



A Bigger House

Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 2010

OPA designed additions to a two-story 1920's Dutch Colonial gambrel roof house in an established 'first ring' suburb. The client desired addition space for a growing family and private apartment for in-laws. The concept of a separate entrance and identity for the in-law dwelling emerged as an important design concept. Also, the idea of the house maintaining its original 'face' to the street emerged as an important design concept for the community, while increasing the volume to the maximum permitted by code.

Two new wings extend from the rear of the house. Then south wing contains the in-law 'townhouse', which features three levels of living space. The in-law suite is fully accessible/ adaptable. The elevator connects directly to the new children's playroom in the basement. The north wing contains an expanded kitchen, bedroom and master suite. The two wings combine to form a new east façade which has become the new face of the house, expressing the family's individual image of "our house", while the west façade to the public street shows modest change.

The project is designed in consultation with an energy rater; it features super-insulation, three climate control zones and is planned to readily accept photovoltaic and solar thermal energy systems. Narrow side yards are developed as rain gardens to mitigate the flow of water between properties, which is common among the houses on this gently sloping site.

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