



Eddie Ross in his new sunroom, formerly a dilapidated porch. The French doors are scaled smaller for this older home.

EDGEWOOD HALL

On the Hunt for Windows & Doors

Finding the balance between old-world character and modern performance.

Windows and doors can tell the story of a house even before you enter. Ours is a 1923 Colonial, so the facade is symmetrical, with double-hung windows that flood the foyer with light—keepers! But the '70s addition in back was dark, and its porch had holey screens that invited more pests than guests. With our architects, we hatched a plan for a bright and airy new kitchen-family room.

Finding historically correct styles wasn't hard, but many of our favorites were outrageously expensive, while some bargains had an off-the-rack look that yelled, "This is an addition!" We decided on the company Ply Gem, a builder's secret that industry friends clued us into.

We picked double-hung windows for the kitchen-family room, slightly overscaled to bring in the light. In the sunroom, the grody screens were swapped for French doors and floor-to-ceiling windows, both pettily scaled in keeping with the era of the house. We're excited that modern weather stripping and insulated glass will mean a less-daunting energy bill. Even better: Edgewood Hall now has the charm it so deserves. —Eddie Ross

Past Perfect

These historically inspired, Eddie-approved picks deliver character without the old-house quirks.



"This reminds me of the gorgeous antique doors you'd find on a townhouse in a historic part of town." Entranceway; andersenwindows.com



"Pretty in a powder room or butler's pantry. To play up the shape, paint the trim a contrasting color." Special Shapes; marvin.com



"This has a masculine vibe and great proportions for unobstructed views out of the bottom panes." Architect Series; pella.com

PHOTOGRAPHER RACHEL MCGINN. FOR MORE DETAILS, SEE RESOURCES