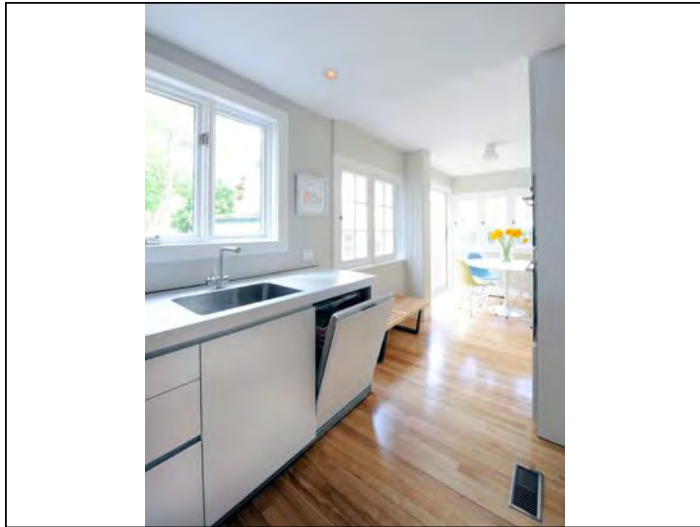


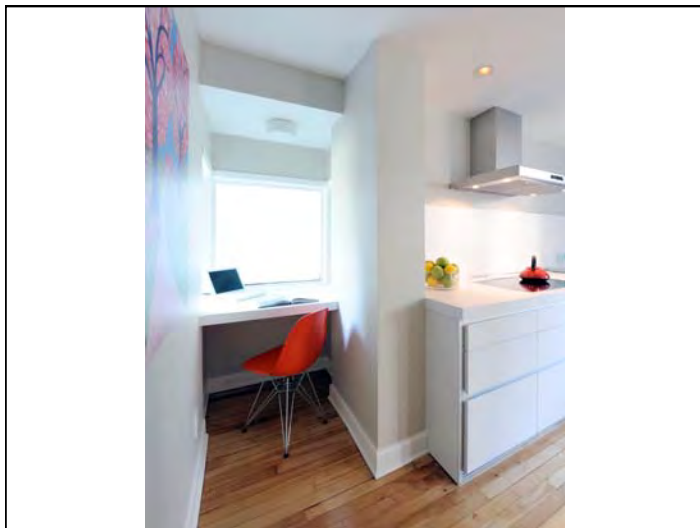
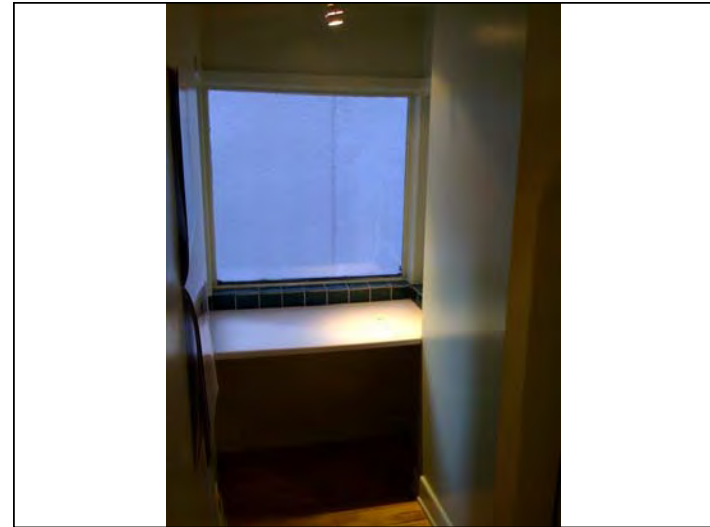


Mac Kay House ■ KITCHEN

The Essence of Simplicity

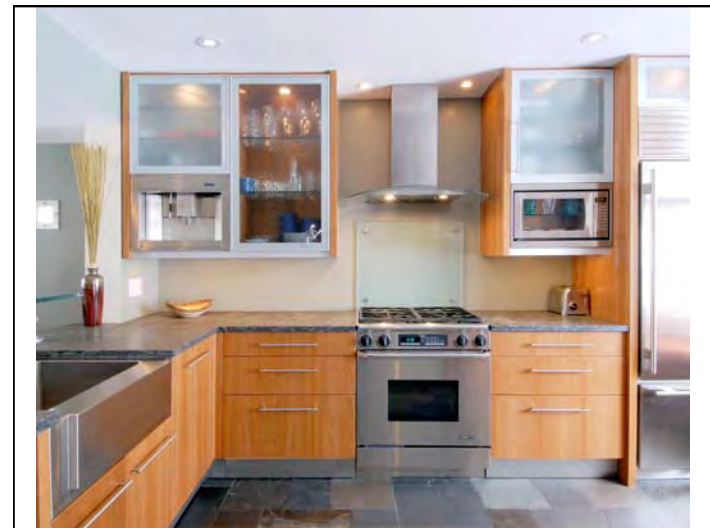
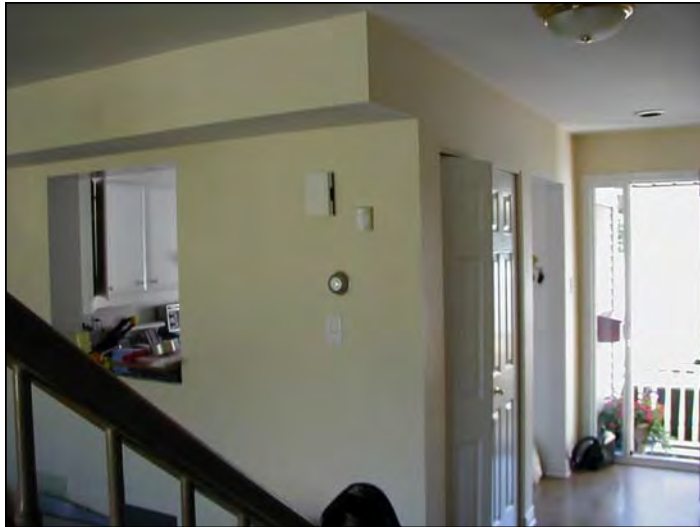


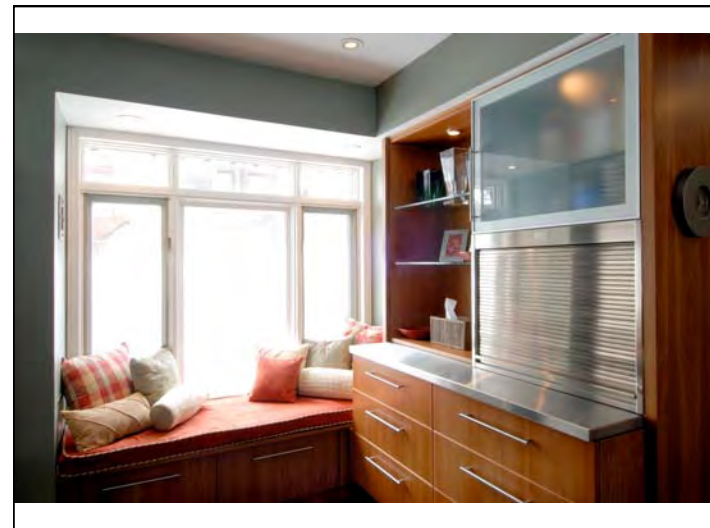
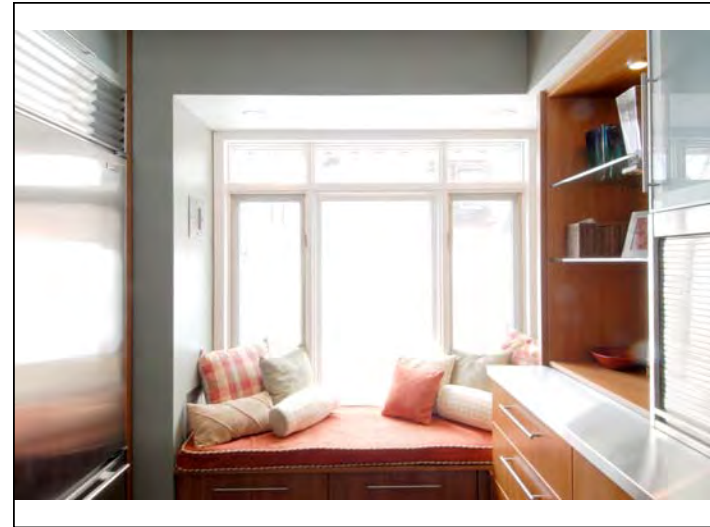




Paterson House ■ KITCHEN

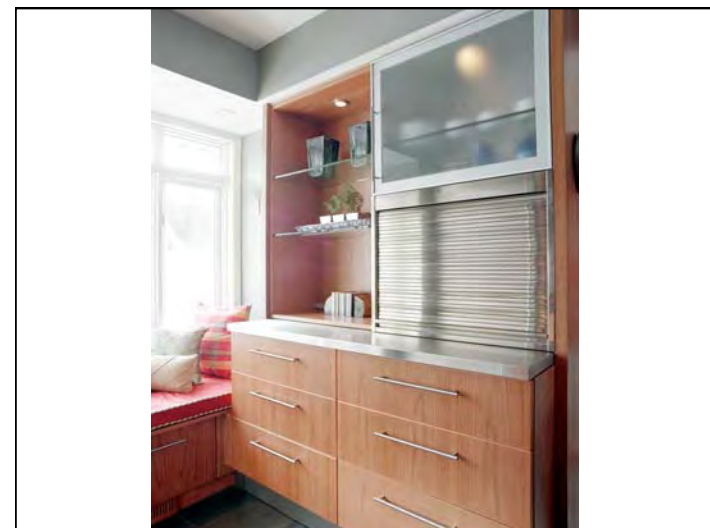
Traditionally Modern

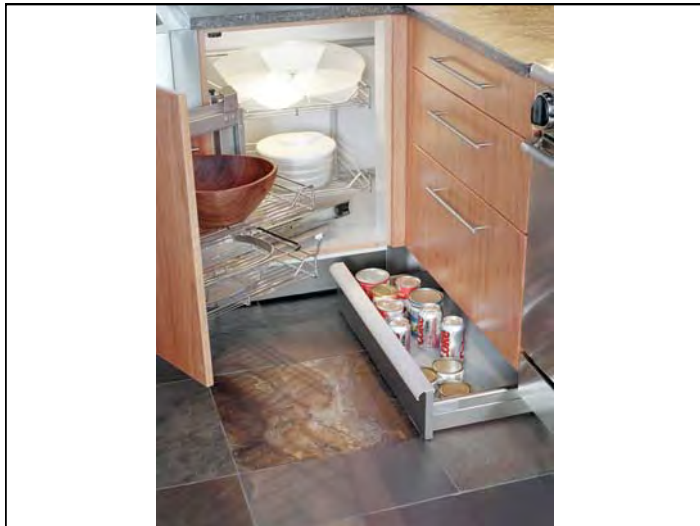


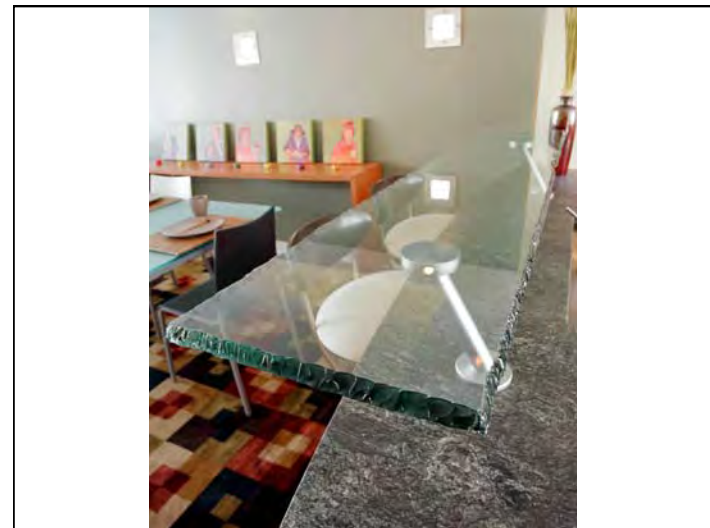
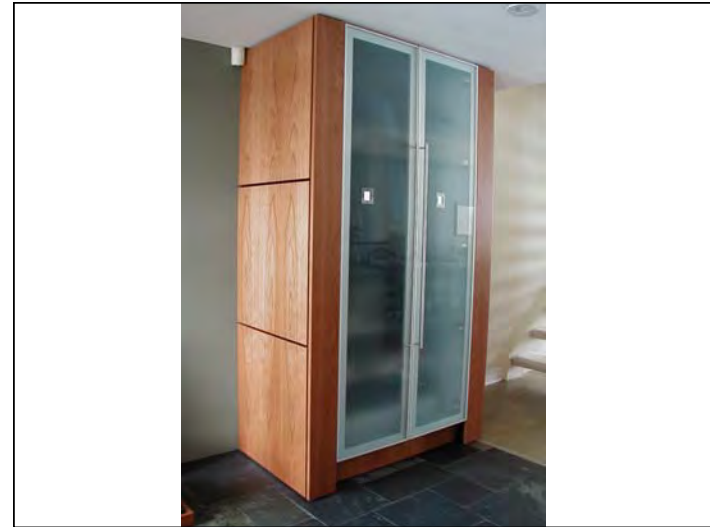


