

DESIGN CONSTRUCTION CONCEPTS COMPLETELY RENOVATES 100-YEAR-OLD HOME, SOME PARTS MORE THAN ONCE

Mollie Shutt needed more room for her growing family. Her former two-bedroom home near Fullerton and Racine in Chicago just wasn't big enough anymore.

It wasn't a big move, mind you, at least not in terms of distance. In fact, she and her family only moved one house down the street. But what a house it was.

Though no one knows exactly how old the 6,000 square foot, six-bedroom three-story is *at least* 100 years old. Architecturally, it's a cross between Victorian and Farm House in terms of styling.

And very much in need of renovation – a project started well before the Shutts purchased the home.

The former owners – two college professors – hired Northbrook-based Design Construction Concepts, Ltd. in July 1999, to put an addition on the home and remodel the rest of the existing structure. D+CC is a full service design/build firm that specializes in high-end renovation and remodeling projects.

"We were in the middle of the job, doing the rough-in for all the mechanicals, when they decided to move," said Andrew Poticha, partner with Michael Menn, AIA, in D+CC.

Although the intent was to leave the area to return to the East Coast, the former owners ultimately decided they weren't going to move, but still wanted to sell the home.

"Because the remodeling they were doing was strictly for them and not with resale in mind, their real estate agent suggested they make some additional changes which we also did," Poticha said.

The new owners – Mollie and Patrick Shutt – then purchased the home in the summer of 2000. They had their own set of requirements and requested D+CC stay on to finish the job – a project that ultimately took another 11 months to complete. The Shutts moved into their "new" home this past June.

"Over time, I think we're changed everything in that house – some parts more than once," Poticha said.

Multiple owners aside, the age of the home alone created numerous challenges for D+CC.

"For example, the basement had a dirt floor and the columns that held up the house were actually tree trunks. You don't get any more basic than that," said Poticha.

Although Mollie had never renovated a home before, she said the process – though time consuming – was painless. Not only would she hire D+CC again, she's already recommended the firm to some of her friends.

"The quality of their work is excellent and they're very thorough," said Mollie.

As for D+CC, Poticha says this particular project speaks volumes about their capabilities.

"It shows we're capable of seeing through a complicated and detailed project both in terms of logistics and scope.

"It also shows how we're able to manage client expectations – even for two different clients on the same project," concluded Poticha.

For more information about Design Construction Concepts, Ltd., phone the firm's corporate headquarters in Northbrook at (847)498-1676. Additional information is also available on the Internet at www.DCC-LTD.com.

