

## Heard Residence Renovation Perrysburg, Ohio

### Program

Update the residential amenities such as the bathrooms, bedrooms, kitchen, exercise room, family spaces, artist studio, and exterior connections. The Owners are a progressive and vibrant British couple, an alternative energy executive and an accomplished artist, with two grown boys and busy schedules. Of top priority in the Master Plan were the comfort elements, such as the bathrooms and bedrooms, and the art element, the studio space. The first phase is complete, including the second floor Bedrooms, Bath, and Master Bedroom Suite and third floor Artist Studio.

### Brief

Originally built in 1875 as a wedding gift from a father to his son, this house, within the Historic District, is a significant example of Victorian 1870-1888 era architecture. At the time, the house was considered leading edge, with the highest Victorian aesthetic featuring tall ceilings, large windows, handsome woodwork, and all of the best luxuries: gas lighting, speaking tubes, indoor plumbing, and modern heating.

While the outside was well maintained, poor floor plan circulation and awkward additions and interior renovations that had little dialogue with the existing building led the current Owners to the decision to renovate. There was a strong desire to improve the flow and spatial quality throughout the house, while respectfully modernizing the interiors and the relationship to the site.

### Solution

The design of the Master Plan is influenced by the elegance and proportion of the tall Victorian windows, employing soft light in a layered progression of pure interior spaces renewed as a canvas for artwork and a backdrop for family life. An interior transformation was implemented by removing extraneous built-ins and rebooting the original Victorian spaces. The cohesive design updates the original spaces and reconfigures the additions with a modern expression of comfort and flow for the interior and exterior connections. Historical Victorian detailing and proportion informed the quality of preserved and new materials. Walls of full-height seamless Corian solid surface with functional recesses, translucent glass panels and pocket doors provide a floor to ceiling canvas for premier bath fixtures, fittings, supplies, and artwork. Detailing of original woodwork molding and plaster walls mesh in a soft white enclosure while the floors were intentionally leveled with new frosty oak boards and heated Italian porcelain tile that provides a smooth transition between the spaces.

The multi-dimensional sculptures by Owner Sandra Jane Heard feature prominently on the white walls. Both the architecture and the art share an expression of metaphoric and material dualities; in the architecture through the coexistence of the meticulously restored plaster and woodwork profiles, complementing and contrasting the new finishes of velour glass doors and panels and full height monolithic solid surface walls.

Preference for a minimalist aesthetic for furnishings, fittings, details and the spaces of a domestic environment pairs well with the design approach for creating a serene and invigorating home, a place for rest, creativity and enjoyment. The dynamic of creative minds and personalities thrives amidst the artwork that symbolizes it.

