



445 Page Avenue

BY BOB AND LIZ CARROLL

Perfect is boring. Floors that slope, mismatched door hardware, and windows that lift with weights? That ain't boring.

We bought our humble bungalow in 1997. You know that thing that people do—have a baby and then move to the burbs? We had a baby and moved intown. With two kids in 1500 sq ft, we used the back of every door, under every bed, the front porch, and the rather creepy attic for storage. That attic. Shiver.

We took on a few contained projects in the early years such as remodeling the kitchen (bye bye 80's laminate cabinets) and updating the bathrooms. In 2008 we moved to Mexico for a few years, and when we returned, we decided to blow the roof off. The actual roof. We hired an architect who was as obsessive about period details as we were, found the most amazing contractors in Greenehead Construction, and began renovating. We removed the master bathroom which was where the breakfast nook used to be (?!), expanded the tiny kitchen, and added a second level.

Some fun renovation facts...All the doors on the second floor are old and came out of a hotel. The wall vent covers are from the 1920's and were meant to be floor vents. The wood in the guest bathroom is the original decking we had the guys save when they tore off the roof. The schoolhouse lights are from an actual schoolhouse in Massachusetts. None of the door hardware matches and is all old. Everything that we pulled out of the "master" bathroom downstairs was repurposed upstairs. Even the newel post at the foot of the stairs is old.

As for the décor, I am a designer and hopelessly sentimental. Almost everything we own came from family or has a story. We brought home antique Dutch East Indies teak from our 2 years in Singapore, our living room rug was a massive affair that graced my grandparents pine room in Newton, MA, and the built-in bench in the kitchen was a pew that came out of my husband's childhood church in Athens. There is lots of folk art, lots of color, and lots of stories. We hope you love our Candler Park dream home as much as we do.