



Chestnut Hill Local

(/)
Thursday, June 6, 2024

MAIN MENU

[My account \(/account/\)](#)

[Log out \(/login.html?action=logout\)](#)

Search




WISSAHICKON DANCE ACADEMY
 Classes for all ages, Ballet, Tap, Jazz and Contemporary.
 Classes running all summer. Summer camps for kids.
 38 East School House Lane 215-849-7950
www.wissahickondance.com

(<https://chlbanners.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/cl.php?>

bannerid=776&zoneid=3&sig=b667a55fd2321fe3be318d0c142adf8cc8dd4b76558b9a2709f844cd49d835&oadest=www.wissahickondance.com)

BY DESIGN

When renovating, windows and doors need special care



(<https://alpha.creativecirclecdn.com/chestnuthilllocal/original/20240605-181353-9e0->

IMG_7378.jpg)

The distinctive architectural details of windows and doors correlate with specific styles and historic periods. This local home displays True Divided Light replacement windows on the third floor.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICIA COVE

Posted Thursday, June 6, 2024 12:00 am

by **Patricia M. Cove**

When preserving historic architecture, which brings so many benefits to a community, including sustainability, windows and doors carry particular importance.

Often, the owners of historic homes don't realize just how important these features are to the design of their home, or to the overall character of a community.

Windows and doors are often the pieces, that if not repaired or replaced properly, can severely impact a historic façade, risking the integrity of the entire building.

One challenge in a community such as ours is that our architectural inventory includes Georgian, Federal, Victorian, and Colonial style structures, with a varying range of window styles and configurations.

Late 18th and early 19th century buildings often had rectangular, double-hung and sash style windows, with small panes of glass separated by wood muntins. Typically, the panes would be 6-over-6 or 9-over-9 lights, and doors would be of solid paneled wood.

Victorian era houses, meanwhile, often featured taller, double-hung windows with a single piece of glass in one or both sections. Sometimes each sash was divided vertically in a 2-over-2 layout, or a more decorative arrangement that incorporated stained or leaded glass. Gothic elements such as a signature peak were also common.

Casement or "swinging" windows became more prevalent in the early 20th century as architects and builders were inspired by British and North European domestic architecture.

Fenestration style is an essential character-defining feature within each building, no matter the date of its construction. It is unique to each architectural style and period and is integral in maintaining a building's integrity.



([https://chlbanners.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/cl.php?](https://chlbanners.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/cl.php?bannerid=716&zoneid=1&sig=ae87db9843fda5b86cf59969f579256f3d74db2cdd266c23cfac168149101f40&oadest=https%3A%2F%2Fchestnu)

[bannerid=716&zoneid=1&sig=ae87db9843fda5b86cf59969f579256f3d74db2cdd266c23cfac168149101f40&oadest=https%3A%2F%2Fchestnu](https://chlbanners.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/cl.php?bannerid=716&zoneid=1&sig=ae87db9843fda5b86cf59969f579256f3d74db2cdd266c23cfac168149101f40&oadest=https%3A%2F%2Fchestnu)



([https://chlbanners.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/cl.php?](https://chlbanners.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/cl.php?bannerid=771&zoneid=1&sig=d480902492aff0e9f7d6da7b6b49fcc4e45fe3784ae9a63a120ebf966b39bd45&oadest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sherwin-williams.com%2Fhomeowners)

[bannerid=771&zoneid=1&sig=d480902492aff0e9f7d6da7b6b49fcc4e45fe3784ae9a63a120ebf966b39bd45&oadest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sherwin-williams.com%2Fhomeowners\)](https://chlbanners.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/cl.php?bannerid=771&zoneid=1&sig=d480902492aff0e9f7d6da7b6b49fcc4e45fe3784ae9a63a120ebf966b39bd45&oadest=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.sherwin-williams.com%2Fhomeowners)

The mistreatment of these features can not only result in the loss of a building's history but can impact a historic building's overall value.

If you are considering restoring or replacing existing historic windows, here are some things to review:

Plan on speaking with a skilled restoration expert to identify the style and construction. If replacement is the only option, seek professional architectural or preservationist advice before speaking with window salespeople.

If energy efficiency is your primary goal, consider reducing air filtration by sealing around windows and door frames, adding storm windows, or hiring a specialized company to double-glaze existing windows.

Select window and door styles compatible with the original shapes, light division, frame profile, and color range.

Today's windows can be large sheets of insulated glass rather than using "snap-in" muntins (the vertical and horizontal elements that divide the window into a grid). Inexperienced homeowners may be convinced that this is acceptable. However, experienced owners of historic structures can spot this error from blocks away.

Understand the difference between true divided lights (TDL) and simulated divided lights (SDL). Always choose true divided lights, compatible with the style of your historic home.

Unless you are replacing steel windows, which are often black, or working with a modern or contemporary house, avoid black frames and muntins, which become almost invisible when viewed from the exterior and erase the visual impact of the appearance of those all-important true divided lights, which are so crucial to the character of the façade.

Choose a window color that is compatible with the historic architectural style. These days, almost all paint companies provide a historic paint color palette from which to choose.

Porch doors and glazed infill panels often feature larger panes of glass, distinguishing the porch from the main body of the house. When converting such a porch, resist using smaller windows, solid walls, or solid doors to retain a porch-like character.

