

Architectural Analysis of 1442, Fulton Ave.

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I've always admired the houses on Fulton Avenue, most of which were constructed as part of a new neighborhood in the 1920s on land that was formerly a dairy farm just northwest of the city limits. Each house in this neighborhood has a distinct and charming character; appearing as doll-house-scale versions of textbook architectural styles. Some have medieval turrets; others have fantasy towers and cut-out shapes in stucco walls.

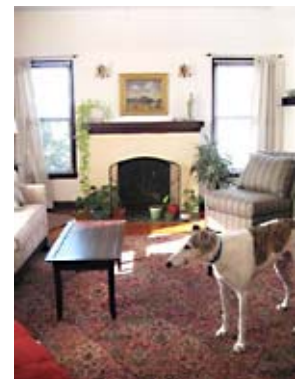
1442 Fulton is a quaint Spanish Hacienda. The red clay tile roof, painted brown wood beams and window frames, and wrought iron pose in contrast to the light beige stucco walls. The carport on the east side of the house is



a lighter version of the old heavy timber gates entering into a colonial fort. The concept of the Spanish "courtyard house" is symbolized by the paved, wall-enclosed front porch with its wrought



iron gate shaped in an elongated heart, curly-q design. Enhancing the historical character of the house is the whimsical shape of the chimney, the wrought iron lantern, the wood beam and purlins of the porch ceiling, and a unique front door. The inter-locking wood panel design of this door is reminiscent of Spanish Mudejar woodwork, such as can be seen at the San Antonio Mission churches.



The owner of this house has taken care to preserve the house's historic character by adding ornamental details that are in line with its style. Ceramic tile is used to display the house's address out front, and complements the mosaic of colored tile in the living room that rests at the foot of the stately, stucco

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fireplace. Ornate metal candle sconces ornament the living room walls. Light filters between the living and dining room through a low arched opening and cut-out arch windows where the owner has added elegant, wrought iron curling “S” bars. Unfortunately, the beautiful Greyhound posing for the living room shot does not come with the house.



Other features that still beautify this home from the 1920s are the cut glass and milk glass door knobs, the ironing board closet and the painted wood wainscot in the kitchen. Other details that lend the house its historical character are the arched wood frame telephone niche in the hallway, the pink and grey hexagonal bathroom tile, and the rectangular glass-paneled French door that leads into a small study behind the dining room. This room is a treasure. Its small cozy scale and beautiful natural light make it a perfect place to escape to for morning tea, writing a few emails or dreaming about a new project. The owner has added a quaint mini-ceiling fan that seems to have been made for the room.



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