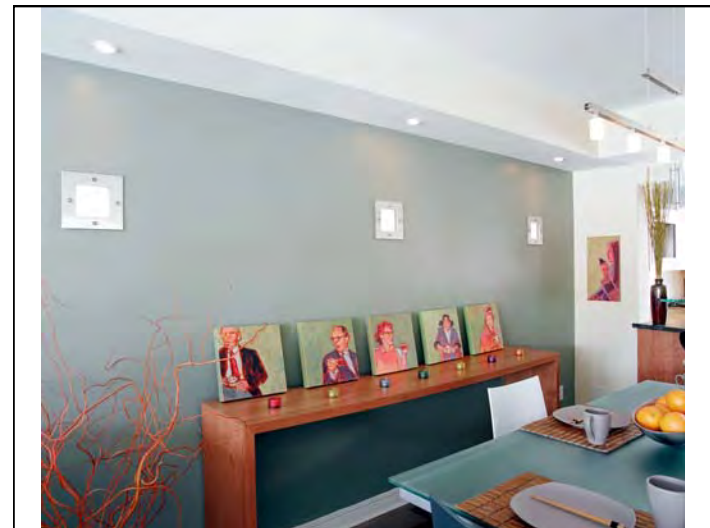
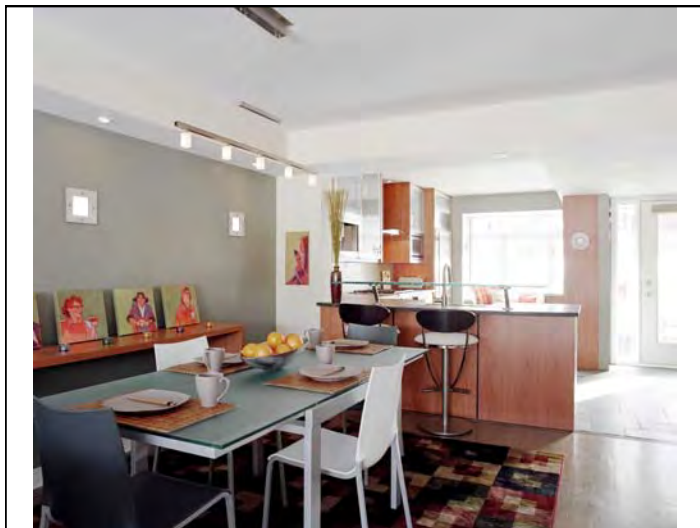
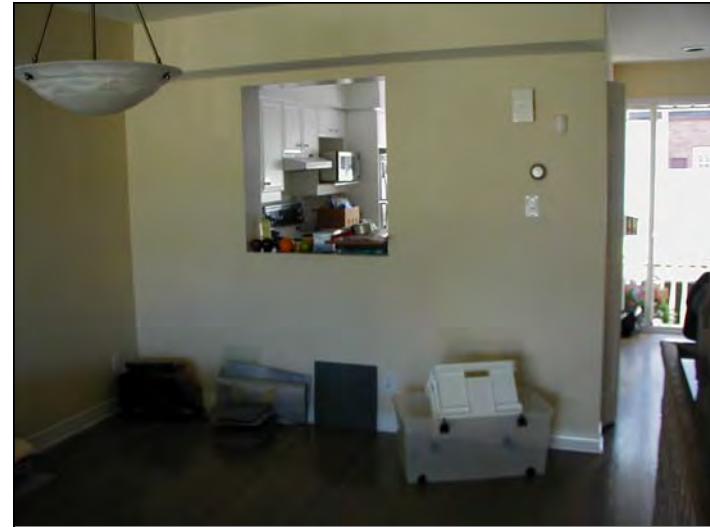
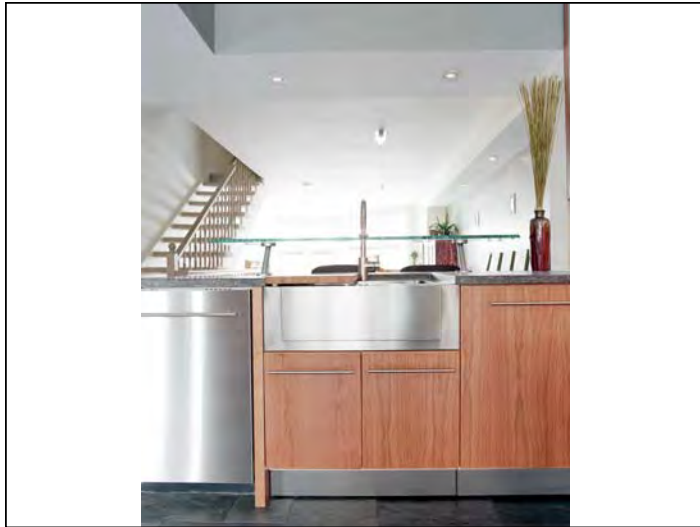


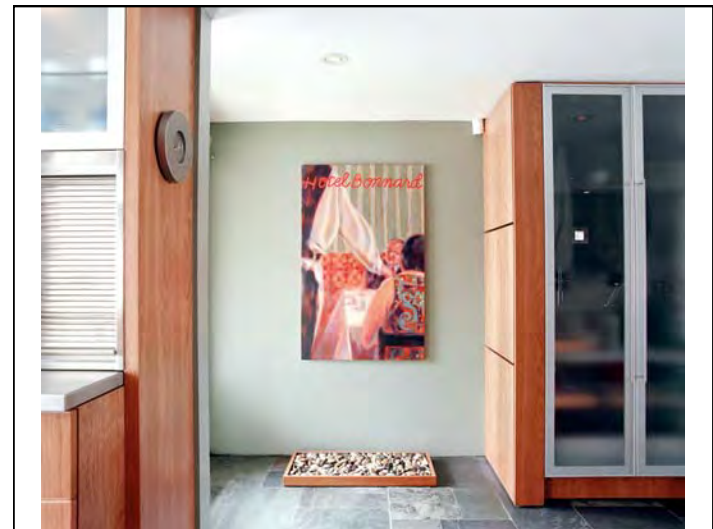
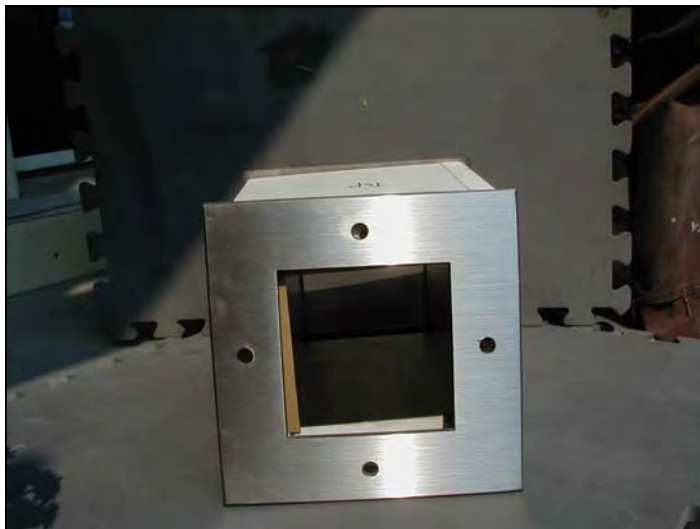
Hoosier Cabinet







