



A Room For **THREE SEASONS WENTWORTH, INC.** DESIGNED AND BUILT A MULTI-USE PORCH FOR ENJOYING THE PICTURESQUE SETTING

home & design

By **Bruce Wentworth**, AIA, President of Wentworth, Inc.
Photos by **Geoffrey Hodgdon**

Originally from New England, the owners of the Washington, D.C. Colonial Revival home built in 1948 enjoy being outdoors, especially in the spring with their large south-facing garden overlooking cherry blossoms. They wanted to spend more time outside but had concerns about mosquitoes. So they sought our design/build firm to create a three-season porch where they can take in the views, sunlight and privacy in an ideal setting without the worry of insects.

Harmony

As with all remodeling projects, the Wentworth team considers the architectural harmony of a home and how a remodeling project will affect it. Led by Wentworth Project Architect Michael Mersch, AIA, the team designed the new 15' x 18' porch to be sympathetic to the home's style. The porch's gable roof maintains the same roof slope and gracefully joins the existing house, while

the new walls are detailed with pilasters and crown molding to be consistent with the Colonial Revival architecture. Walls of screened panels were designed in a rhythmic pattern leading the eye to the large clerestory and a new exterior stairway linking the backyard to the three-season room and a small deck that accommodates a propane grill.

Practicality

To extend the use of the new porch to three seasons, the design utilizes removable glass-like panels fitted over the screens that help control temperature, wind, pollen and snow. Elevated about 7' above the backyard to take advantage of the garden views, the area beneath the porch

includes a custom-built rack to store the removable storm panels in the summer. The wood and glass panels slide in and out from the rack for easy summer storage. The vinyl lattice enclosure below the porch gives the structure a more finished base and provides additional unobtrusive storage for lawn furniture and garden equipment. Within the porch are four ceiling-mounted Infratech electric heaters for those chilly months.

Style

Because the owners wanted a stylish porch that would complement the design of their upscale home, the Wentworth team incorporated distinct elements including a vaulted ceiling with a 9'-4" spring line

providing a sense of space, air flow and expansiveness. High-quality Zuri decking, decorative beams and beadboard ceiling treatments elevate the aesthetics of the porch experience.

Ventilation

Atop the porch's new gable roof is a central, modern-style 6' x 19" Weathershield clerestory window with electrically-operated awnings that take advantage of the naturally occurring air flow and ventilate the space at the touch of a button. Ten-foot-high screened walls on three sides of the porch allow cross

breezes to gently cool the space. Two Haiku paddle fans from Big Ass Fans provide additional air movement when needed. The design of the porch projects 5' beyond the rear façade and presents views of adjacent trees and landscaping to the west. Because the porch extends farther than the house, it captures the natural west to east cross breezes that help cool the porch in summer months.

Furnishings

When the clients replaced their old deck with this new, slightly larger three-season screened porch, they

also incorporated a small deck area constructed of fireproof Fly ash from Boral TruExterior material to avoid any fire hazards. The porch is furnished with a glass-top table that seats six and two sofas with coffee table, all from Brown Jordan with Sunbrella upholstery and pillows. The seating area works well for reading, TV watching and napping, as well as taking in the views of the gardens and cherry blossoms.



For more information about remodeling, contact Bruce Wentworth, AIA, President of Wentworth, Inc. at 240.395.0705, x200, or visit www.wentworthstudio.com.



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