

PROJECT PROFILE:

Private Residence Skaneateles, New York

BACKGROUND

In March 2021, new owners purchased a historic home in Skaneateles, New York with the goal of restoring it to its original aesthetic look. The 1880's Tudor-style residence had undergone multiple renovations over the years and was encapsulated in a pink metal exterior in the 1970's. However, the owners were determined to bring back its original charm while incorporating modern materials for durability, energy efficiency and ease of maintenance.

The exterior remodeling process began in late June and was completed on November 1st of that same year.

CHALLENGE

Obtaining approval for the renovation presented an initial challenge, as the town initially hesitated to approve the use of an Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS) for the project. However, Alex "Gator" Gatewood of Gator's Specialty Finishes created a convincing mockup that showcased how the materials would restore the aesthetic integrity of the historic home.

Once the proposal was presented, the town fully embraced it. The success of the design and final execution would even result in the home becoming a featured stop on the local historical society's walking tour.









SOLUTION

The restoration process involved carefully stripping the house down to its substrate by removing the stucco and lath. To ensure the home was properly sealed, a sheet-applied air and water barrier was installed, and newly-fitted windows were sealed with a high-performance sealant. A Dryvit Outsulation[®] system with expanded polystyrene (EPS) insulation was then mechanically-fastened to the structure, followed by a reinforced basecoat.

Another complex aspect of the renovation was replicating the ornate details of the original design. Scott Stachnik from Dryvit Distributor, Thermal Foams, Inc. was instrumental in fabricating 60 corbels out of EPS, with every line and button meticulously hand-cut to match the intricate designs of the 1880's architecture. Similarly, all detail pieces were custom-cut and installed to mimic the original Tudor-style



design seamlessly. Dryvit finishes were used to achieve an authentic look — Freestyle[®] created the look of old-world stucco on the walls and Sandpebble[®] Fine was used for a more refined look on the Tudor elements, corbels, and soffits.

Architect Laura Molloy of Space Architectural Studio, P.C. collaborated with Gator's Specialty Finishes to ensure the final finish accurately reflected the historic character of the original design. By researching color schemes from the 1800's, the owners selected historically-accurate shades to complete the restoration. The careful planning and execution transformed the residence into a stunning fusion of historical authenticity and modern performance.

Overall, the project is a great example of the ability of Dryvit's modern solutions to preserve and enhance historic architectural designs. Now restored to its former elegance, this residence is a source of pride within the community and an excellent example of successful historic preservation.

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