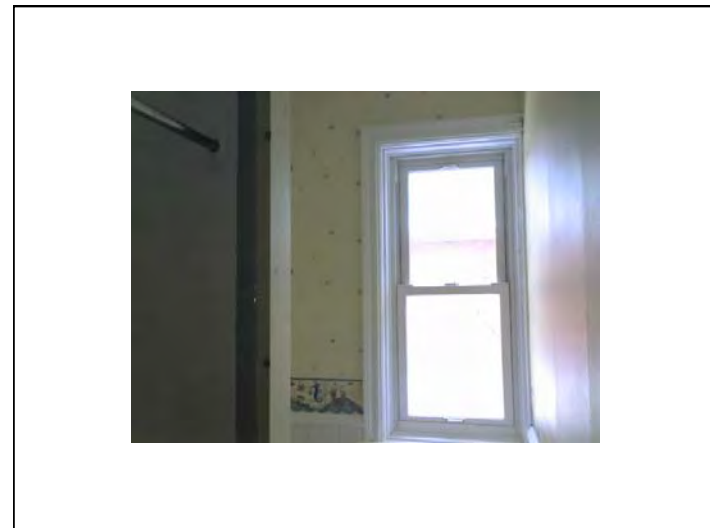


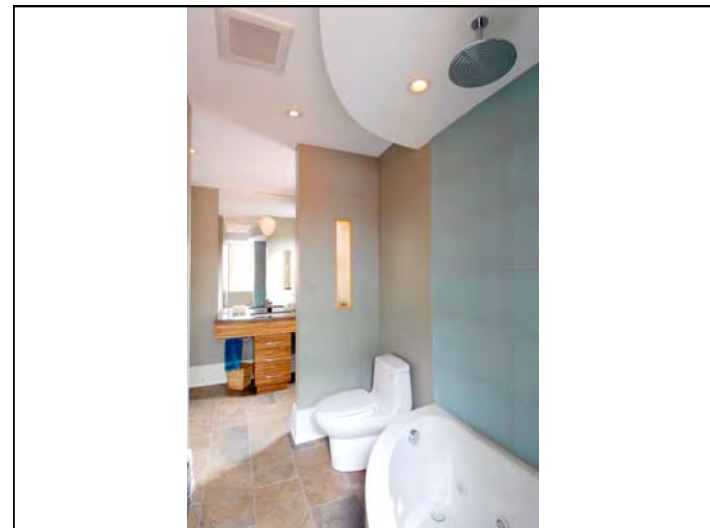
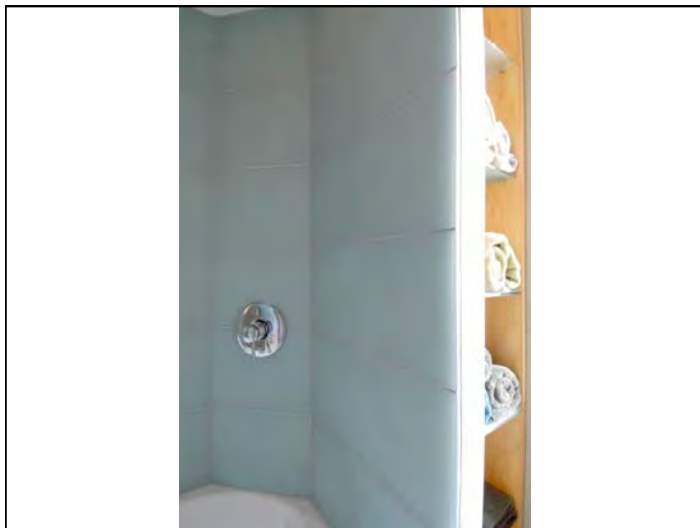
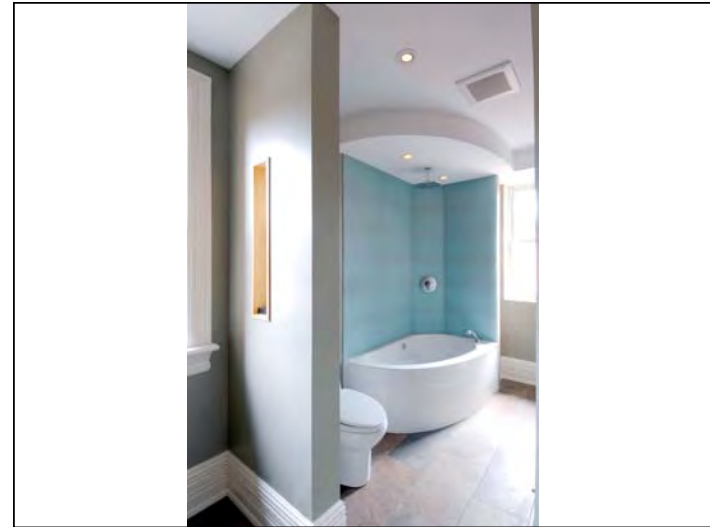
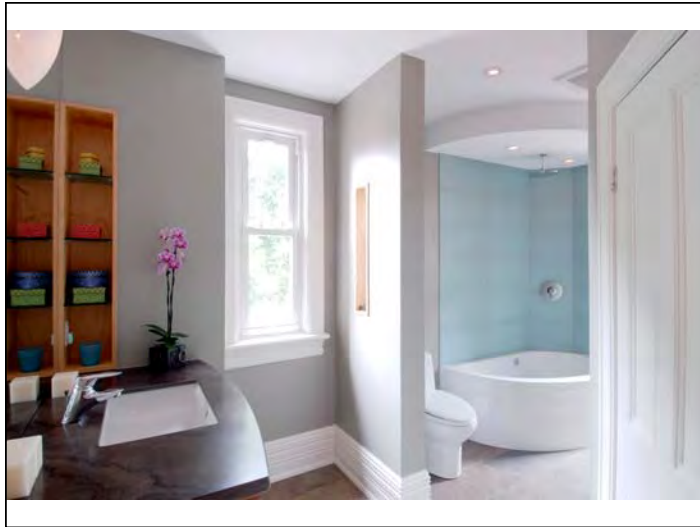


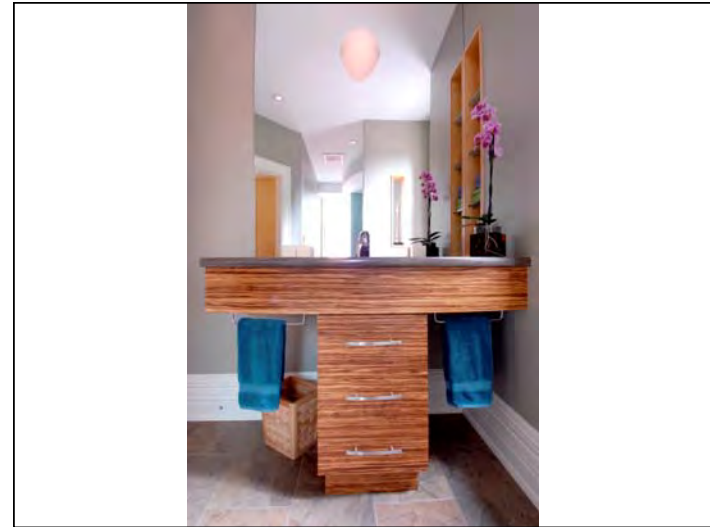
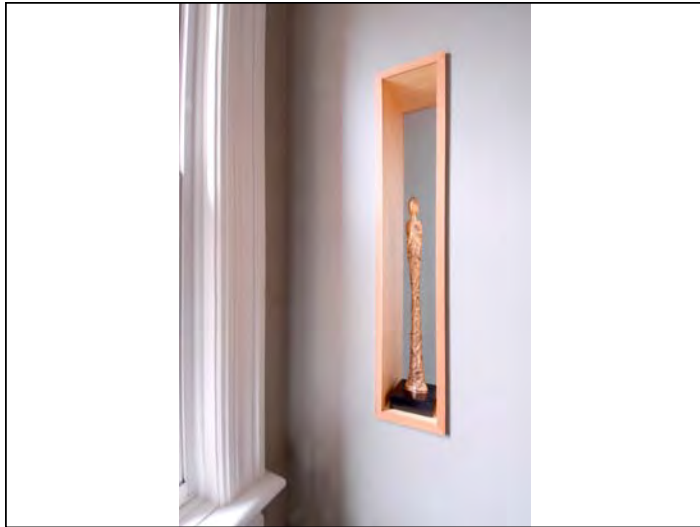


Arbour House ■ BATH

Zenfully Green

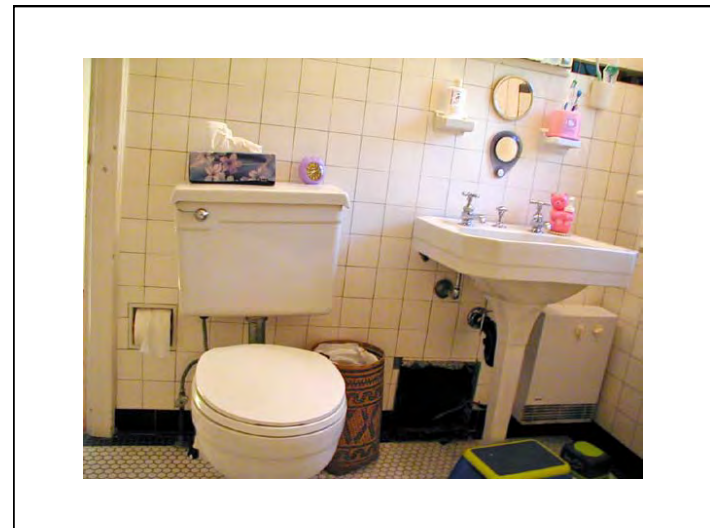


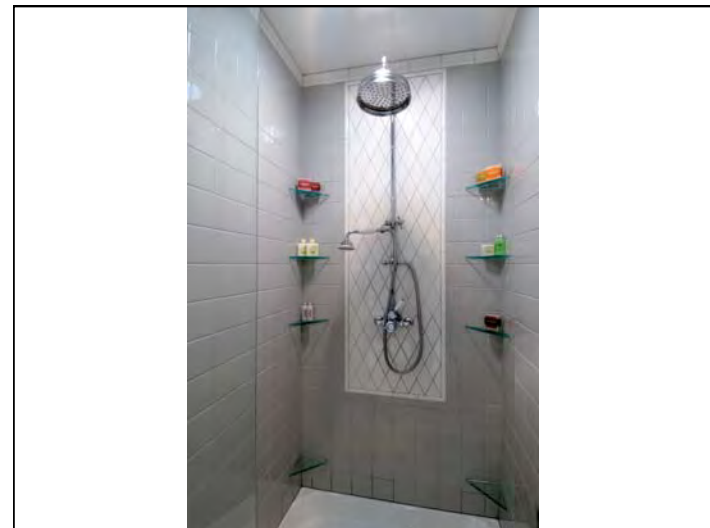
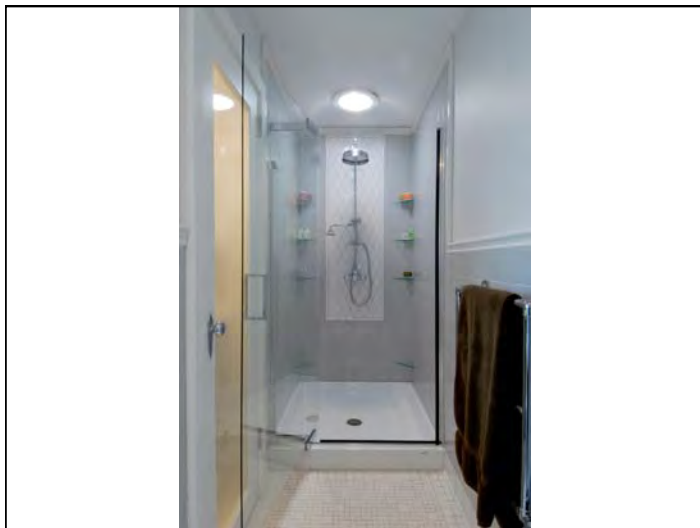
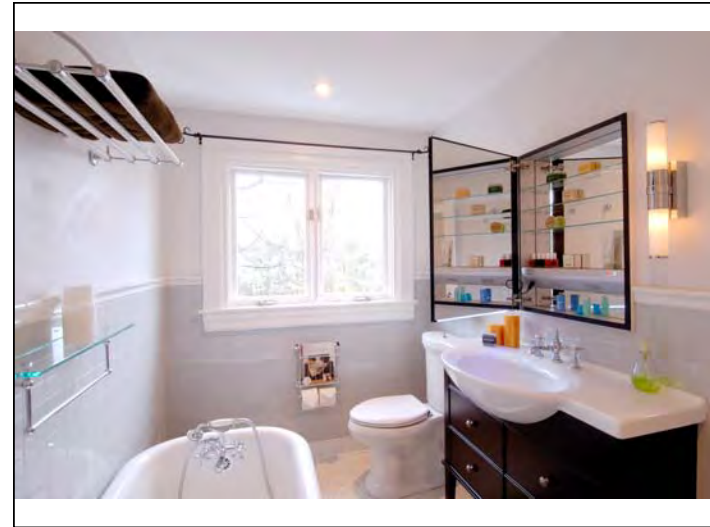
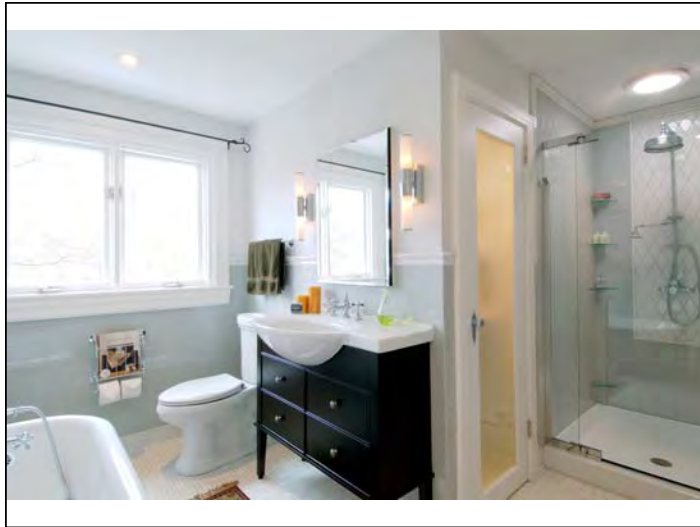


