

# Old-House Journal's NEW OLD HOUSE

Building Character in Today's Homes

Fall 2006

## Classic Interiors

Display until December 11, 2006  
A Reston Media Publication

\$5.95US \$6.95CAN

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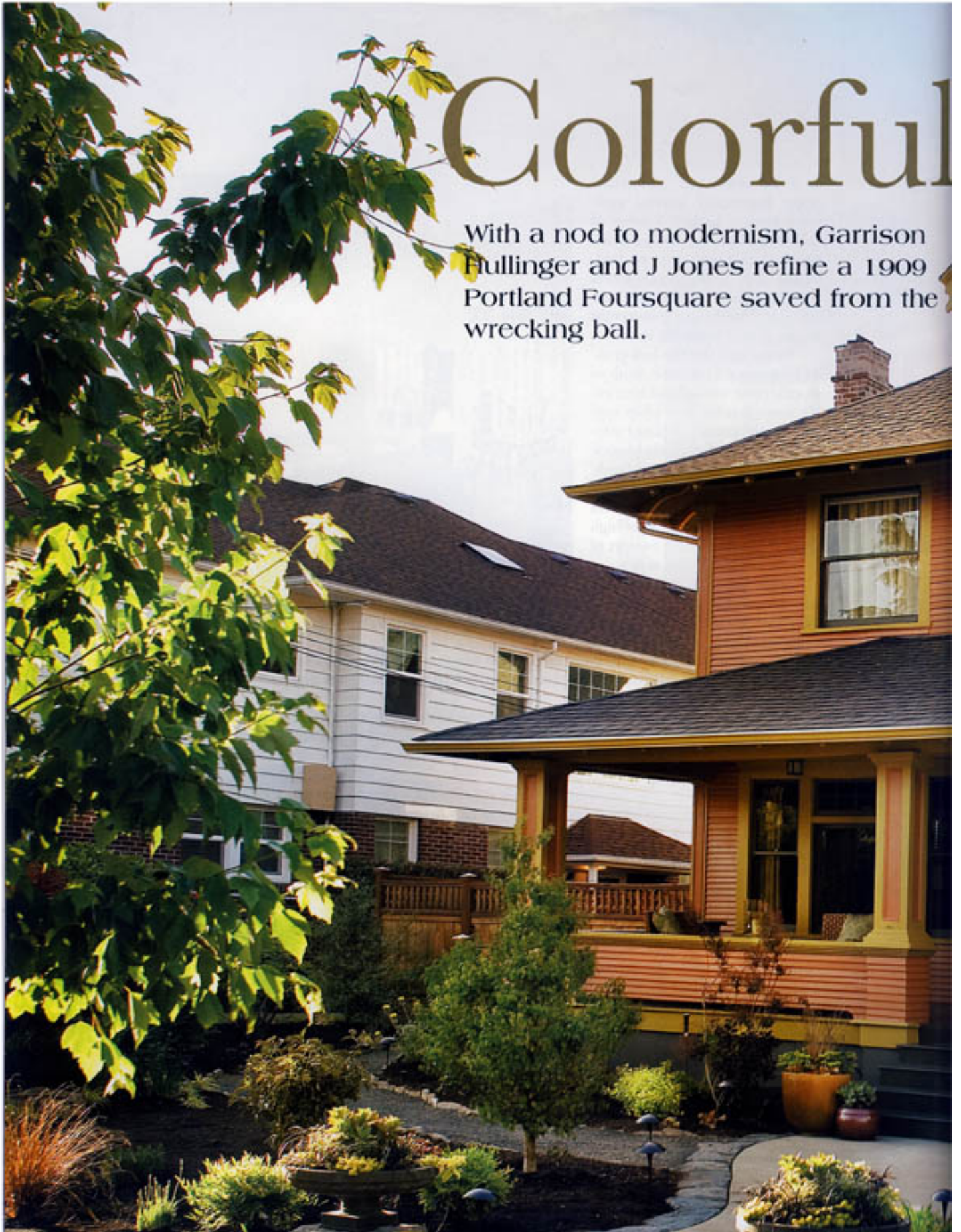


