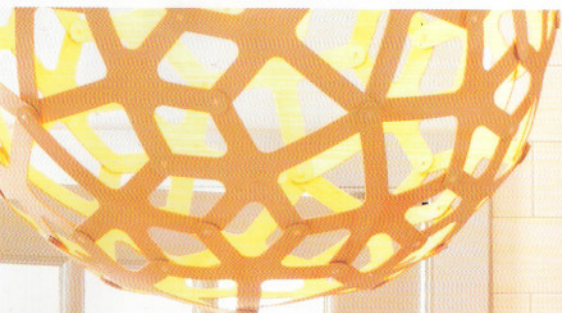


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Historic Preservation

A well-thought out plan and careful construction process preserves one of South Orleans's precious historic homes.

History Repeats

By Rachel Arroyo
Photography by Dan Cutrona

A sense of time and history surrounds the Mayo-Hammett house in South Orleans. The full Cape, most likely built in the 1830s, had weathered through many New England winters and was in a state of decay.

In 2004, Julie Humphreys and her husband Ivan fell in love with the property and bought it. "We loved how the light hit it and the sloping hill," Julie remembers. The Cape "had done its magic," as Julie says and so the couple from California hired local architect Sara Jane Porter to help them turn this property into a place where they could spend their retirement.

At first there was talk of demolishing the house entirely and starting anew because it was in such poor shape, but the appeal of the home's original design was undeniable. "Every time we came up with a plan for a new house it looked a lot like the old," recalls Julie.

Sara Jane Porter's plans introduced several inside layout changes, including a brand-new downstairs kitchen and family room and second-floor loft space, but the outside of the house would retain its basic profile. "It occurred to me early on that if I repeated the same size and profile of the older section in the addition that it would create a feeling of continuity," explains Sara.



Cabinetry and shelving, custom-made by Stello Construction, frame the playful blue range.

Historic Preservation



A slightly raised reading nook makes brilliant use of the floorplan in the second story hallway.

Adding visual interest to the clean, straightforward design is a “Coral Pendant” light—designed by David Trubridge and purchased at Design Within Reach—that hangs over the custom-built island while a chef-grade BlueStar cooking range painted a brilliant bright blue, also from KAM, makes a bold statement underneath a stainless steel pyramid oven hood.

Bedroom re-mastered

The other portion of the first floor that saw substantial layout changes was the master bedroom on the opposite side of the house. To create the new “master wing,” the “good morning” staircase, which bisected the two downstairs bedrooms, was removed. The result was gained privacy, since the upstairs could only be accessed through the front door on the opposite side of the house and extra, unimpeded space. And since the second bedroom was converted into a connecting office space, the master bedroom would now have its own entrance.

In keeping with the character of the old house, the exposed ceiling beams in the master bedroom were painstakingly restored and reinforced and the wainscoting was custom-built to look like the features that were formerly present.