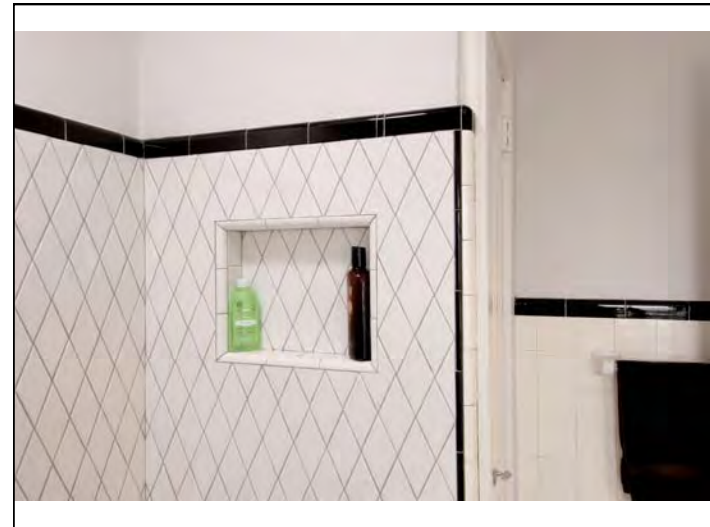
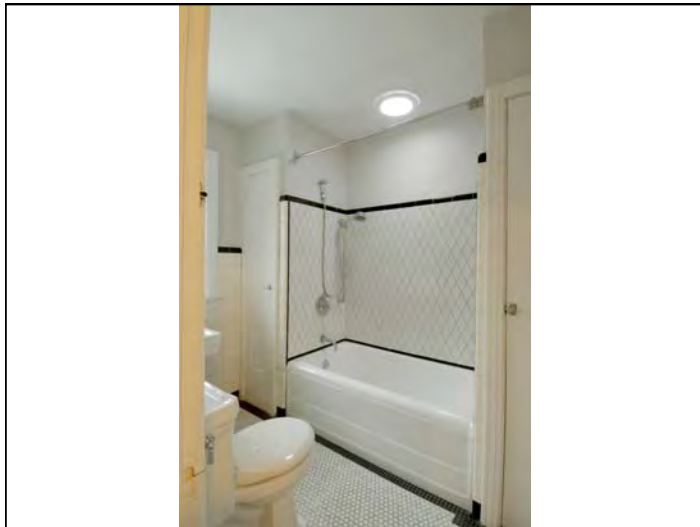
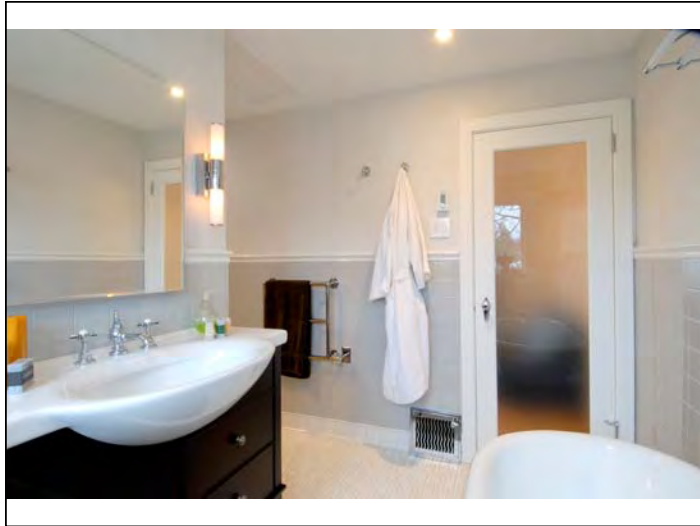


Belvedere House ■ BATH

A Touch of Glass

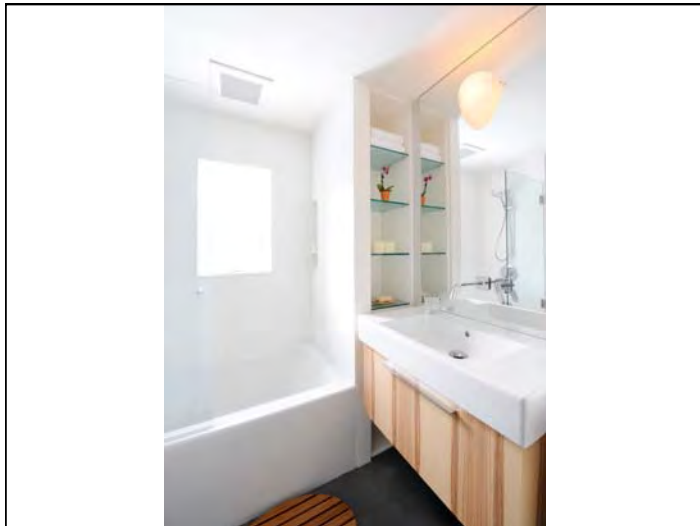


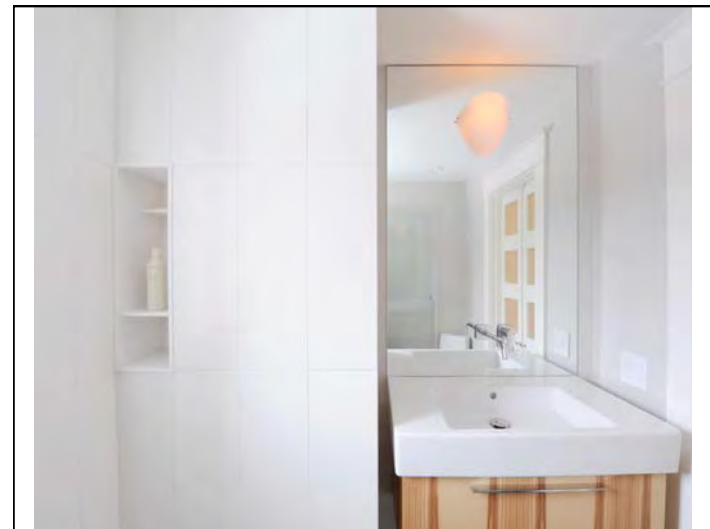
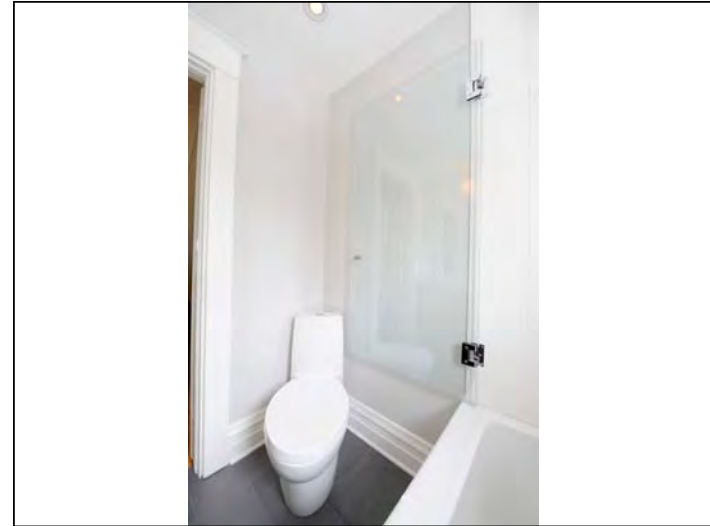
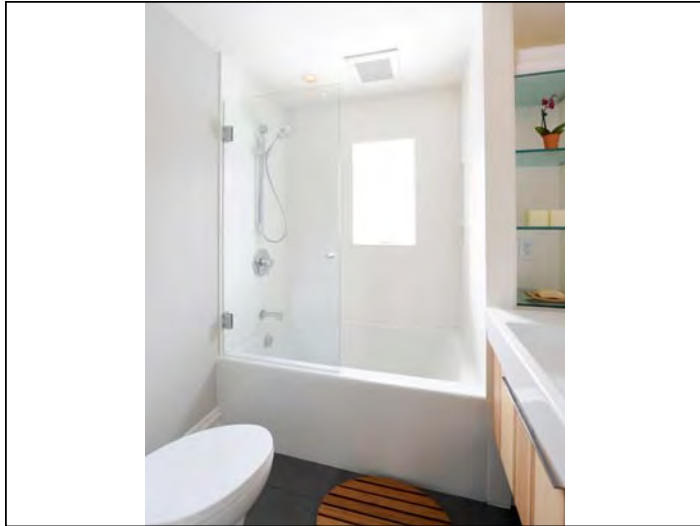




