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IN THE CHICAGO AREA

HOME

SPRING/SUMMER

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2002**

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ARCHITECTS

THE PROFESSIONALS

by PHILIP BERGER | portrait photography by PETER ROSENBAUM



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MICHAEL HERSHENSON
Michael Hershenson Architects



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DOUGLAS LASCH
Lasch Architects



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ELISSA MORGANTE &
FREDERICK WILSON
Morgante Wilson Architects



8
DIAN KEEHAN
Dian Keehan Architect



10
KATHRYN QUINN
Kathryn Quinn Architects



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NANCY & RICHARD BECKER
Becker Architects



5
GARRETT EAKIN
Garrett Michael Eakin



6
LISA JAFFE
Jaffe Architectural Group



7
CLAUDIA SKYLAR & JAMES MASTRO
Mastro & Skylar Architects



9
JAMES FRAERMAN
Fraerman Associates Architecture



HOME REMODELING STORIES ARE FAIRLY PREDICTABLE. They typically start with a scenario of life with too little space, followed by a torturous period of design decisions and construction complications, and culminate in a two-story addition featuring an expanded kitchen/family room on the ground floor and a master bedroom suite above.

The metropolitan area's rich stock of 19th- and early 20th-century houses dictates this outcome. Valued for their style, charm, and location, most of the houses, as built, lack the basic creature comforts 21st-century families have come to expect.

The variables involved with each project make it nearly impossible to say what an addition will or should cost. Kitchens and baths can be hugely expensive. Any below-ground excavation will boost the budget. Alterations to the existing structure—new electrical and ventilation systems, for example—can jack it up further, and lavish finishes and luxury materials can bring you into completely uncharted territory.

Because most additions require building permits, and most municipalities granting them require plans that a registered architect or engineer has prepared, homeowners must engage someone to prepare them. They can hire an architect, who, depending on the scope of services involved, may help them select and manage the contractor. They can go directly to a contractor, who may either have an architect on staff or will refer them to specific architects. Or they can go to a contractor that defines itself as a "design/build" firm.

Hundreds of qualified architects offer residential services in the Chicago area. This list represents some of the most visible work in the city and suburbs. (We gathered some of the architects mentioned for group photos that appear here and on the following pages.) We chose lesser-known talents to showcase, in some instances, and in all cases focused on firms where at least half the work is residential. We also made sure that remodeling and additions were a specialty, as opposed to new-home construction.

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PHOTOGRAPHY: (7) KATE ROTH (8) STEPHEN PARKES (9) BRUCE VAN INWEGEN (10) HEDRICH BLESSING



ARCHITECTS



11
RICHARD GIBBONS (left)
& SCOTT FORTMAN
Gibbons, Fortman & Weber



DOUGLAS ROSS
Ross Architecture



14
FOSTER DALE
Foster Dale Architects



JOHN EIFLER
Eifler & Associates



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JOHN HAGENAH
John Hagenah Architect



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DARCY BONNER
Darcy Bonner and Associates



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JIM HARRIMAN
John Banks Architects



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NATHAN KIPNIS
Nathan Kipnis Architects



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DAVID ROBERTS
Roberts Architects



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LINDA SEARL
Searl and Associates, Architects



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CHRISTOPHER RUDOLPH
Rudolph & Associates



PHOTOGRAPHY: (11) WAYNE CABLE (12&15) JENIFER JORDAN COURTESY OF RENOVATION STYLE MAGAZINE (13) HEDRICH BLESSING (14) ANTHONY MAY PHOTOGRAPHY (16) EIFLER & ASSOCIATES

PHOTOGRAPHY: (17) SHIMER ©HEDRICH BLESSING (18) JESSIE WALKER (19) BRUCE VAN INWEGEN (20) ESTO PHOTOGRAPHICS (21) HNK ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY



talented architect you've never heard of working in Chicago today. Now with an office staff of seven, he is attracting attention for his precisely designed, richly finished residential interiors and for his bolder, edgier commercial work.

KATHRYN QUINN ARCHITECTS

363 W. Erie St., 3W, Chicago
(312) 337-4977

Kathryn Quinn says one of the most important services an architect can offer is managing expectations. She helps clients understand that a residence is probably the last large hand-crafted commodity: "A house is not like a car, which is mass produced and theoretically perfect." Though she says one has to expect imperfections with a hand-crafted product, they are nowhere apparent in her portfolio of elegant remodeling projects.

