

Program Summary:

New residential construction with an old soul.

Program Statement:

The clients are Chicagoland natives with close ties to New Orleans; they want to live in New Orleans, but established businesses and family keep them in Naperville, Illinois. They are New Orleans Saints season ticket holders and alumna of Tulane University. Plans for their permanent residence revolved around a home that would grow and evolve with them and their aging parents. One of the homeowners runs her business as a Board-Certified Behavioral Analyst, primarily out of the residence, meaning her office spaces need to meet specific criteria. The other homeowner is a talented professional mechanic and enjoys rehabilitating classic cars when he isn't working alongside his wife with their clients. Space for family, pets, entertaining, and home office accommodations were also a must, with the flexibility to serve both the homeowners, as well as function as additional living space when aging parents join the household in the future.

The design solution is an Italianate Raised Center Hall cottage, designed to appear as though additions have been added over the years. This strategy also breaks down the scale of the house as a lot of program needs be balanced within this volume. The large garage is set back and styled after a New England traditional "connecting barn" vernacular. These two volumes are connected by a hyphen. The principles of symmetry and wayfinding present thematically throughout the home and property, to anchor the space and give it a sense of place.

R-100.01

Building Area: (sf)
7,110

Cost per Square Foot:
\$197

Construction Cost
\$1,400,000

Date of Completion:
June 2025

R-100.02

NEW ORLEANS IN NAPERVILLE:

The house is sited on a deep suburban lot in unincorporated area of Naperville IL, where it replaced a ranch home from the late 1950's.

The neighborhood is rapidly evolving, with most of the ranch homes being replaced with newer construction, of an eclectic array of styles and scales.

This particular site sits within that context, with an older ranch home to it's north, a new one story house to it's left, a 1 ½ story house directly across the street, a new McMansion under construction across the street, with much larger 2 ½ story homes on the adjacent street that have their backyards backing up to this property.

The style of this house and garage and building siting were strategically selected to fit the context with the older housing stock in the neighborhood and not crowd or overwhelm the large site.

The house itself looks like an Italianate Raised Center Hall cottage, a common New Orleans vernacular and style. In New Orleans, these houses are raised up for ventilation and in case of flooding. The "basement" level, used for outdoor storage in New Orleans, is at grade, with the main living space on the story above. At this house, we have a full interior basement below the living area, and we manipulated the grade of the site for the raised entry at the front.





R-100.03

THE FOUR SEASONS:

In this true four-seasons setting, each space and opening was designed and placed with sun, wind, solar gain, natural daylighting, and outdoor views in mind. The specialized garage requirements led to a large, nearly equally-sized volume, placed offset from the main house. This allows the house and the garage to each gain as much solar heat as possible in the winter and provides ample opportunity for open window ventilation in the spring and fall. A solar panel array is tucked discreetly along the garage rooftop, oriented for optimal energy collection. The back patio on the western façade either gains heat or catches wind to optimize use for much of the year. The large porch has shutters to control the eastern morning light and is a great location for people watching and morning coffee. The primary livable spaces are all oriented along the southern façade, while the only spaces that have only northern light are secondary bath, closet, or stair spaces



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



R-100.04

FIRST OF TWO SYMMETRIES:

View of symmetrical entrances and circulation paths

Center Hall conventions guided the layout of the house, with symmetry ruling initially with the entry hall itself, then taking the form of secondary symmetry systems. The spaces unfurl, beginning with formal rooms at the front of the home and give way to modern open plan living areas for free movement and socialization.

From the front entrance onward, users are channeled between spaces, layering in a hierarchical pattern that begins with more private, formal rooms. The Dining room and Study mirror each other with cased openings and fenestration, and complementary "full-dip" color treatment.



PRIMARY SYMMETRY



Transom windows, also a key tenet in historic Center halls, dissolve the separations of space at a higher level, allowing for sunlight to transverse between rooms. The homeowner was fortunate to salvage stained-glass windows from her beloved grandmother's home, providing a paired balance in the transoms of the front rooms when installed anew.

R-100.05

DINING ROOM:

Respecting the spatial hierarchies established in the center hall typology, the Dining room and Study are separated from the main hallway with cased openings and pocket doors. This division between public and formal space is delineated with physical walls, while more communal and relaxed spaces, such as the Kitchen and Living room, become more welcoming liminal spaces, allowing the occupants the informal freedom of ambulation. The Dining room maintains decorum, while also gesturing to the Kitchen with a more modest opening through the butler's pantry.



