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**KANSAS CITY
HOME AND DESIGN**

REVIVING OLD SOULS

Architectural Craftsmen leans on the past and looks to the future to revitalize historical homes.

Joe Thompson knows his history—both familial and architectural. With deep roots planted in the Kansas soil his grandparents cultivated and a lifelong affinity for Victorian and Craftsman homes, Joe—carpenter, architect, and founder of Architectural Craftsmen—and his wife, Mary Thompson, have a passion for restoring the character of a home.

“A building has a spirit, and you should honor it by making something appropriate to it,” Joe says. “When you work on an old house, you have to find materials that fit.”

From sourcing rare wood to craft trim that replicates original hand-carved detailing to bringing electrical and plumbing up to code, the firm prioritizes both aesthetic and technical details that will endure. Mary’s continual communication with clients ensures the finished remodel suits modern needs while staying true to the home’s narrative. “We want clients to understand their house—where it comes from, its language, and why our choices are appropriate,” Mary says.



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CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: The dining room—formerly the kitchen and living room—was restored to its glory days, with replicated quarter-sawn white oak trim and multiple windows allowing light to flood in. Stormy blue shaker kitchen cabinets contrast gray-veined marble in the redesigned kitchen. A point of view that captures the 1897 home’s charming details.

A recent remodel of an 1897 Kansas City home involved undoing the 1980s South Florida-style galley kitchen and dining spaces to recover the structure’s 20th-century Midwest sensibility. By reconfiguring the kitchen and dining room, Joe and his team created a semi-open concept while maintaining the intimacy of each space. They replicated quarter-sawn white oak trim to restore the home’s original charm and selected finishes, such as shaker kitchen cabinets, that will transcend trends. The finished project exudes warmth, light, and a timelessness all its own.

“We are all stewards for the next generation,” Joe says. “What we do should be intentional and should last for another 100 years.”

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