

**Celebrating Our 30<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary Year**

*Adding value by infusing period architecture with the modern lifestyle*

## SUBURBAN WORK:



The house to the right in Shawnee Mission was such a dramatic change so we are including more renovation pictures. Above is the 3 color scheme used at each window. Gold-tone picks up the casement windows framed by its complementary color of grey violet. Accented above is a burgundy crown molding.

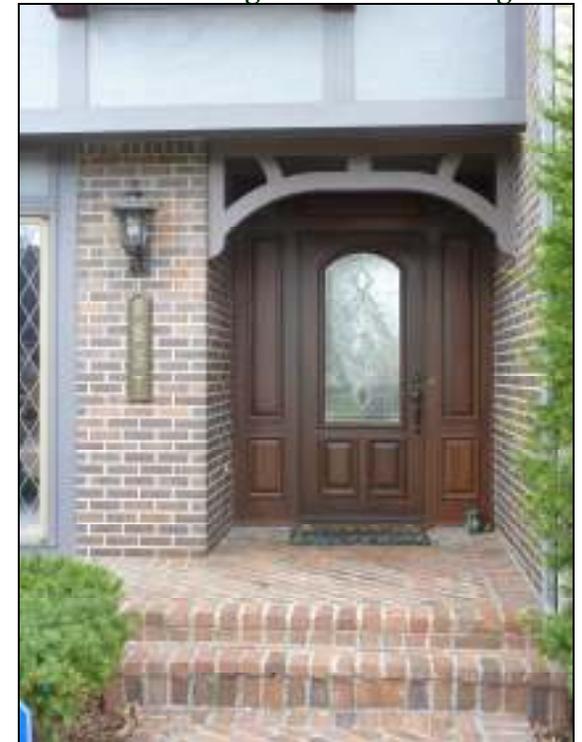
*Your newsletter with help for design & color*



**QUESTION –** I have an ugly out of date front doorway. What should I do?

**RESPONSE –** Many suburban homes have not aged well. Here the front door has all of the charm and character of a rear door. A pressed metal colonial front door with full view storm door was flanked by stucco board. Today the doorway has a more dramatic image. A mahogany beveled leaded glass door with an arched top was added with flanking coffered panel-work. An arch truss overhead creates a sense of a niche. Color change has dark trim/light body.

**- BEFORE & AFTER -**





As may be noted from the photo to the right, plain arched windows now may be seen with ornamental tin brackets below, raised relief square medallions, a column capitol, and crown moldings to accent the window cap.



**BEFORE:**



**AFTER:**

## **CURB APPEAL:**

This Shawnee Mission home not only had a tired doorway but needed a complete curb appeal redo. In this case:

- Its influence of French styling was rethought.
- Crown molding, brackets, column details were added.
- Brick quoins at house corners were invisible until we faux stained them to make them contrast with the body and to point out building corners.
- Complementary colors were chosen for the exterior that made the home stand out.
- Shrubbery will be kept trim and open to carry out the French style.

## LANDSCAPE WORK:



One of the important items I address when talking about architecture and landscaping is that both need to peacefully co-exist side by side. **Above** - is an example quite to the contrary where an attractive dry-laid stone wall has been overcome by a thick mat of English Ivy. One no longer has a sense of the beauty of stone craftsmanship.



**Above** - the same wall has been rescued from the smothering coating of ivy. Some drifts of ivy are allowed but not the obliteration of the beauty of the stone itself.

## URBAN WORK:



- This Northeast Kansas City Porch Style Apartment Six-plex was quite ordinary in white coloring. Our Classical Revival scheme brought out the Greek inspired details. Stone colors and contrasting colors on the handrail are complemented by the Moss Green porch ceilings.

## PEOPLE:



**Steve Preckel**, as a referral painter, is a very versatile person. At the top he could be seen painting the 40+ high ceiling in Grand Avenue Temple Methodist Church. Below Steve, in a more relaxed stance, was present at our booth at the Home and Garden show at the American Royal the beginning of February.



## URBAN WORK:

- Above and left is another **Northeast Color Scheme** - This property on Benton Boulevard makes use of tan cream and sage Green tones. Subtle coloration more than extreme contrast is the usual palate for a Classical Revival building. Added drama is achieved with deeper color tones at the front door. Together these colors complement the red brick exterior and give it sorely lacking curb appeal. Soon to follow will be landscaping that helps to give any property a sense of home, a sense of softness and cared for by the introduction of mother nature and the life that only living plants, shrubbery and flowers can give.



**Tiger Lilies, Regal Lilies and other tall stem perennials contrast with lower growing plants. To achieve maximum success with gardening keep in mind a variety of plants that rotate into bloom from week to week and month to month.**



## **Spring has Sprung! (Almost)**

***Don't plant until danger of imminent frost is past.***

**For this particular garden type, a natural English Garden, combine different textures colors and flowers. Leaves of varying textures such as yarrow and ferns can be contrasted with grass type leaves i.e. Iris, Liriope, Day Lilies. In shade gardens large Leaf Hostas can contrast with English Ivy, Myrtle, Ajuga, and other ground covers.**

# March Landscape talk Given for Leavenworth Vintage Homeowners Assoc.



People love to think about their own gardens and ways to make them more beautiful



We can all learn from one another if we allow ourselves to be challenged. This is the real purpose of a public presentation.

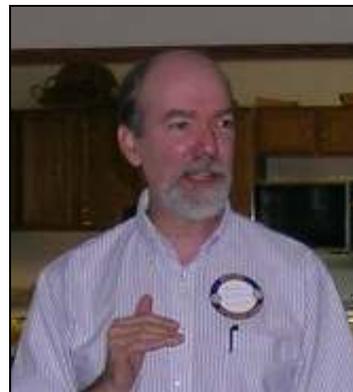
## “Pictures are worth a thousand words!”

Touch of Distinction has been asked to give talks on:

- Period Color Schemes,
- Faux Finishes,
- Curb Appeal and
- Landscape Design.

These presentations have been under the auspices of several Neighborhood associations, Historic Kansas City Foundation, Realtor Groups and philanthropic organizations such as the Lions Club, Rotary Club, and others.

Our presentations are full of interesting before and after images that help create provoking thoughts of what can be done not only to improve ones own house but also of that which constitutes help for an entire neighborhood. What about neighborhood markers? What about landscaping on city owned property of entry gateways. All can constitute improvement to any neighborhood. Interesting stories often accompany these talks along with the reaction of people living in their uniquely improved homes.



### Topics covered:

- Where do plants go regarding: color, type plant, placement?
- Green environmental concerns
- What are Period type gardens and ways of planting?
- What can we do with problem areas?



*“Croostwood Here We come!” – Before and After*



*Details make a great deal of difference.*