



308 Mulberry

Historically detailed renovation and new construction blend seamlessly into community



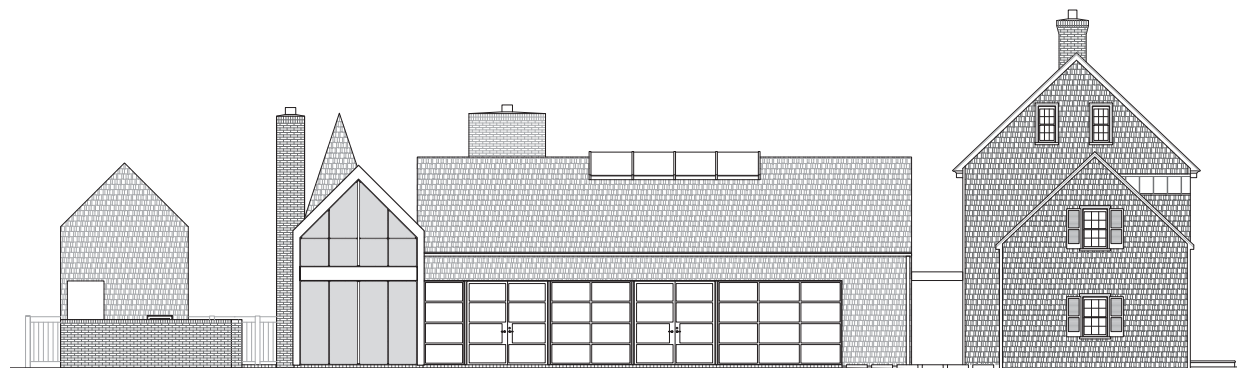
The small city of Lewes, Delaware, located on the eastern side of Sussex County, faces northeast into the mouth of the Delaware Bay. Lewes is popularly known as an eighteenth-century coastal town commemorated for being the site of the earliest European settlement in Delaware. The starting point for this project was a small house located at 308 Mulberry Street, originally constructed in the early nineteenth century in the heart of the historical district.

The current owner purchased the historical property, in poor condition, with the intention of renovating the existing structure and adding a substantial extension and swimming pool. In the redesign, the original structure was meticulously restored, reinforcing the historic log floor joists and wood frame. A shed-roofed screened porch, storage room and poorly proportioned living space that had been added to the back of the house in the early twentieth century were removed.

The requested spatial requirements were substantial and more than doubled the footprint of the original building. The design strategy kept the historic, two-

story house prominent in the overall composition. The four additional structures engage the historical house in a minimally invasive fashion. The additions are a collection of one-story pavilions organized around a new swimming pool and large deodor cedar tree located at the rear of the property.

While the exterior of the original house is restored with historically correct detailing, the new pavilions are more crisply detailed. Cedar-shingled walls and roofs match the historical house but without the same overhangs and trim. Glass set in black steel frames punctuates the cedar walls. Tall red brick chimneys and



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landscape walls add vertical and horizontal elements, completing the composition.

The original house now contains the main entry and four bedrooms. White ash flooring enhances a decidedly modern interior, minimally detailed with crisp white sheetrock walls. An open staircase with floating wooden treads, glass walls, aluminum and stainless steel contributes to the modern palette of elements and materials. In juxtaposition to the primarily white interiors of the original house, the interior of the new living pavilion is wrapped in mahogany paneling. The rich wood of the ceiling and walls is complemented by basalt flooring, white marble countertops and fireplace surround, and stainless steel cabinetry. Walls of glass and a long

skylight at the ridge allow light to flood the pavilion. The transition to the screened porch is punctuated by an oculus, detailed in the same Douglas fir that lines the subsequent volume. The wood-encased screened porch also contains a fireplace, allowing the space to be used late into the fall. Additional pavilions contain a bathroom, an exercise room and a screened porch.

This project embraced a small, historical house, restoring it and allowing it to contribute to the architectural fabric of Lewes for many years to come. The result is a generously proportioned, modern, light-filled space, rich with materials that co-exist comfortably within the town's historical makeup. 🏡

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