Goulburn House ■ BATH

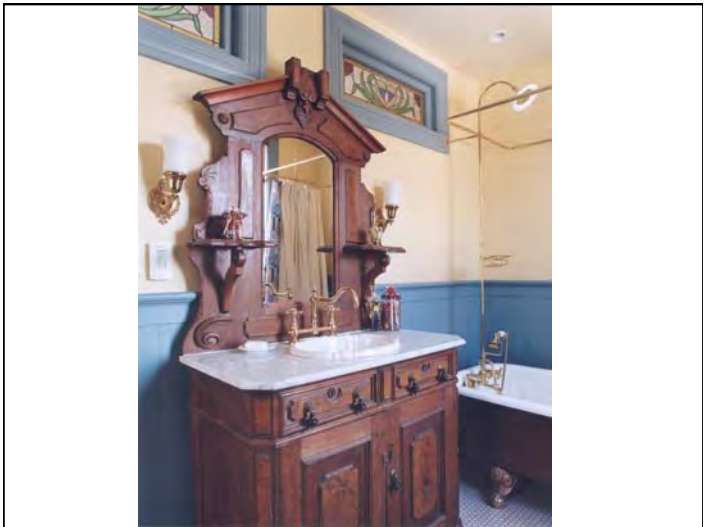
Living Small in a Large Way

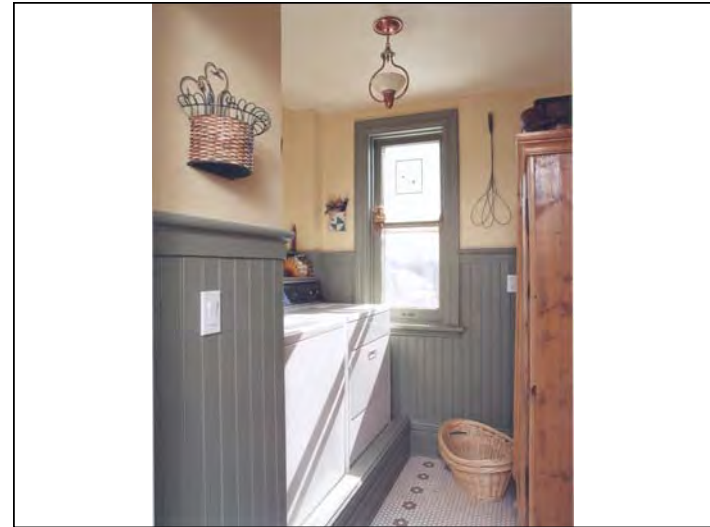




Hopewell House ■ BATH

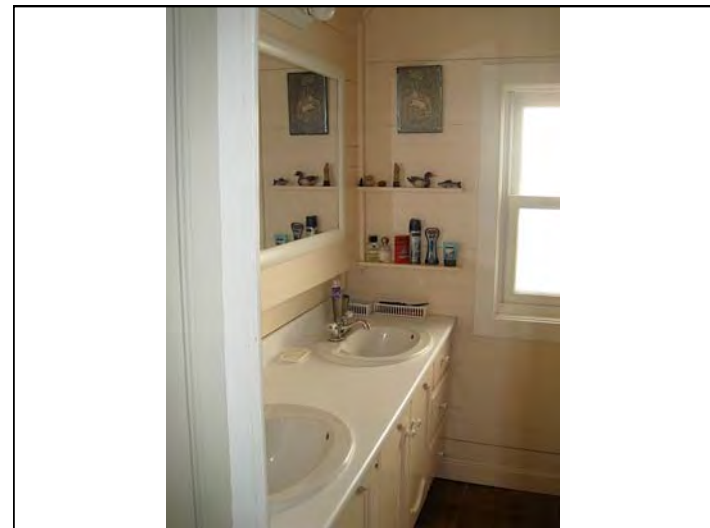
A High Victorian

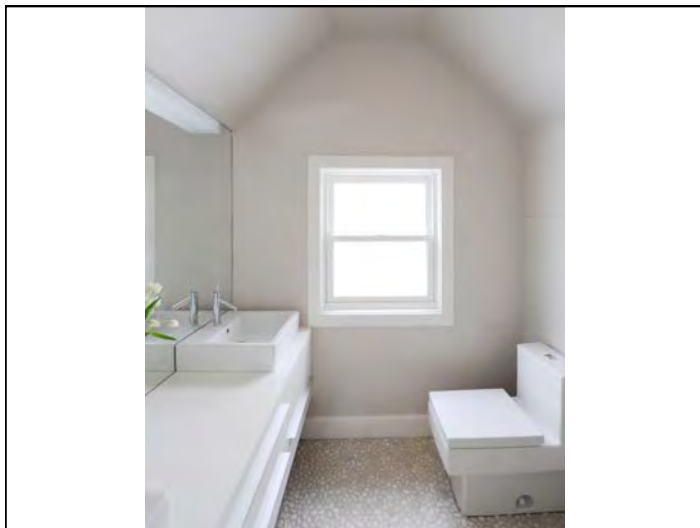


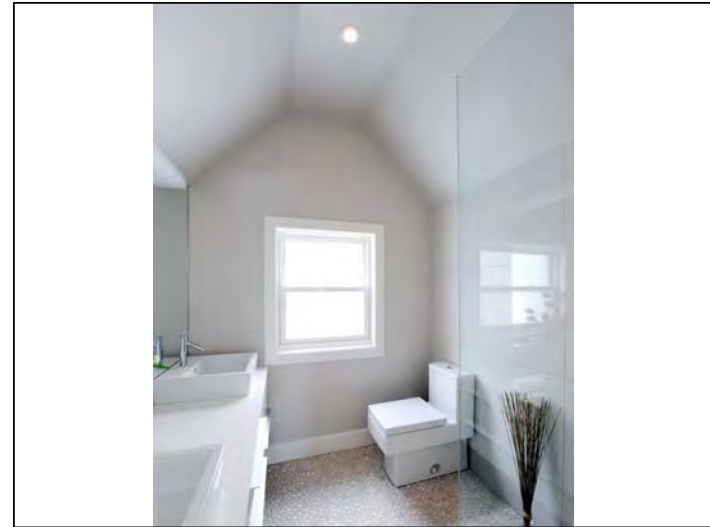
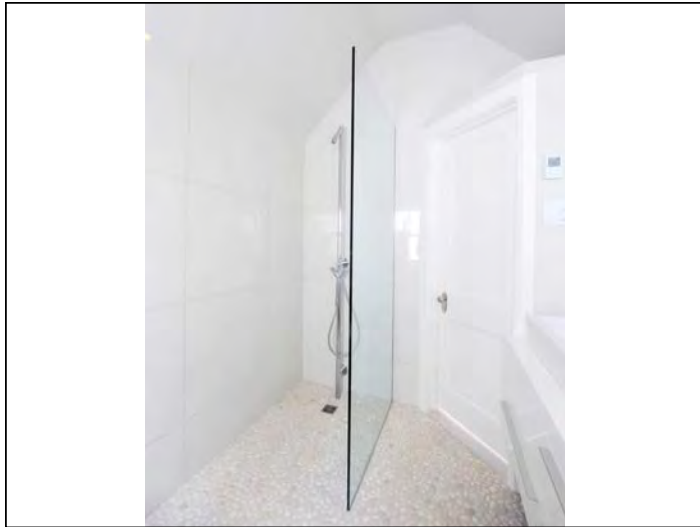


Mac Kay House ■ BATH

Just The Bare Necessities

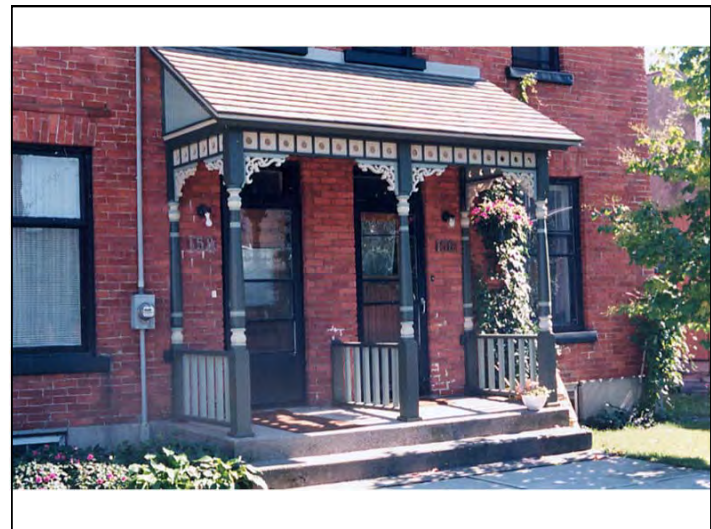








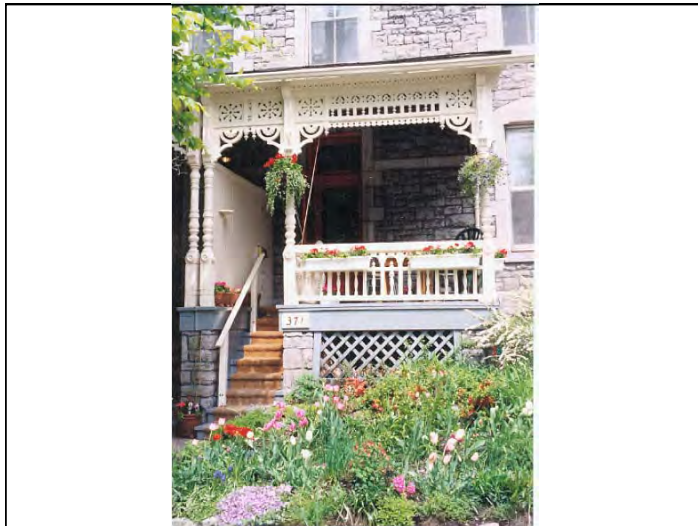


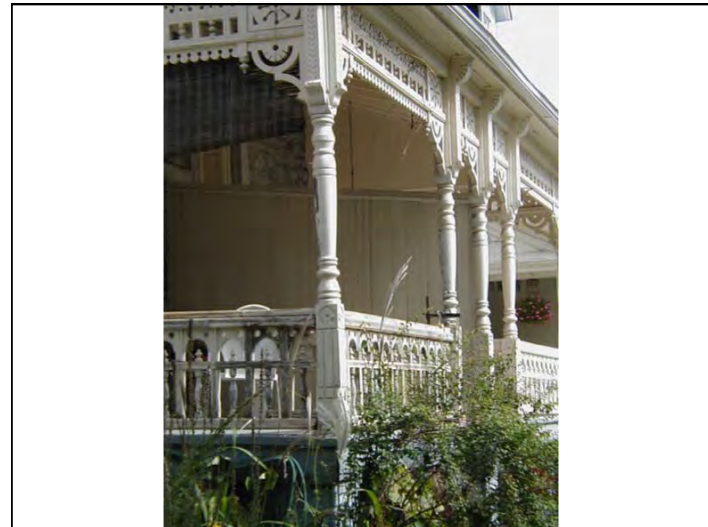
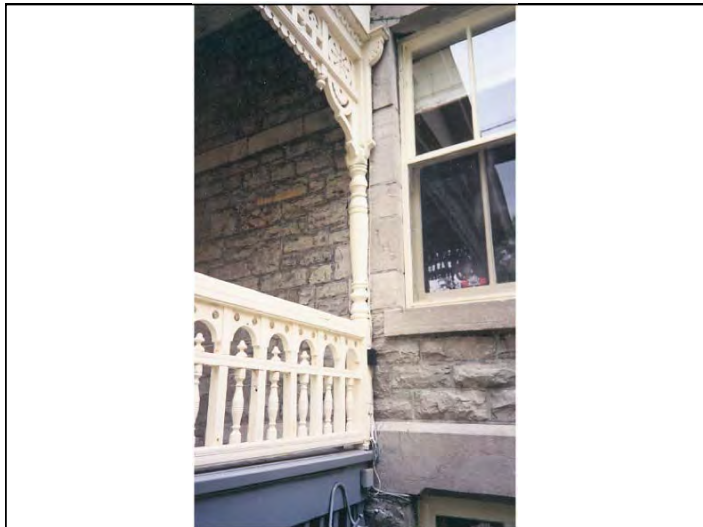


Philomene House ■ Porch

With frills upon it

1867





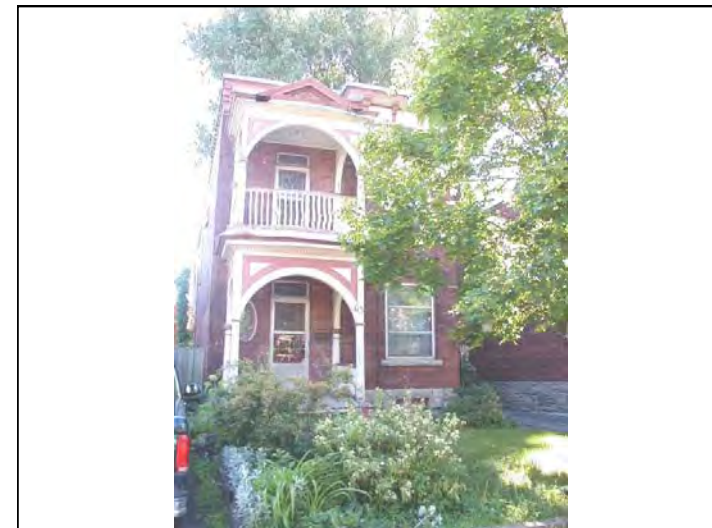


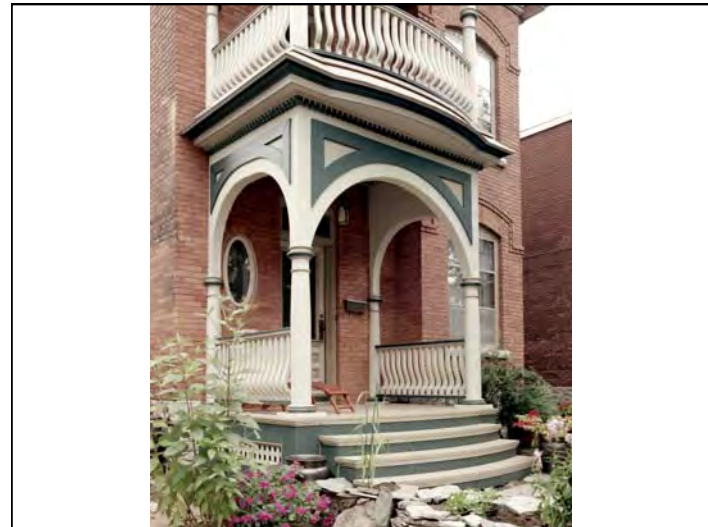
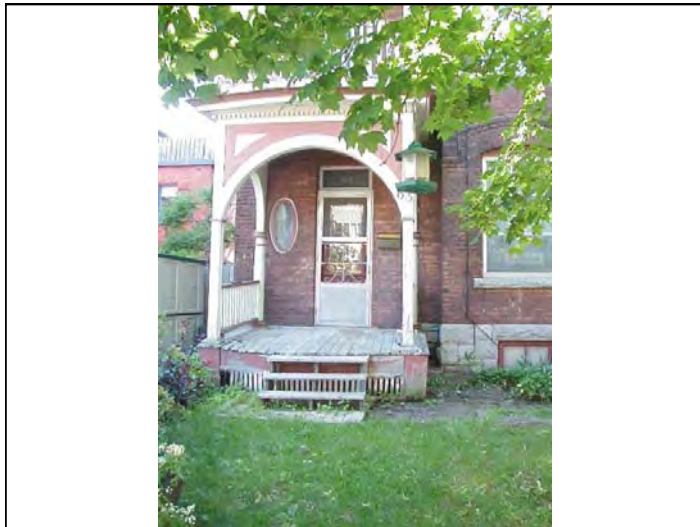
Doherty House ■ Porch