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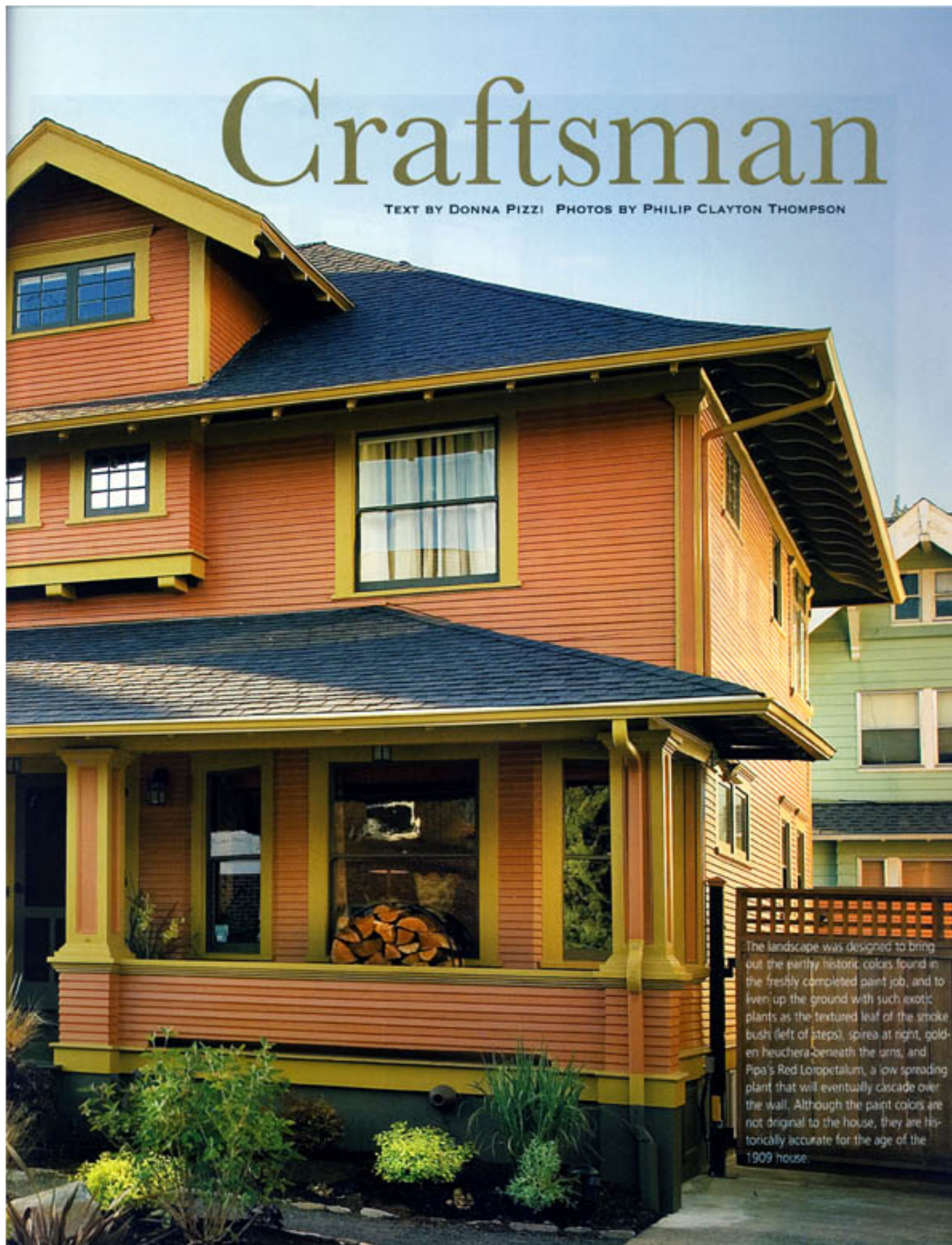
# Colorful

With a nod to modernism, Garrison Hullinger and J Jones refine a 1909 Portland Foursquare saved from the wrecking ball.



# Craftsman

TEXT BY DONNA PIZZI PHOTOS BY PHILIP CLAYTON THOMPSON



The landscape was designed to bring out the earthy historic colors found in the freshly completed paint job, and to liven up the ground with such exotic plants as the textured leaf of the smoke bush (left of steps), spirea at right, golden heuchera beneath the urns, and Pipa's Red Loropetalum, a low spreading plant that will eventually cascade over the wall. Although the paint colors are not original to the house, they are historically accurate for the age of the 1909 house.



nately recorded as \$3,000 in one set of records and \$2,500 in another. According to neighbor James S. Heuer, the Roberts firm operated a design/build company in Portland from 1909 to 1910 building a variety of houses whose architectural styles ranged from Foursquare to Colonial.

Over recent years the house had been neglected. One passerby had been moved to snap an impromptu photo of "the scariest house he'd ever seen." The ghostlike image recorded porch pillars pitched sideways, siding full of gaping holes, and a porch roof teetering on collapse, with only a curtain of black plastic to act as its safety net. The then-homeowners had fallen on hard times, and a development company subsequently took over the house, with plans to raze it. Heuer and another neighbor Robert Mercer prompted the Irvington Neighborhood Association to write a letter urging the developers to save the old house. The company eventually complied and spent one and a half years on the restoration, during which time they rebuilt the front porch, added two baths, as well as powder room beneath the formal staircase, updated the kitchen, refinished the original first-floor woodwork, and created a new fireplace surround.

