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the owners were spared the complaints, "I see you've put a new addition on your house," which immediately says that the addition doesn't fit.

The owners of the Birmingham house fell in love with its domestic charm and simplicity, but they needed more room. They enlisted Birmingham architect Victor Soroki to design an addition that almost doubled the living space. The house has an east-west orientation with additions added to each end. A flat roof, one-story addition containing a kitchen and laundry room was put on the east end of the house. This low-profile approach made the addition compatible with the neighborhood.

The west side of the house has a gable end that overlooks a natural sloping site. The other addition was added to the back of the house and repeats the same gable motif as the original without obstructing it. This addition includes the master bedroom. The sloping grade allowed for a garage beneath the addition, which can be entered on the side.

Compatibility

Because the house is designated as a historic structure, great care was taken to make the additions compatible. Particular attention was given to the decorative wood brackets in the gable of the primary structure that was duplicated for the gable of the west side addition. These additions can be viewed as kindred spirits on the outside that provide all the modern amenities on the inside.

The Bloomfield Village house is a gracious two-story brick Georgian-style colonial. It presented a problem to the new owners who needed additional space.

The matter was resolved by adding 1,100 square feet to the original 3,100. While expanding the space on the interior, the exterior of the house has an added profile. The additions were built by Herbert Conlan, a custom home builder, and designed by Gerald Carter of Custom Home Designs. Since the builder has developed new construction that successfully makes it a visual extension of the original structure.

This house has a north-south axis with the central entrance facing east. The additions were placed on the south and west sides of the house. As with some older houses, the bedrooms were too small. A four-foot brick wall extension was placed on the south end of the second floor to expand the bedroom there.

Brick quoining, which is a corner detail, is repeated in the addition, making it compatible with the original detail on the house. A master bedroom was added to the south end of the house, which also repeats the brick quoining on the exterior corners. The shallow hip roof over the master bedroom visually extends the roof of the living room when viewed from the east.

A conservatory, with windows on three sides, was added to a family room on the west side, or back, of the house. The windows open out onto the yard, taking advantage of the view and western exposure. The gable end of the conservatory repeats the gable over the den with an added bay window, and part of the original bedroom or enlarged master. When viewed from the west side, it's almost impossible to tell where the original house ends and the two added wings begin.



Living space boosted: This Bloomfield Village house, a two-story brick Georgian-style colonial, received an addition of 1,100 square feet to the original 3,100. The central entrance faces east (top). The additions were placed on the south and west sides of the house (bottom). A four-foot brick wall extension was placed on the south end of the second floor to expand the bedroom there. A master bedroom was added to the south end of the house, and a conservatory, with windows on three sides, was added to a family room on the west side, or back, of the house.

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