If shutters are inherent to the architectural style, make sure they are sized as if they would cover the entire window when closed. A pair of 15 inch shutters on either side of a 60 inch window, for instance, is not appropriate. Wood shutter material is always preferable to vinyl.

Reach out to the expert preservationists at the Chestnut Hill Conservancy, to learn about the history of your home and its placement on our National Register of Historic Places.

Remember what a privilege it is to reside within a national historic district and consider the responsibility we have to preserve and maintain the features that contribute so greatly to that honor.

Architect Jean McCoubrey contributed to this article.

Patricia Cove is Principal of Architectural Interiors and Design in Chestnut Hill and can be reached through www.patriciacove.com.

OTHER ITEMS THAT MAY INTEREST YOU

New Habitat for Humanity ReStore in the Neighborhood (/stories/new-habitat-for-humanity-restore-in-the-neighborhood,32390)

The historic character of our neighborhood is a design ... (/stories/the-historic-character-of-our-neighborhood-is-a-design-all-its-own,31644)

Sometimes you need a contractor who can say 'no' (/stories/sometimes-you-need-a-contractor-who-can-say-no,31545)

When sleuthing helps you care for your historic home (/stories/when-sleuthing-helps-you-care-for-your-historic-home,31459)



(<https://chlbanners.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/cl.php?>

bannerid=7&wid=1&sig=17d188d-3919354964996b101b339f1ea9c7c7815bad65463077d1782537e681&oadest=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.foxroach.com%2F) Donate to CHCA Annual Appeal (https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=HNBT34YY8VANC)

m%2F)

LOCAL CALENDAR

Sat, Jun 08 @6:00pm Sponsored (

Wed, Jun 12 Sponsored (

Sat, Jun 15 @8:00pm Sponsored (



Stronger Brothers Stronger Fathers
Thu, Jun 06

Helium Presents: Uncle Lazer

Helium Comedy Club Philadelphia
Thu, Jun 06

A Royal Round

The Royal, Where Music Lives
Thu, Jun 06 @7:30am

Celebrate Father's Day with The Night Kitchen Bakery

The Night Kitchen Bakery

See All Events
(<https://chestnuthilllocal.com/events/>)

Infant and Toddler Storytime and Playgroup
Eumo Family Library

One Night Only Featuring Naeem Raiss

Add Your Event (https://hub.cityspark.com/event/submission/ChestnutHill?utm_medium=internal&utm_source=widget&utm_campaign=add-ev)

THE LATEST



In 'King Kong,' love will destroy you (/stories/in-king-kong-love-will-destroy-you,32488)

RKO's 1933 classic, "King Kong," opens with a fake Arabian proverb and famously ends with another unforgettable quote: "It was beauty that killed the beast."

(/stories/in-king-kong-love-will-destroy-you,32488)



Talented designers return to Hill's PhilaMRKT pop-up (/stories/talented-designers-return-to-hills-philamrkt-pop-up,32487)

PhilaMRKT, a one-day pop-up featuring some of the area's best artists, is returning to Chestnut Hill on June 7 at Kismet Cowork, 12 W. Willow Grove Ave.

(/stories/talented-designers-return-to-hills-philamrkt-pop-up,32487)



Songs of the Dust Bowl at Historic Germantown (/stories/songs-of-the-dust-bowl-at-historic-germantown,32486)

Folk musician Saul Broudy, who specializes in bluegrass, country, blues, rockabilly and roots music, will highlight the songs of Woody Guthrie on June 8.

(/stories/songs-of-the-dust-bowl-at-historic-germantown,32486)



Mt. Airy's Supper Sessions return for a culinary extravaganza (/stories/mt-airys-supper-sessions-return-for-a-culinary-extravaganza,32485)

Mt. Airy is gearing up to host its signature outdoor event, Go Mt. Airy Supper Sessions, a monthly festival.

(/stories/mt-airys-supper-sessions-return-for-a-culinary-extravaganza,32485)



Stay or go: A Hero's dilemma in 'Father Comes Home' (/stories/stay-or-go-a-heros-dilemma-in-father-comes-home,32484)

Just in time for "Juneteenth," Quintessence Theatre presents "Father Comes Home from the Wars, (Parts 1, 2 and 3)" by Suzan-Lori Parks.

(/stories/stay-or-go-a-heros-dilemma-in-father-comes-home,32484)




(<https://chlbanners.creativecirclemedia.com/www/delivery/cl.php?bannerid=797&zoneid=1&sig=a789d60baca79d7d64082b83cc7aaa43a88fa6fb382e85fd81229d4688630c3e&oadest=https%3A%2F%2Fthestagecrafters.org%2F>)



Chestnut Hill Local

(/)

 (/browse.rss)

8434 Germantown Ave.
 Philadelphia, PA 19118
 215-248-8800 (tel:215-248-8800)

- News (/news/)
- Opinion (/opinion/)
- Obituaries (/obituaries/)
- Entertainment (/entertainment/)
- Neighborhoods (/neighborhoods/)
- Marketplace (/marketplace/)
- Community (/community-news/)
- Wissahickon (/wissahickon_magazine/)

© COPYRIGHT 2024 THE CHESTNUT HILL LOCAL
 POWERED BY CREATIVE CIRCLE MEDIA SOLUTIONS (HTTP://CREATIVECIRCLEMEDIA.COM)