



# Custom and Expert Design Remodeler

## ARCHITECTURAL CRAFTSMEN

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Buying or living in an historic home with intentions to fix it up is no easy undertaking and can come with a cornucopia of surprises. There is a lot to understand and so many questions to be answered before the work can begin. Having the correct answers to those questions is key to making your remodeling or renovation project a huge success. While there are certainly those who can roll up their sleeves and do it themselves, there is something to be said about partnering with experts in the field who understand what it takes to breathe new life into the past.

Mary and Joe Thompson understand that every home has a story to tell, and it has become their mission to reveal those stories and make them page-turning works of art through their unique architectural design and craftsmanship. As owners of the award-winning Architectural Craftsmen, they are not only seasoned professionals within the industry, but also perfectionists, honest and proficient at their craft. Attention to detail is not just a philosophy, it is a business lifestyle for them and the end results of each and every project are nothing short of spectacular.



A leader in the home remodeling industry, Architectural Craftsmen began 15 years ago, but Mary and Joe have been in the business for much longer. Mary has an academic background in education but has also studied design extensively. Joe attended architectural school and has a background in commercial construction. It was during his time in that arena that he and Mary spent their weekends doing various home remodeling projects.

"I was more interested in the residential side, as it allowed for more creativity than the commercial side," Joe noted. As a result, they have hugely focused their business on homes, most notably those with age and character. Mary and Joe thrive on researching each home's history and are more than willing to invest the time to ensure each project is done right.

"It definitely takes money, patience and expertise to remodel these older homes," noted Mary, emphasizing the importance of bringing the residence

up to code, re-doing its infrastructure and bringing it up to modern living standards for safety and comfort.



"Remodeling an historic home requires a professional's touch who has the experience," said Mary. "With each home we remodel, we focus on maintaining its original character and integrity."

And character is something that truly sets these homes apart, as they typically tend to be richer in architecture design than their more recent counterparts.

"We enjoy the stories these homes tell, but they also require significant problem solving, too," stated Mary. "Things were not done in the past the way they are done now and it is our job to maintain the homes' original personality from that particular era while making sure it fits today's standards."

In other words, the experts at Architectural Craftsmen slightly change original floor plans to reflect the way we live today.

"Older homes were built for a different way of living," noted Joe. In the past, for example, the kitchens were much smaller and typically located in the rear of the home, whereas the living room and dining rooms were the spaces used for entertaining. Today, however, the kitchen tends to be the gathering spot for most families and the formal dining room has often gone by the wayside in favor of a study, den or home office.

"We have to take a step back and get a feeling for the house and what it wants us to do," explained Mary. "We always do what is right for the house, too, and allow it to tell us what needs to be done. There is almost a certain sort of romance to it!"

In a way, Mary and Joe are akin to historic house whisperers

and definitely know their trade and are quite passionate about it all. Further, clients and suppliers enjoy working with them, and that sort of harmonious relationship ensures each project is successful.

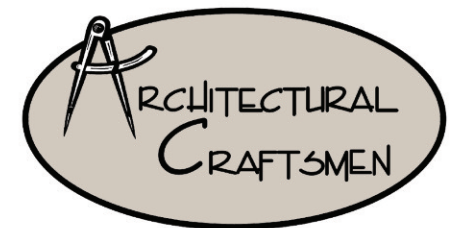
"We like working with the homeowners and getting excited about the project," smiled Joe, who, along with Mary, frequently

does background research at the Missouri Valley Room at the Kansas City Public Library, which has a cornucopia of information about many of the earlier homes in and around the Kansas City area.

In addition to working with historic homes in neighborhoods such as Roanoke, Hyde Park, and Janssen Place, Architectural Craftsmen also offers



remodeling work in Overland Park, Leawood, Lenexa, Prairie Village, Fairway, Westwood and Kansas City, Missouri. Additionally, they are members of Historic Kansas City and the Kansas City Bungalow Club. ■



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