R-100.06

KITCHEN & CENTERHALL:

The center hall philosophy takes a modern turn when entering the Kitchen. After passage through the main foyer and formal front parlor rooms. The rear spaces of the first floor adopt a volumetrically unobstructed layout, while still adhering to the building type's principles of symmetry.

The formal center hall gives way to responsive gathering spaces, as circulation that was once constricted opens to the Kitchen and Living areas, as well as to the main stairs, and open circulation towards the mudroom and primary suite wings.





R-100.07

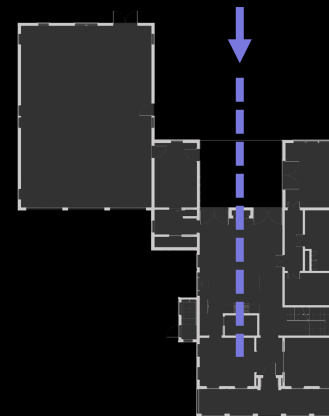
SECOND OF TWO SYMMETRIES:

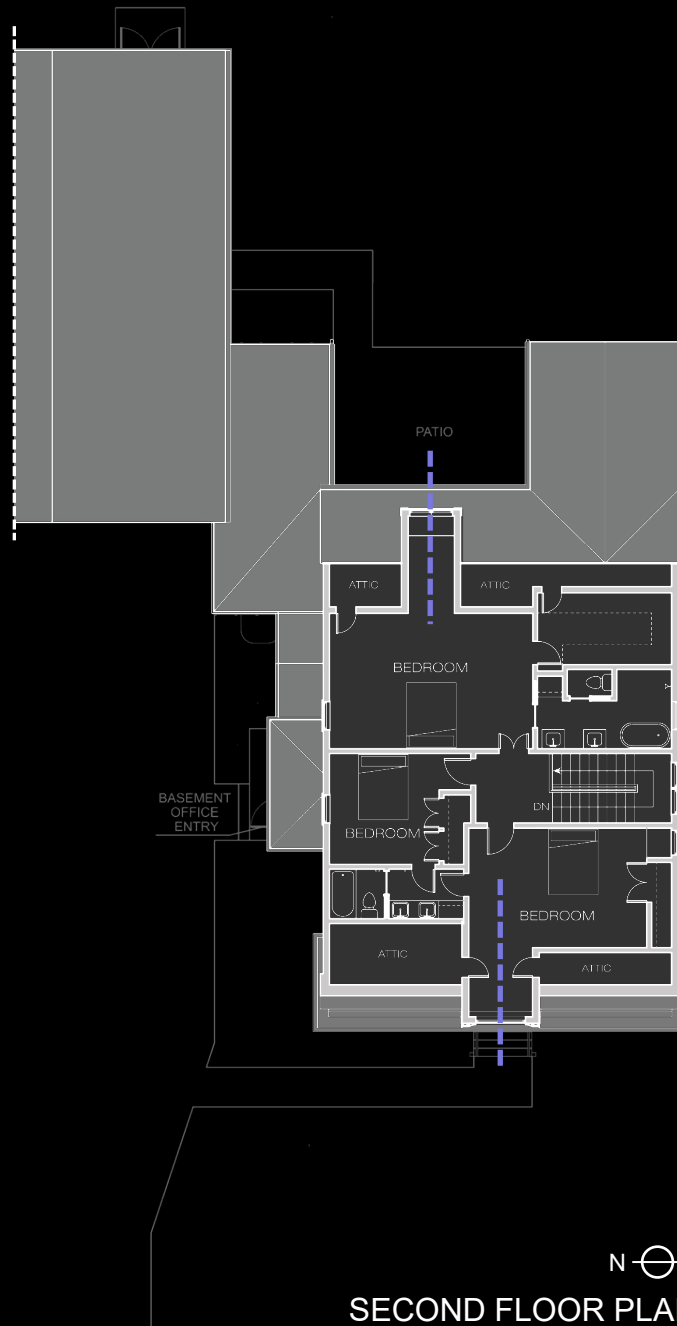
Deeper into the home, the secondary symmetry becomes apparent within the gathering spaces and casual sitting areas.

Now centered upon the hearth, as opposed to the hall, the Kitchen, Living room and Patio spread out to embrace the range, fireplace and chimney wall. This secondary symmetry allows the occupant to feel rooted within the comfortably-structured social spaces. Organized along this secondary axis, the Kitchen and Living area are able to communicate with one another and extend the home's living functions outdoors to the Patio.



SECONDARY SYMMETRY





R-100.08

SECOND FLOOR:

Traveling up the main stair, the second floor is organized to fit into the $\frac{1}{2}$ story volume of the vernacular of the side gabled roof and dormers of the traditional raised center hall cottage.