A Celebration of Curves

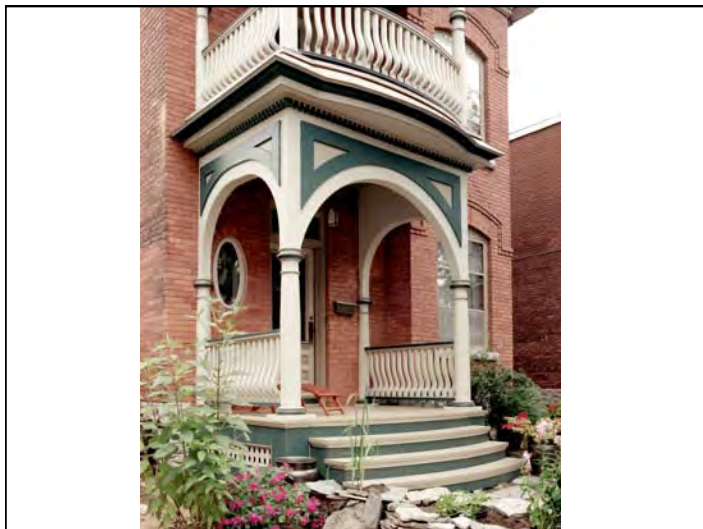
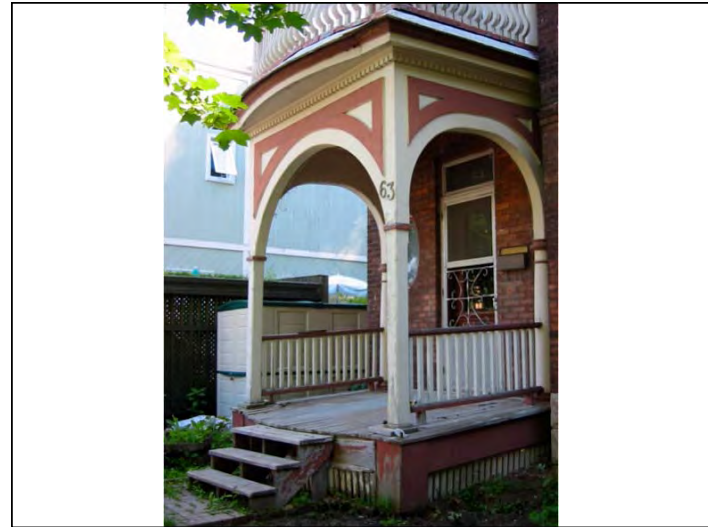


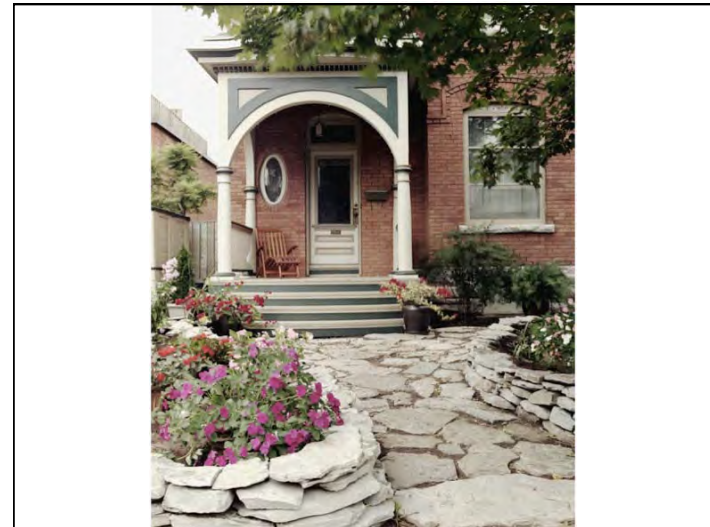
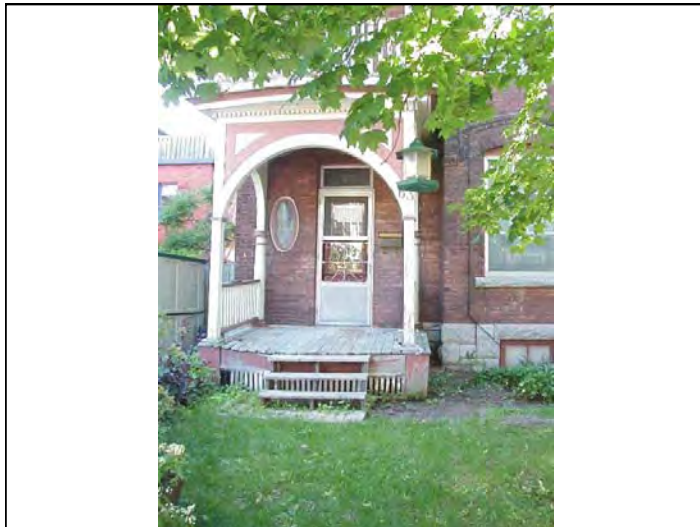
Broad Street Station closed 1918

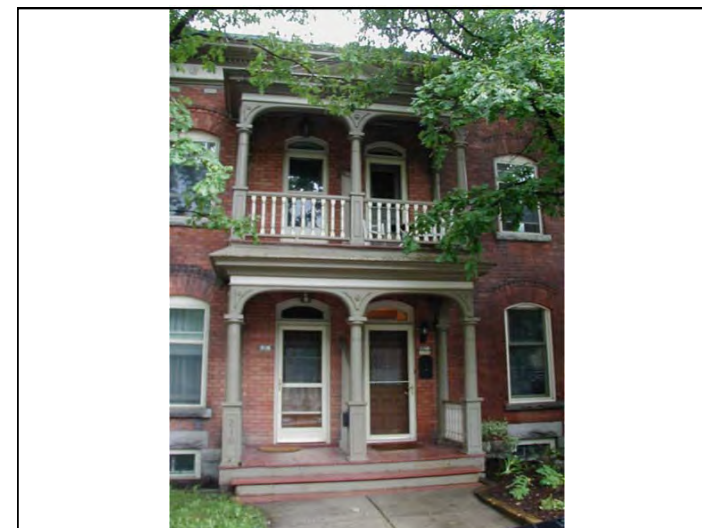




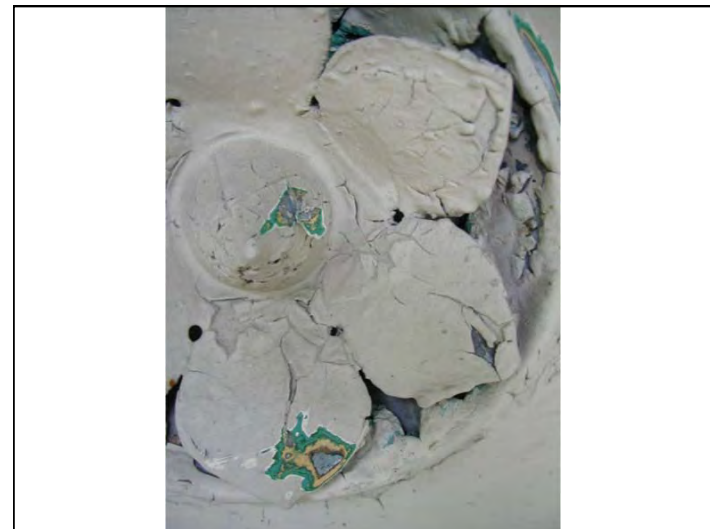


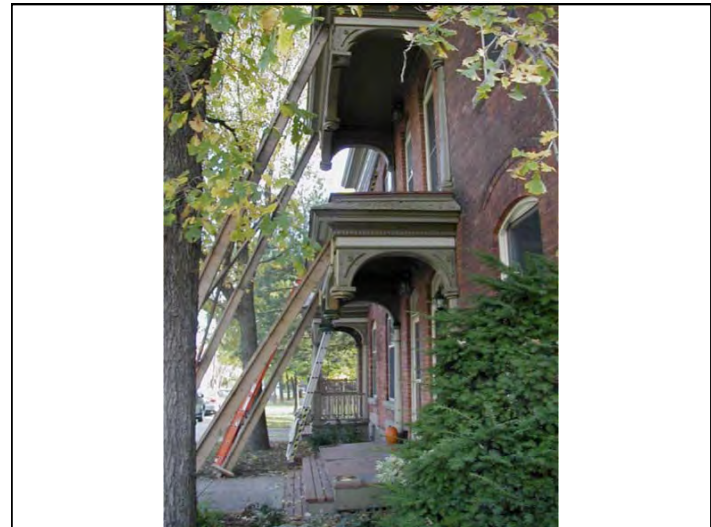


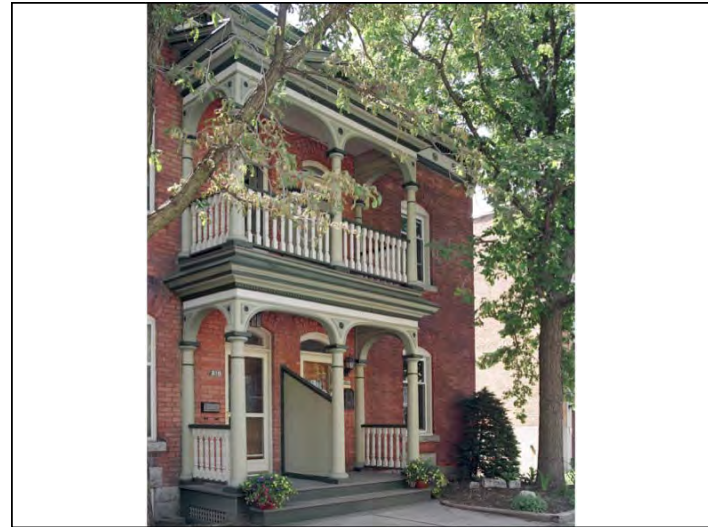




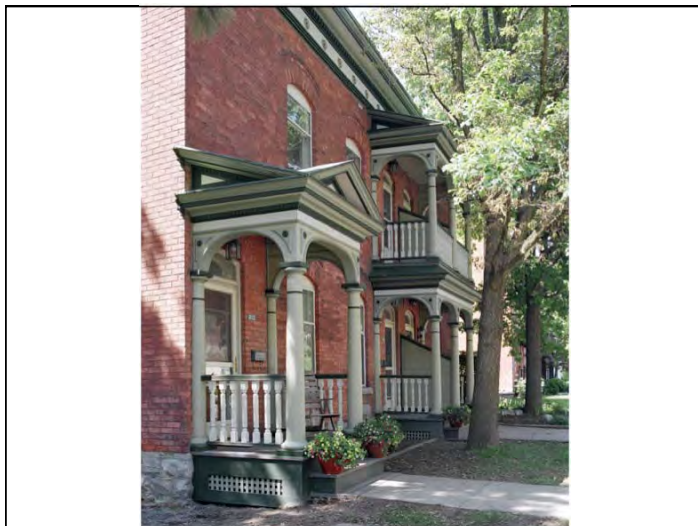












'Old idea' back in vogue – and wins award

A pair of old homes on Bolton Street show off restored porches that boost their value, and look fantastic, reports MARIA COOK.

