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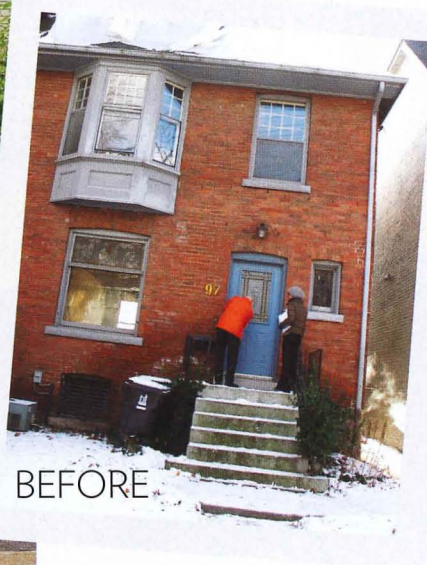


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< BALANCE NEW AND OLD DESIGN DETAILS

Architect Andre D'Elia of Toronto firm Superkül came up with a plan that took into account the homeowners' desire for modernity and the neighbours' still-Georgian exteriors. "We didn't want to have a division, a line that says, 'This is left, and this is right,'" he explains. "We kept the brick, so that's one plane that's still consistent. The eave line and the roof are also consistent." A new vertical dormer clad in cement board is decidedly modern, but it was inspired by the architecture of a traditional dormer. The windows and doors were redone in custom sapele frames, an African hardwood that echoes the colour of the rusted steel wall framing part of the garden. The tiny landing was expanded into a proper tiered, poured-concrete porch with a built-in bench (bottom) and a canopy fitted with recessed lighting. Crafted from warm cedar, the bench also provides storage for garbage and recycling bins. **Doors, windows, Radiant City; cement board, HardiePanel; dormer colour, Kendall Charcoal (HC-166), Benjamin Moore.**



BEFORE

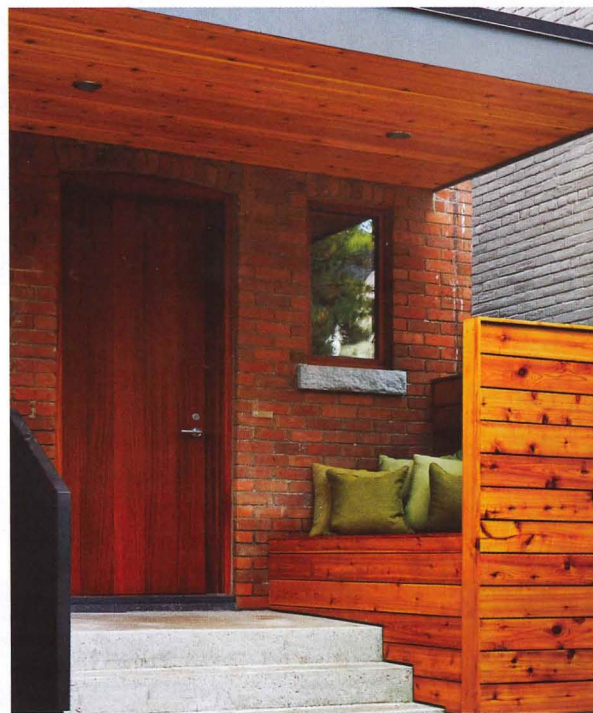
LEFT: The red-brick exterior previously featured a second-floor bay window and a tiny concrete landing with a short run of steps up to the door. The yard was entirely unlandscaped.

CHANGE OF SCENERY

New landscaping and a façade in a fresh mix of materials transform a trad Georgian into a modern marvel.

Text by **STACY LEE KONG** | Photography by **VIRGINIA MACDONALD**

Modernizing the exterior of an older home is already a delicate job, but when it's semidetached, there's a whole other set of creative challenges. That was exactly the problem facing the owners of this Georgian house, which sits on a treelined street in midtown Toronto. In the pursuit of a more contemporary look and a stronger connection between indoors and out, they brought in architect Andre D'Elia, principal at Superkül, and landscape designer Joel Loblaw. The pair joined forces to reimagine the outdoor living spaces completely and give the house a more dynamic façade, while making sure it all still works with the style of the neighbourhood.

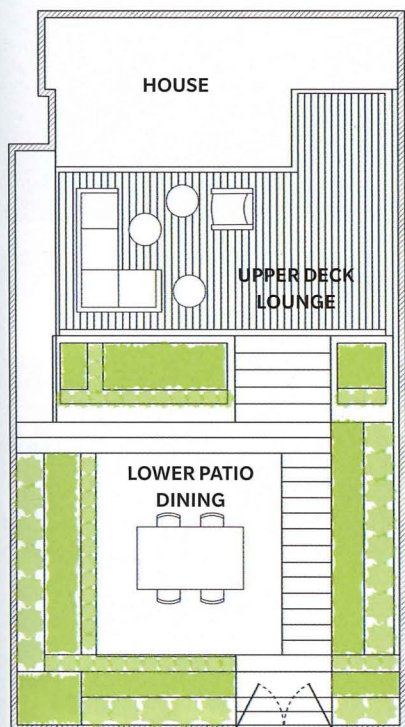




MIX MATERIALS

A clean, contemporary palette of materials enhances the modern aesthetic. A cedar deck and fencing add warmth. On the lower patio, a border of Indiana limestone functions as a path to the garage, and the contrasting granite-look pavers delineate the dining area. On the back of the house (below), the brick was removed to make way for a four-foot-deep addition. The grey tone of the new cladding accentuates the building's clean lines. An overhang provides shade over the seating area, and a new glass wall connects indoors and out seamlessly. **Fence, deck construction, SCE Construction; sofa, daybed, dining table, chairs, Dedon; poufs, Tribù; siding colour, Steel Wool (2121-20), Benjamin Moore.**

THE PLAN



ABOVE: The rear of the house lacked dimension. A run-down lower porch was too small, and a balcony coming off the second floor had been removed at some point, leaving a pointless door behind.

CONSIDER ALL ANGLES

When working with plants, it's important to think in three dimensions—not just height and width. "I relate it to a painting, where it's layered," says Loblaw. Here, serviceberry trees and columnar beech draw the eye up, while carefully pruned boxwoods have an architectural crispness, especially next to feathery grasses.



FOR ALL SEASONS

Joel Loblaw explains how to plan a garden that works year-round.

"Go with plants that don't die back completely in winter and incorporate perennials and grasses alongside standard evergreens," says Loblaw. Here are some of his top picks that look great through winter:



ASTILBE'S brown seed heads last into the cold weather.



FOUNTAIN GRASS keeps its shape all winter.



CAREX keeps its form, but turns brown during the off-season.