While the programming of the second floor volumes is evenly-spaced to either side of the stairwell, each side is then organized in relation to their respective dormer windows and symmetries. One window is centered above the front entry, with the other window aligning with the axis of the floor below.

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

R-100.09

PRIMARY SUITE:

This home contains two different primary suites. Both with ensuite baths, ample closets, storage and sleeping space, the additional primary is outfitted with future development without additional construction in mind. As the homeowner's parents advance in age, they wanted the opportunity to bring them into their home for multi-generational living.

This manifested in the design of two primary suites on different floors, allowing the ability to provide private living spaces, while maintaining connection in shared family spaces. The parental primary suite specifically takes into account accessibility features, providing a luxurious shower which also happens to function as a roll-in, and additional blocking accounted for in the walls for the installation of grab bars if needed in the future.

Accessed via the first floor, this suite and the rest of the first floor have been designed with spaces that are or can be easily modified for use to age in place by the client's parents.



R-100.10

SECONDARY SUITE BATH:

Interiors revolved around art collected from New Orleans, including, the large piece above the range hood in the kitchen, and a commissioned piece mounted above the soaking tub. The toile wallpaper in the water closet is a New Orleans theme.



R-100.11

HOW TO HAVE A 6-CAR GARAGE NOT OVERWHELM A HOUSE:

One key programmatic requirement for the project was a professionally-equipped garage with the ability to accommodate six vehicles and a lift for mechanical work. The clients have a shared love of cars, including the red corvette inherited from her aunt.

The strategy was to set the garage as far back on the deep lot as we could so that it wouldn't overwhelm the house. The driveway, which provides additional ample parking, gets full southern sun and the black asphalt was specifically chosen to melt snow and ice in the winter.

It's designed to look like a New England barn with carriage house detailing. Given the Chicago weather, it needed to be connected to the house via an interior corridor, which is handled by the interstitial volume of the shuttered hyphen structure.

The setback also allows for a dedicated side entrance to the owner's in-home office space. The basement is currently unfinished, but when complete this side entrance will allow clients to come into a downstairs classroom space that will be separate from the owner's primary stair entrance to the basement.

The rest of the basement is to include a rec room, a wine room, and a gym once built out.





R-100.12

THE HYPHEN:

To connect the two disparate volumes of house and garage, the mudroom/laundry/powder room areas program the hyphen between the two.

Clad in louvered shutters, the hyphen is suggestive of a porch enclosed over time.

As the primary gateway to the house from the both the garage and rear yard, this space sees a high volume of daily traffic.

The homeowners are dog owners who frequently host additional foster dogs in their home. The mudroom hosts storage for dog accoutrements, has a dog wash shower, space for dog kennels, and includes a pocketing dutch dog door that can be closed to keep muddy dogs in the mudroom until their paws are cleaned up.

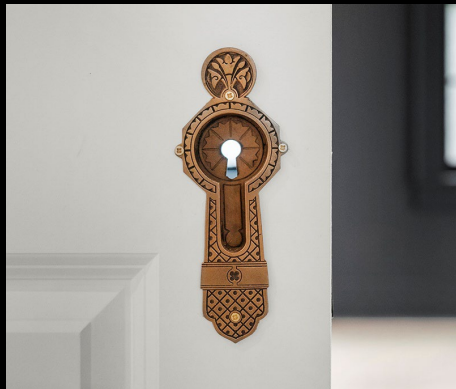
Reflecting the indoor-outdoor connection, black and white finishes are punctuated with jungle green cabinetry and built-ins.

The hyphen reads as a shuttered porch, part of the whole, while also contributing to the New Orleans architectural language of the building. From the front elevation, it blends in. At the back, it stands out and completes the secondary symmetry of the patio, framing it with the parental primary suite wing.



HYPHEN DIAGRAM





R-100.13

NEW ORLEANS DETAILING:

It was extremely important to the clients to get the detailing right on this house.

Unique and salvaged architectural elements incorporated into the house were all custom chosen, predicated on highlighting their distinctive character. Antique cast iron newel posts, ornamental porch rail, plaster ceiling medallions, door hardware, exterior lanterns, and custom operable shutters were selected in New Orleans by the architect, who has expertise working on New Orleans historic building stock.

Other details such as the interior trim and door and cabinet hardware were all selected for appropriateness to the style of the house.

During the course of preparing the site, a few existing Maples trees had to be cut down. They were salvaged for use in the house and are used in the primary bedroom cathedral ceiling and the powder room vanity, with plans for future furniture and other custom millwork in the future basement buildout.