As like them. On hot summer nights, people drink beer on them, likes accumulate on them. Who doesn't love a front porch?

A century-old house in the ByWard Market, with three restored porches, has won a City of Ottawa architectural conservation award.

It's a modest project in the grand scheme of things – other buildings receiving awards is a ceremony today include Rideau Hall.

But discovering great old houses is like "finding a buried treasure," says Paul Denys, the Ottawa designer and builder who renewed them. "A lot of people don't realize they have a diamond in the rough," he says. "These porches are one of a kind. They're not mass-produced."

The Victorian house at 208-10 Bolton St., which contains three units, was built about 1900. At that time, a wooden porch was the focus of a great deal of creative energy. Styles were exuberant and ornamental. The carpenter's heart was really in it. This is where he had a chance to show his craft and skill.

The Bolton Street porches feature columns, brackets, flower petals, arches, cornices and crowns. "It's meant to be a showpiece," says Stuart Lazaar, City of Ottawa co-ordinator of heritage planning.

"Porches are part of the first impression of a heritage building," he says. "The care with which a porch is retained and restored speaks to the maintenance and care of the building as a whole."

Take away the porch and what you often find is a relatively plain brick or wooden building. "If you lose the porch, you lose the house," says Mr. Denys.

In the past, porches and woodwork were an excuse to use colour. The Bolton Street porches highlight their rich details in shades of light and dark green, cream and gold.

A porch does many things. It creates a point of entry to a house and provides a threshold between public street and private life. Porches appeal on a gut level because they are tactile and in proportion with the human body. You can touch the handrails and columns, lean against the balustrade.

In the Queen Anne and Victorian periods, porches were understood as places where civic life happened, a delightful place to hang out. They were big enough for furniture. New porches are often too small, too narrow and the woodwork is mean and insubstantial.

"A porch is such a critical aspect of the heritage of a building," says Mr. Lazaar. "Unfortunately, if it's allowed to deteriorate too much, you have to take the whole nacker down."

Mr. Denys and the owners of the Bolton Street house did an unusually good job in fixing it up, he says. The project involved restoration of a balcony and adding up wooden porches. The front columns and bases, along with all the railings, were replaced with custom-turned components.

"He didn't just go to a hardware store and pick up any old column and insert it," says Mr. Lazaar. "He didn't chop the bottom off the return columns and encase it in wood. He took the pattern of the half columns remaining and used that as a template to create a full column."

Mr. Denys also succeeded on the second-floor balcony. Sometimes, rebuilt second-story porches don't compensate for a sloping floor, resulting in balustrades that lean out at an angle. "That's right as hell," says Mr. Lazaar.

A porch renewal with custom millwork can cost anywhere from \$5,000 to \$40,000, says Mr. Denys. "It's not as cheap as putting components from Home Depot, but these are the same materials and proportions."

The added value to a house is "more than double your money back," he says.

The City of Ottawa lends a hand by giving \$5,000 matching grants to heritage property owners for exterior restoration. Grants total \$200,000 a year.

New houses are once again being built with porches. It's part of an urban design movement to banish garages from the front and create some sense of street life.

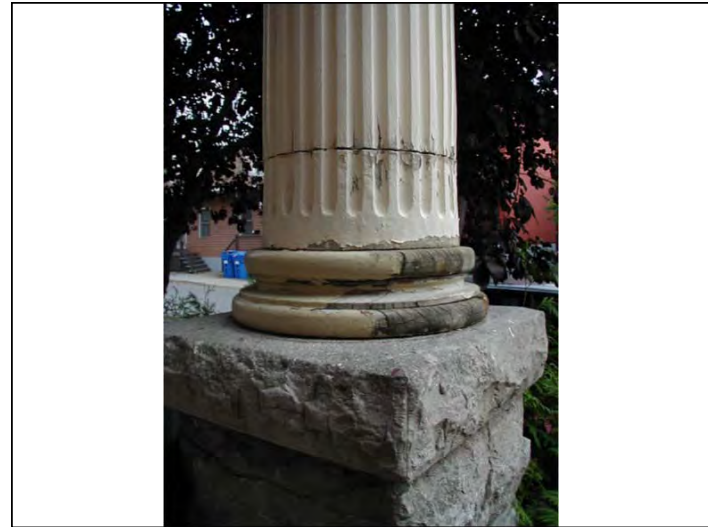
"People can mingle with neighbours, watch the kids, and keep an eye on the street for safety," says Mr. Lazaar. "The 'old idea' No. Old idea coming back."

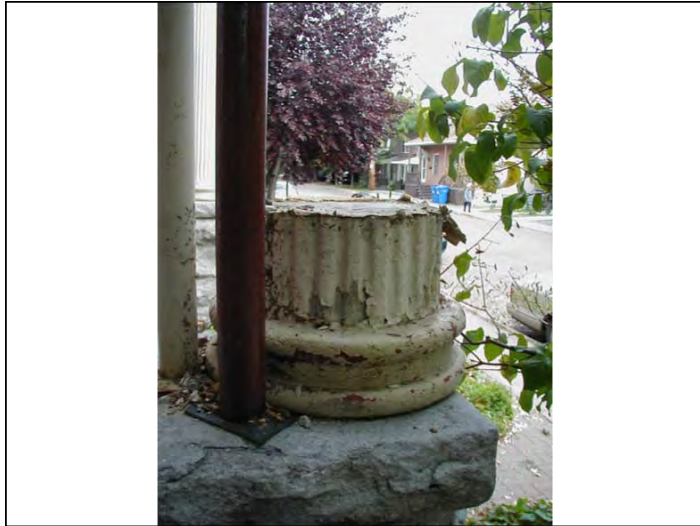
The Bolton Street porches feature columns, brackets, flower petals, arches, cornices and crowns, a project so excellently restored that it was a City of Ottawa architectural conservation award.

St. Andrew House ■ Porches

A Pillar of Community





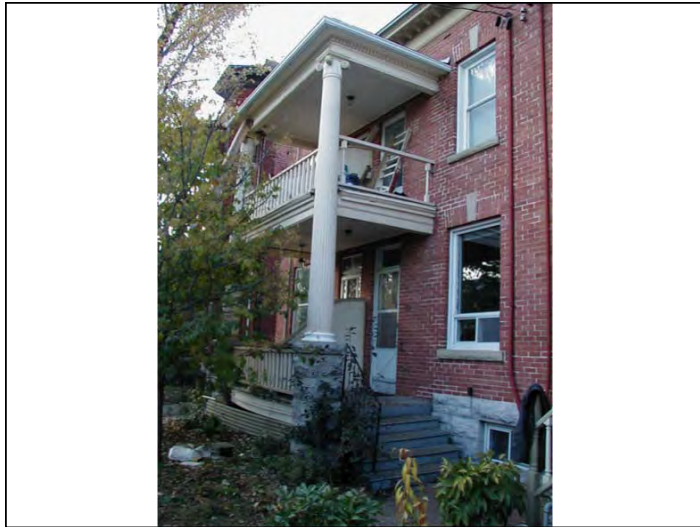






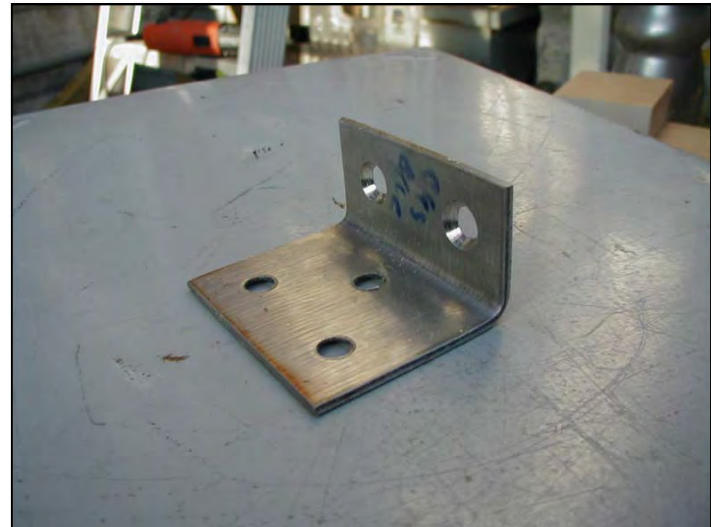




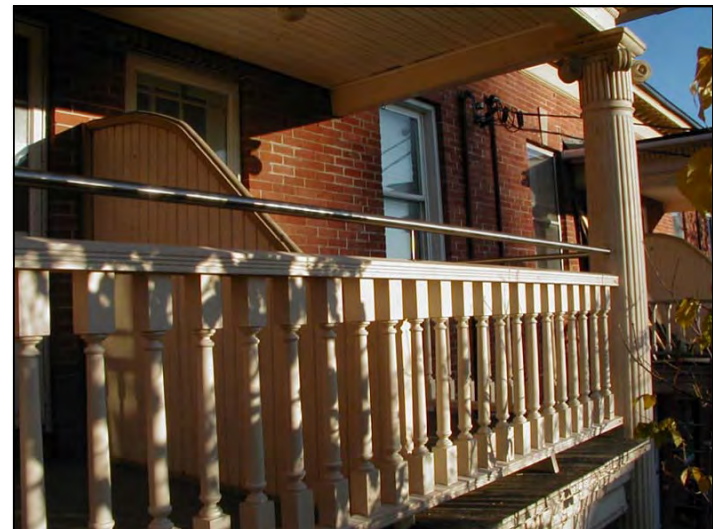


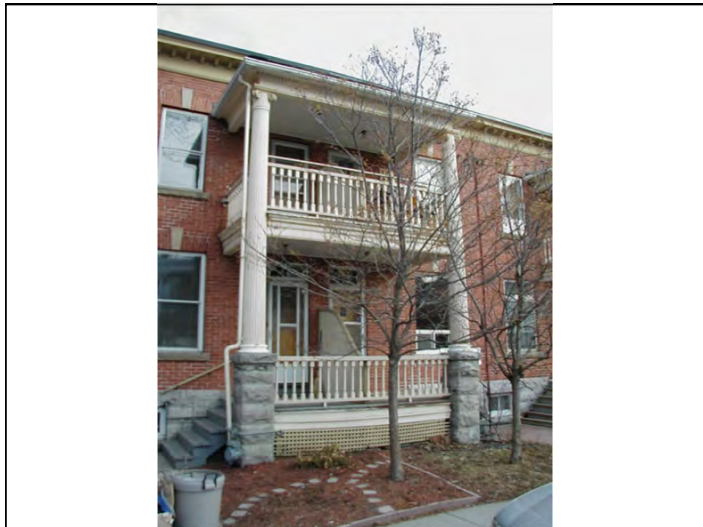
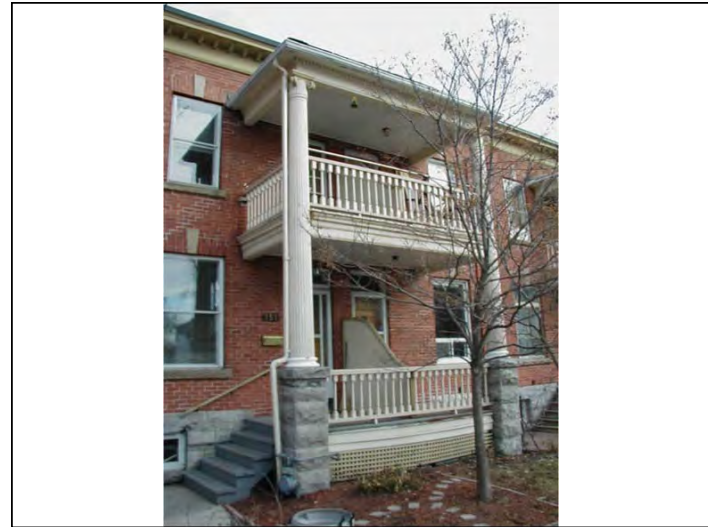


