

# ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

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01 2018

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## Ontario Residence

Toronto  
Architect **superkül**

**WHILE THE OWNERS** of this Toronto house wanted to preserve its Queen Anne Revival exterior, the mansard roof and small windows didn't translate to a lot of livable space for the family of four.

A married couple with two daughters, they needed modern bedrooms, larger closets, and a year-round connection between interiors and a backyard they felt they couldn't fully appreciate because of the small, old windows. Local firm **superkül** began addressing the family's brief by installing a 23-foot-wide dormer with three windows on the garden-facing side of the third-floor kids' rooms, a step taken to "make the best of the plan, considering the original sloped ceilings and small windows," says architect Meg Graham, a principal at **superkül**.

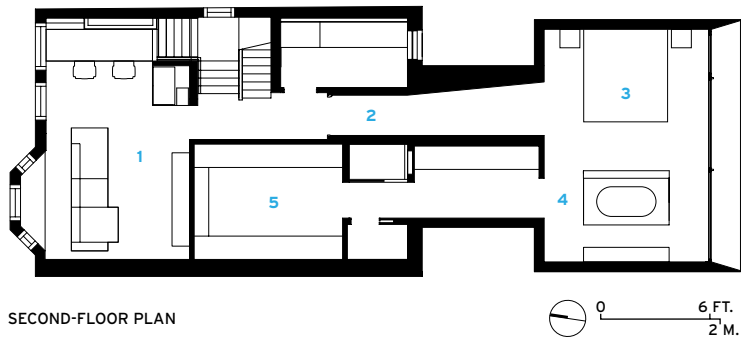
To update the master bedroom, they went a step further and built a new addition to the second floor that extends 17 feet beyond the third-floor exterior wall, creating 420 square feet of new space on what was formerly roof, over the living room.

Building the new volume let the team make use of the house's existing framework and foundation, while incorporating the creature comforts the couple requested within energy-efficient new walls.

As the chief beneficiary of the renovation, the master suite got a walk-in closet, soaking tub, and an



**OPEN PLAN** **Superkül** used a nearly 10-foot-high partition to create a modern, spacious bath (opposite) and master suite (above) to complement a classic house (left).



SECOND-FLOOR PLAN

- 1 LIBRARY
- 2 HALL
- 3 BEDROOM
- 4 BATHROOM
- 5 WALK-IN CLOSET





**WONDER WALL** Building a second-floor addition walled by windows at the back of the house gave the master suite (left) and its en suite bath an idyllic view. White oak floors, walls, and ceilings continue the feeling of nature in the new shower area and walk-in closet (bottom).

entire glass wall.

Superkül's addition gave the clients a luxurious 170-square-foot bedroom with a 110-square-foot bathing area—a cozy refuge for its hard-working occupants. The new wall of windows is composed of argon-filled glass units for thermal insulation. Of course, it brings in an abundance of natural light.

In a dramatic engagement with nature, the freestanding en suite tub was left open to the bedroom and its expanse of glass. A nearly 10-foot-high partition, covered in handmade Moroccan tile on the bath-facing side, screens it from the bed. For an additional connection to the outdoors, architects positioned a 1-by-3-foot skylight above the tub for stargazing and to serve as an additional source of daylighting.

The lively patterned tile on the partition continues on the floor, to form a wet zone underneath the tub. The bed-facing side of the divider displays the large art piece, *Pipe Dreams*, a dye-on-linen work by Colleen Heslin.

With no walls in the way, both the bathing and sleeping areas enjoy sweeping views of the neighborhood and parkland beyond. "The client wanted a clean, natural palette in a calm, beautiful space," says Graham.

Mission accomplished. *Tanisha A. Sykes*

## credits

**ARCHITECT:** superkül – Meg Graham, Andre D'Elia, principals; Deborah Wang, senior designer; Wendy Wisbrun, associate

**ENGINEERS:** Blackwell (structural); Bowser Technical (mechanical)

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** Derek Nicholson

**SIZE:** 665 square feet

**COST:** withheld

**COMPLETION DATE:** February 2017

## SOURCES

**TUB & CIRCULAR MIRROR:** Agape

**FIXTURES:** Dornbracht

**WOOD PANELING/FLOORING:** Moncer

**TILE:** Popham Design

**WINDOWS:** Reynaers

**LIGHTING:** Delta Light (downlights); Apparatus Studio (bathroom wall sconce); David Weeks (bedside sconce)

