

EYE ON DESIGN

Three's a Crown

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If one dormer can infuse a house with light and extra space, how about three? That's the reasoning behind this triple play by Bob Reinhardt of Reinhardt Architects in Garrett Park, Md.

The owner of this Cape Cod in Bethesda had added a dormer some years earlier and liked the way it brought in light and raised the headroom in an attic bathroom. Reinhardt wanted to expand on the virtues of the single dormer and integrate it into the overall design of the house.

The architect moved the front door out from under a covered walkway along the garage to a spot directly in line with the dormer. Then he incorporated the original dormer into a geometric roofscape that repeats the triangular form two more times, stepping it down, one in front of the other, to crown a gracious new foyer and the remodeled entryway.

The walkway space next to the garage was converted to valuable storage.

"The old dormer did a lot of good things," says Reinhardt. "I



tried to make it look like it belonged to the rest of the house."

The original dormer is now the uppermost. The second dormer echoes the shape and the windows of the first one and has four skylight panels for a roof. The new dormer raises the ceiling to cathedral height and floods the foyer below with sunshine.

A portico of the same dimensions takes the third step down, providing coverage for the new front door.

Reinhardt framed the composition in redwood to match the door. He also replaced the house's dark wood siding with pale brick to form a foundation for the new stucco gables.

"My client gave me a single dormer," he says. "I gave it back to him threefold."

Have a decorating or design problem or solution? Share it with us. Write to Eye on Design, Home Section, The Washington Post, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20007; or e-mail Patricia Dane Rogers at rogersp@washpost.com. We regret that we cannot answer each message because of the volume of responses.



DESIGN BY BOB REINHARDT ARCHITECTS



The benefits of a single rooftop dormer, far left, inspired architect Bob Reinhardt to add two more above a repositioned entryway, top. The new dormers add distinction to the facade plus light and space inside, near left.