

Springing to Life in *Colorado Springs*

This historic Victorian cottage gets a charming makeover.

BY JAMES MARTIN AND MEGAN SCHLEGEL

SITTING AT THE FOOT OF PIKES PEAK on the edge of the Colorado Rockies, Colorado Springs was founded in the late 1800s as a resort destination. As a result, it still boasts a generous supply of Victorian homes of all sizes and styles.

We were contacted by Patty Van Kampen, a homeowner in Colorado Springs, to bring life to her quaint Victorian. Painted a dull blue-grey, the house seemed cold and uninviting. The front porch masked the interior's warmth and the homeowner's jovial nature. On top of this, the dark trim color made the house look small and two-dimensional. As a result, the home possessed great details and rich textures that went unnoticed.

Being the oldest house on the block, we felt it only right to highlight some of the architectural features that set it apart and gave it character. Fish scale siding, various trim work and moldings, gorgeous original windows and a locally quarried stone foundation were all features just waiting to be noticed. There's always a challenge, however. In this case, it was the recently purchased wineberry colored storm doors. Added to this were the other "given" colors of the home that could not be changed: the roof and the stone foundation.

To begin, we chose a rich and vibrant color for the main body of the house that picked up tones in the stone foundation. It is a gorgeous color, both playful and dignified. We then selected a fresh, lighter value of that color for the fish scale siding. This highlighted the difference in materials, accented the gables and gave the porch the special treatment it needed to look inviting.

Next, we used a rich, creamy color for the main trim, something that would soften the look of the home. Highlighting the windows in this lighter color made them appear larger than before, and the entire house now looks more open and bright. Painting the entire porch trim, including the lintel, columns and sill in one color, unified the porch with the rest of the home and created a more defined entrance.

Since the homeowner wanted to highlight the architectural details, we then used a warm olive green accent trim color to accentuate the moldings on

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Before



After



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the frieze and columns. This wonderful shade draws attention to small details that had been previously lost; however, the color is soft enough that it does not draw too much attention to itself. However, we still wanted a "punch" color that would pull everything together and breathe life into this charming Victorian. For this purpose, we chose a gorgeous dark aubergine for the fascia, gutters and railings. This served to create a beautiful segue between the roof and body, and it tied in the new storm doors. This dark, rich shade became the base note that added a splash of unexpected brilliance and took the color scheme to a whole new level.

The result is that the house looks completely different; it is now inviting and cheerful. It makes a simple, but strong, statement. The homeowner is delighted, for her home is now a wonderful reflection of the person who owns it. ❧

Megan and James are colorists with The Color People, and they have been designing color schemes for historic buildings for more than 25 years. They can be reached at www.colorpeople.com. To submit your home for consideration in the column, please send your contact information, along with high-resolution jpegs of your home, to editorial@victorianhomesmag.com. Please put "Color Workshop" in the subject line.



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