The driveway is the only space that separates the Foursquare from a neighboring condo. To maintain privacy while entertaining in the dining room, Hullinger designed a pair of stained-glass windows to crown the original woodwork—the stained glass was a gift from a friend in Elgin,

Illinois. Hullinger hand-cut the artisan glass dating from the early 1900s that had once belonged to his friend's grandfather.

"I wanted to stay with the Craftsman elements of the Foursquare," says Hullinger, "but since I don't like things to be symmetrical, I began playing with the idea of slanting the glass, a design inspired by Mark Levy, a Southern California glass artist."

#### Colorful Interiors

To make the house more intimate, the owners chose warm tones to paint over the renter's white. These hues were inspired by the 1895 Roycroft community, part of the original American Arts and Crafts Movement. "Normally I use a flatter paint," says Jones, who painted the living room with darker ceilings and lighter walls, "but I chose a satin finish for the living room ceilings to give some sheen at night when they're illuminated by lights."

The colors for the living room décor all sprang from an impromptu purchase of a striped ottoman. "We loved the

*Below Hullinger and Jones create a wonderful terrace setting complete with cobblestone patio, stone walls, and rustic pergola. Opposite top For the new kitchen, they turned to David Hudson of 30Grit, who created the new extended terrazzo countertop over the island. The rare black terrazzo is finished with a black wax. Opposite below The dining room wainscoting and window casings are finished in a dark varnish typical of varnishes used 100 years ago.*





orange and apple green," says Garrison, "but we were afraid to move on until we found the carpet." They stumbled on a bonanza at the Mill End Store in Milwaukie, Oregon, where Garrison designed the living room and entry carpets from remnants, which the company bound for them.

The owners found themselves rapidly transitioning from one redesign project to the next. They launched into a months-long landscape project shortly after tearing out the kitchen—the remains of which shocked the neighborhood as they lay exposed on the freshly laid sod, now uprooted to accommodate a Japanese maple. Pete Wilson of Stone Works installed a stone wall for which Jones drew an undulating concrete path freehand in the dirt from the sidewalk to the front steps. The path spills into serpentine garden paths for which Hullinger hauled all the gravel and laid the flagstone borders. Jones worked with landscape designer Susan Lynch of Container Gardens to design the plantings, whose brilliant greens, soft reds, and deep ambers reiterate the historical colors of the newly completed "Copper kettle" house color, "Brazen" window trim, and "Aegean Olive" a deep earthy color that grounds the rebuilt concrete, the porch, and the handcrafted screen door.

"We tried to balance evergreen and deciduous plants," says Jones, who was raised on a farm in Texas, "so we would not just have sticks in wintertime." Having once planted a garden for his mother so that she would always have something

beautiful blooming year-round, Jones was already well acquainted with the general care of plants. The move to the Pacific Northwest, and this Foursquare in particular, however, has opened up a broad new spectrum of plants he's never encountered before. "One of my favorites," says Jones, "is the smoke bush. I fell in love with the rich color and the texture of its leaves."

Indeed, the transformation of the *fallen* Foursquare has not only impacted Hullinger and Jones's lives, and those of their rescued greyhounds, Darby and Presley, but also the entire neighborhood. One need only stand on the sidewalk to hear a passerby offer kudos to know just how deeply a comprehensive restoration can affect the soul of an entire neighborhood. NOH

*Donna Pizzi is a freelance writer and stylist living in Portland, Oregon.*

**For Resources, see page 87.**

*Opposite top* A wall of windows brings the outside into Jones's office in the basement, where both ceilings and walls are painted to match the sky. *Opposite left* Hullinger and Jones restored Hullinger's grandfather's hutch to use in the office. They painted it dark chocolate brown to coordinate with their kitchen cabinetry. The flour bin was missing when they received the piece, so they took off the door, added shelves, and installed baskets. *Opposite right* The master bath is outfitted with a double-sink vanity and Olean floor tiles.



### Portland Foursquare

The old Portland Foursquare style is a simple, two-story box-shaped house reminiscent of rural farmhouses from the Midwest. Frequently, these houses featured four corner rooms on each floor and a large hip roof front dormer above an unfinished attic. By 1900, the style had moved westward to Portland, where thousands of Foursquares were built from 1900 to the 1930s. The style invariably includes an expansive front porch that spans the front of the house beneath a low-hipped roof. Any details present usually reflected either the Craftsman or Colonial Revival styles.

*A pair of cymbidium orchids frames the entry door and the newly rebuilt porch, which is grounded by the dark "Aegean Olive" by Benjamin Moore.*