

Preservation Points

Alameda Architectural Preservation Society (AAPS)

By Randy Horton

Preservation Planning

Planning a renovation is an involved process, whether minor, as in changing the front door, to planning a major expansion. Planning the renovation of a historic structure requires additional considerations:

- Preserving the architectural character of your building and neighborhood.
- Using compatible materials with existing finishes, such as siding, trim and windows.
- Maintaining the historical period of the structure.

There is a vast supply of reference resources to assist in renovation of historic structures. Design ideas and suppliers of period reproductions can be found in periodicals such as Victorian Homes, Old House Journal, Old House Interiors, and American Bungalow. Characteristics and details of historic buildings throughout the Bay Area, including Alameda, are described in Paul Duchscherer's publications The Bungalow, Inside the Bungalow, and Victorian Glory. The "do-it-yourself" enthusiast can learn techniques and resources on PBS programs, "This Old House", "Hometime", and "About Your House With Bob Yapp".

***Preservation Point:** Consider how your renovation will conform to the existing character of your building.

When selecting an architect, designer or contractor, research firms who are knowledgeable and sympathetic to the overall style and character of the structure and the surrounding community. The effort put into becoming familiar with the architectural vocabulary of your building will greatly help in this process. AAPS can assist in this investigation and welcomes the opportunity to work with owners, designers and contractors.

If a building exterior has been insensitively remodeled, old photographs can help determine the original design and guide an exterior restoration project. Two major sources of old photographs are:

- City of Alameda 1979 Survey. Includes 1979 photographs of almost every building on the main island. Available at the Planning Department. (510) 748 – 4554
- Alameda Museum. Possesses extensive collection of old Alameda photographs from all periods. (510) 521 -1233

***Preservation Point:** Shop around and compare pricing on building fixtures and materials.

The Bay Area has many sources of recycled fixtures and period reproductions. Contrary to widespread belief, replicating original woodwork, windows and ornamental detailing does not have to be "prohibitively expensive" if you shop around. The following are a few examples of sources of reasonably priced materials for old buildings located in the Bay Area:

- Gilman Salvage - Berkeley (510) 524- 5500 Salvaged fixtures.
- Russo Window Frames, Inc. – Oakland (510) 569-5986 Reproduction wood windows and doors.
- Lowpensky Moldings – San Francisco (415) 822-7422 Reproduction and custom wood moldings.
- Wall Street Factory Outlet – San Francisco (415) 285-0870 Period reproduction wall coverings including Lincrusta Walton and Anaglypta.

The above listings are only a small sample of the numerous bay area providers of reasonably priced reproductions. In future issues of "Preservation Points" we will list additional resources and pricing information.

The Alameda Architectural Preservation Society is dedicated to the preservation of Alameda's historic structures and neighborhoods. For further information on AAPS, phone (510) 986-5232; write to P.O.Box 1677, Alameda, CA 94501; or visit www.alameda-preservation.org