

Concept

The design of the new project extends the house with sensitivity to its heritage character, and gently embeds the new construction into the surrounding landscape. The project is comprised of:

- The Pavilion, an extension to the east,
- The Glass Link, connecting old and new
- The Cave, a basement space tucked into the steep hillside.
- The careful renovation of the historic home and reinstatement of missing original features.
- An integrated landscaping concept.

The Pavilion

The pavilion integrates the garage towards Sylvan, living room space toward the lake on the ground floor and small study space on the upper floor. The existing garage (not part of the original 1910/11 construction) is not a defining heritage attribute of the property, and is proposed to be replaced with a new garage that is integrated into the new pavilion. The frontage of the existing single car garage is respected with a new double car garage. Wooden tambour car garage doors slide open and retracts into the garage space: A high quality and minimal solution that is integral to the architecture and does not dominate the street facade. The new garage does not extend further towards the road than the existing garage, and in keeping with the proximity of accessory structures in relation to the Sylvan Avenue and Fairview Avenue. A linear pavilion concept sheltered by a "floating" copper roof with soft, rounded edges that echo the Italianate tower to provide an architectural counterpoint on the other side of the property. A composition of architectural elements comprised of lightweight, horizontal copper roofs and heavy, vertical fieldstone walls blend into the trees and surrounding landscape. The volumes, proportions, datum lines and finishes continue the language of the existing home whilst adding a clearly distinguishable complementary extension in dialogue with the historic home.

The Glass Link

The pavilion is separated from the existing building by a glass link that allows views through the building and accommodates the new entrance. The glass link visually frames the original house, and presents narrower facades to the street and lake.

The Cave

The basement space built into the hillside is an interpretation of the "grotto" as a traditional landscaping feature in European gardens. The solidity and heaviness of the space is expressed with solid balustrade walls that flank the cave. The views towards the house from the lake are largely unimpeded with an open balustrade on top of the cave providing a minimal intervention. The cave is expressed as part of the landscaping, not the architecture, yet is considered as part of a balanced composition with the main building. The steep hillside and landscaping will largely obscure views onto the cave from the dog walk.

Historic Conservation and Reinstatement of original features

An important aspect of the project is the repair and conservation of historic features including careful and essential structural repairs to the roof, basement and stone facade which. This renovation will be used as an opportunity to remove elements which are not original and unsympathetic to the historic architecture. This includes the asphalt shingle roof which will be replaced with a natural copper roof, and the 1970s northern porch which removed the tapered fieldstone pillars. Together with faithful decorative repairs to the render facade, wooden elements and windows, the house will be closely resemble the original condition.

Landscaping

Existing landscape features such as the rockery path or perimeter trees will be preserved (with the exception of one tree) to maintain the sheltering charming and sheltering aspect of the established landscaping.

The central zone of the site is currently a lawn, and this expanse disrupts the continuity of soft landscaping of the properties on the lake ridge. New shrubs and trees will be planted to fill in this gap and offer greater continuity. Natural flagstone paths will connect Sylvan Ave with the dock on the lake.