

FACE value

Six home exteriors go
from tired to terrific

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The best-looking house facades adhere to these basic tenets of design: simplicity, a well-balanced sense of proportion and scale, a clean and dramatic entry, and a unified architectural style. Cases in point? The extreme makeovers featured here and on the following pages. Through their owners' and redesigners' vision and effort, three of these homes soared to new heights, two traded tacky Tudor trappings for classic Craftsman charm, and one reclaimed historic character after decades of neglect and misguided improvements. All offer information and inspiration for increasing the curb appeal of your own home.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY STEVE BECKUS; DESIGN BY MICHELL (BEFORE); ROSS CHAPPEL (AFTER)



Trading Tudor

PARK RIDGE, IL

When the owners of this home, right, in suburban Chicago approached the firm Crossroads Blue Sky Design/Build in Lake Forest, Illinois, for remodeling advice, the couple thought the most practical approach would be to pump up the existing Tudor styling and make it more authentic. Instead, architect Jonathan Stuck talked them into spending an additional \$10,000 to strip all the Tudor features off the house and restore it to its original Craftsman architectural style.

First, Stuck altered the home's roofline by removing the small gable over the door to make way for a covered-porch addition. "The house lacked a front porch, so we added a decent-size one that extends around the side with a base of Wisconsin lannon stone topped with bluestone," he explains. That done, the architect adjusted the proportions of the house by plucking the diminutive "dog-house"



before

dormer above the porch and replacing it with a shed dormer twice the size.

Once the structure was refined, Stuck added understated detailing, such as the decorative wood grill over the vent at the house's front gable, a Craftsman-style Douglas-fir front door, and yellow-stained cedar shingles. The boxy, tapered porch piers, which are 12 inches square at the top and 18 inches square at the base, are anchored on brick bases that tie in with the original red brick of the first story. Finally, the first and second stories were boldly delineated by installing a belly band painted green to match the trim on rest of the house.