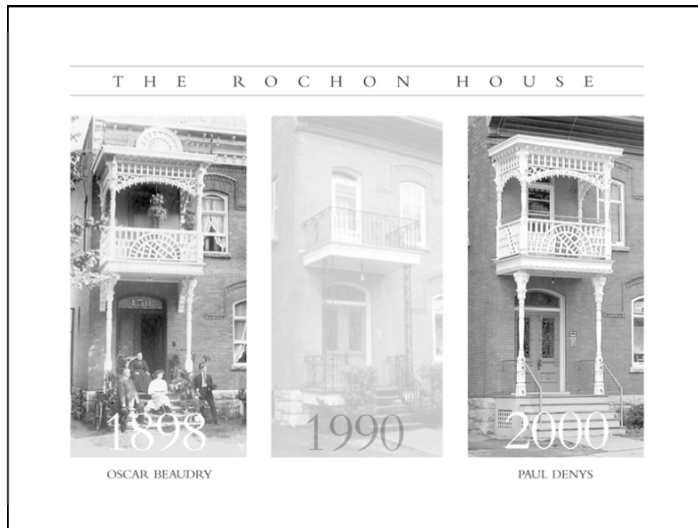




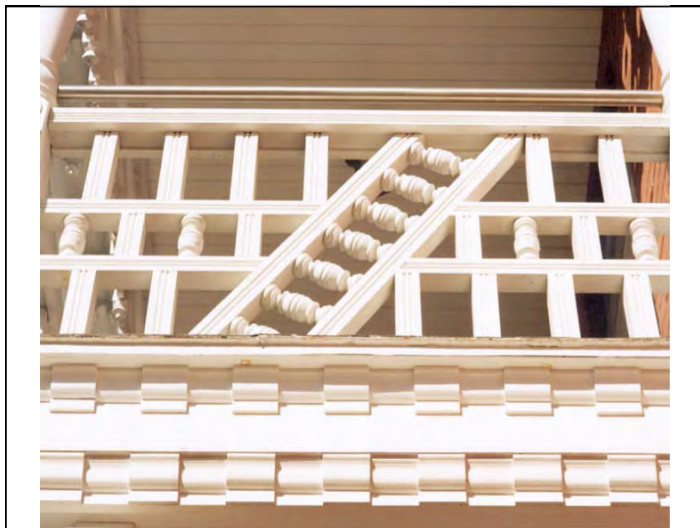


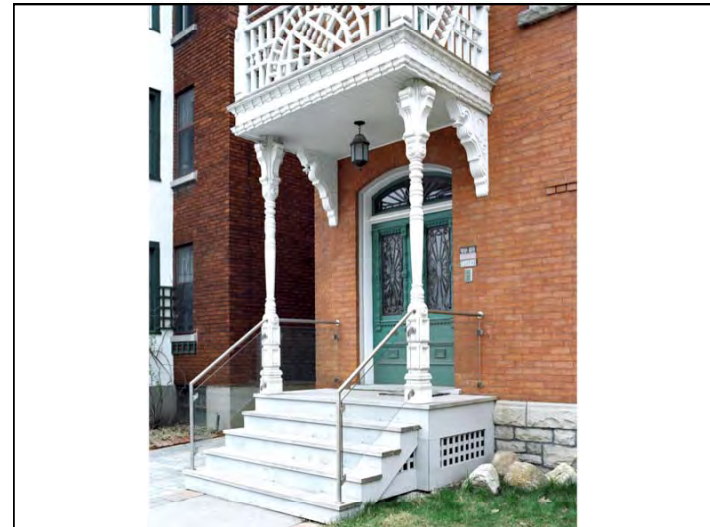


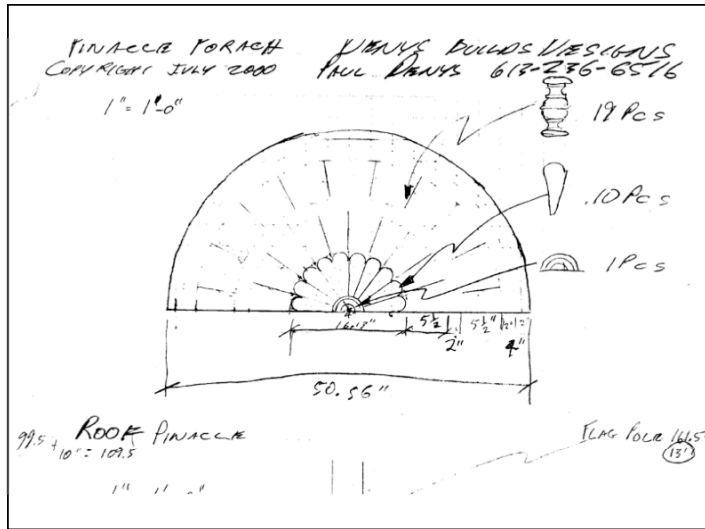




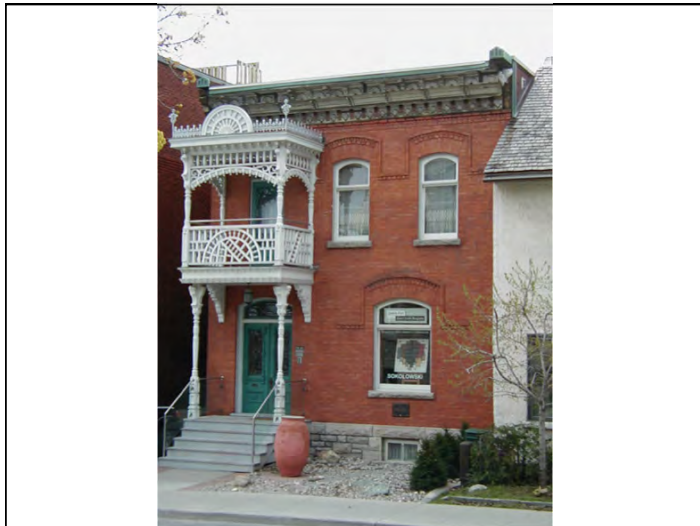




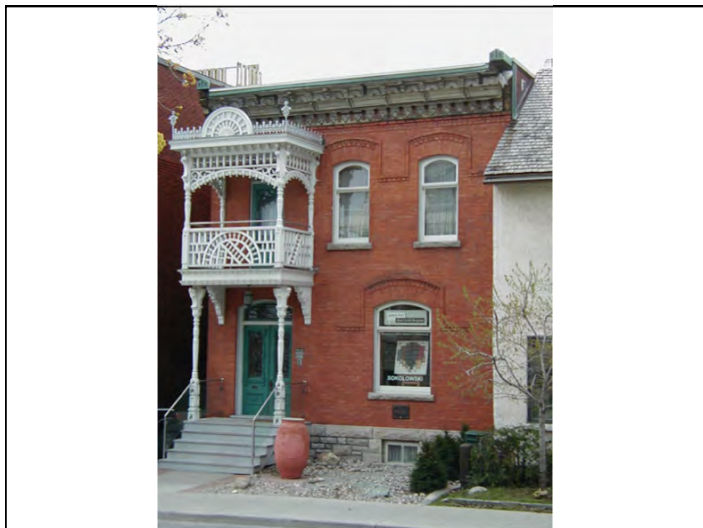


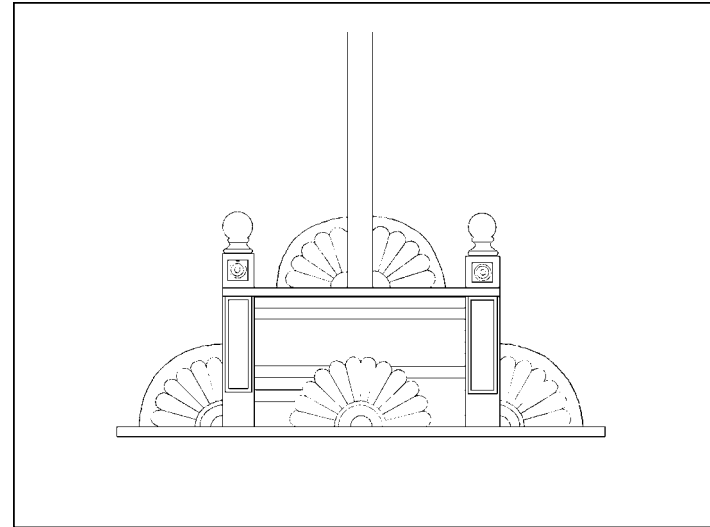


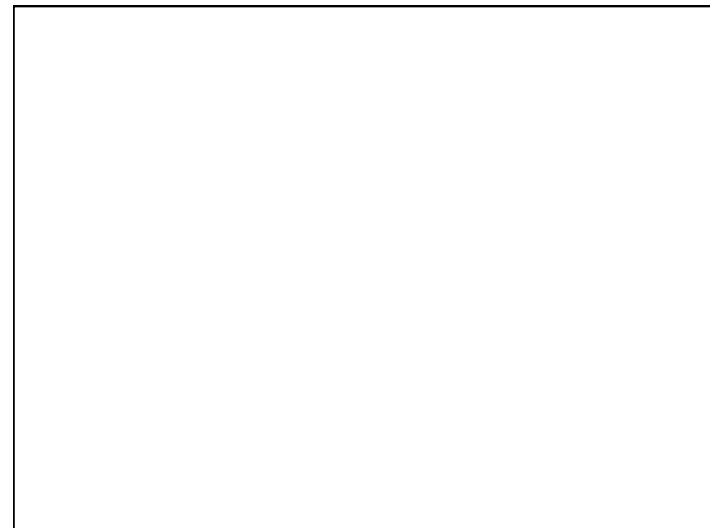


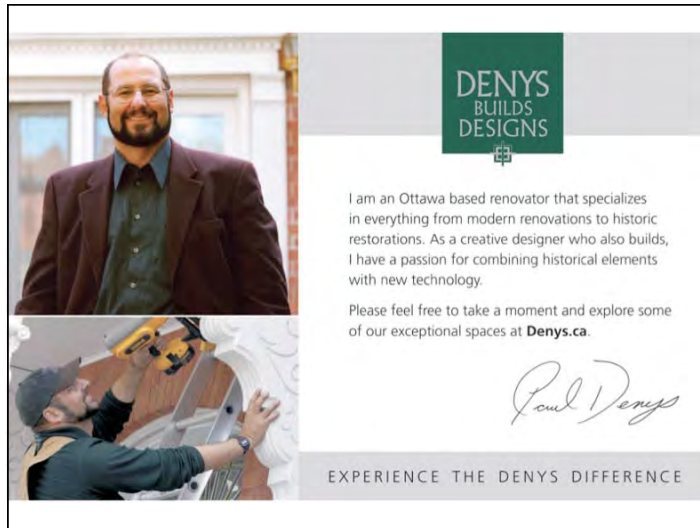












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Paul Denys

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