LASCH ARCHITECTS

1208 South Blvd., Evanston
(847) 869-2505

Impressive advances in 3-D computer rendering allow architects to give clients surprisingly accurate previews of finished projects. Douglas Lasch thinks using these tools is an important service. He enjoys the challenges of remodeling houses of varying ages and styles. "You're constantly working in a different vocabulary because the existing conditions are always different," he says.

MASTRO & SKYLAR ARCHITECTS

1615 W. North Ave., Chicago
(773) 489-4883

Husband and wife James Mastro and Claudia Skylar have built a distinguished portfolio of clever, stylish remodeling and addition projects in their nearly two decades of practice together. Their work shows consistent invention in space planning (including the incorporation of outdoor space), use of materials (great facility with stone, tile, millwork, and textiles), and special expertise with decorative details—particularly in their simple yet rich kitchen and bath designs.

MICHAEL HERSHENSON ARCHITECTS

935 W. Chestnut St., #520, Chicago
(312) 226-3252

Michael Hershenson's portfolio in-

cludes several large older-house projects that show his skill with traditional forms, yet he seems equally comfortable with contemporary interior detailing. "Many clients are concerned that they fit into the neighborhood, but inside, they can express themselves differently," he says. "An addition is going to look different no matter what you do. We try as much as possible to make one whole of a project rather than two halves."

MORGANTE WILSON ARCHITECTS

3813 N. Ravenswood Ave., Chicago
(773) 528-1001

www.morgantewilson.com

Elissa Morgante, Frederick Wilson, and their staff have turned out some of the most sophisticated designs in speculative residential development—managing to incorporate fresh, contemporary ideas within the context of the traditional styles developers demand. Their remodeling work displays similar innovation and quality.

NATHAN KIPNIS ARCHITECTS

626 Grove St., Evanston
(847) 864-9650

This firm, though accomplished at remodeling historic residences on the North Shore, is also committed to pursuing energy-efficient architecture solutions. "We're one of the only firms that can integrate green architecture with good design," says Kipnis, whose single-family home design was chosen to be built as part of the Chicago Housing Authority's (CHA) "Green Homes for Chicago" competition last year. (The house is currently under construction at 63rd and Englewood.)

ROBERTS ARCHITECTS

2610 Old Glenview Rd., Wilmette
(847) 251-7193

www.robertsarchitectsltd.com

David Roberts has completed innumerable remodelings in his two decades of practice in the northern suburbs. "The key is to try to respect what's already there in terms of character, proportion, and material," he says. "You have to develop a plan that allows the building to expand and change, so that at the end it's a total composition as opposed to something completely different that makes a

striking contrast. Our work takes the structure to the next level while working with what's already there."

ROSS ARCHITECTURE

154 W. Hubbard St., Chicago
(312) 527-1034

www.rossarchitecture.com

Douglas Ross received the 1999 Young Architects Award from the Chicago chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA). In 2000, his design was one of three chosen to be built as part of the CHA's "Green Homes for Chicago" competition. And in 2001, he received an Honor Award in the AIA's Distinguished Building Awards program for a simple suburban ranch house that he transformed into an oasis of Zen-like serenity—one of the awards jurors said his blood pressure dropped just by looking at pictures of it.

RUDOLPH & ASSOCIATES

1807 W. Sunnyside Ave., 2D, Chicago
(773) 784-0804

Christopher Rudolph dislikes being pigeonholed, but he has a well-deserved reputation for sensitive yet sensible remodeling of Arts and Crafts- and Prairie-style houses. Not that he's complaining. "After years of grinding it out, it's great that people are coming to us to do what we want to do rather than just because we're the next name in the phone book," he says. Still, he appreciates a wide variety of challenges. "If you're adding to something really beautiful, you're obligated to incorporate what's there. If it's undistinguished, you have a greater opportunity."

SEARL AND ASSOCIATES, ARCHITECTS

500 N. Dearborn St., #950, Chicago
(312) 251-9200

www.searlarch.com

Linda Searl is both a talented designer and an influential figure in the design community. She has served as president of the local AIA chapter and is on the Chicago Plan Commission—she was the sole vote against the new designs for Soldier Field. Residential projects have ranged from traditional rehabs to the gleaming, ultra-contemporary Ukrainian Village house she and her husband, architect Joe Valerio, designed for themselves. ■