



◀▼ The back of the house (below), which was not subject to such rigorous historic review, contrasts dramatically with the more formal and classic front (left). Pastel-colored stucco panels on the main house are repeated on the studio addition, which is connected to the house by a pergola-covered walkway.



A Historic Addition

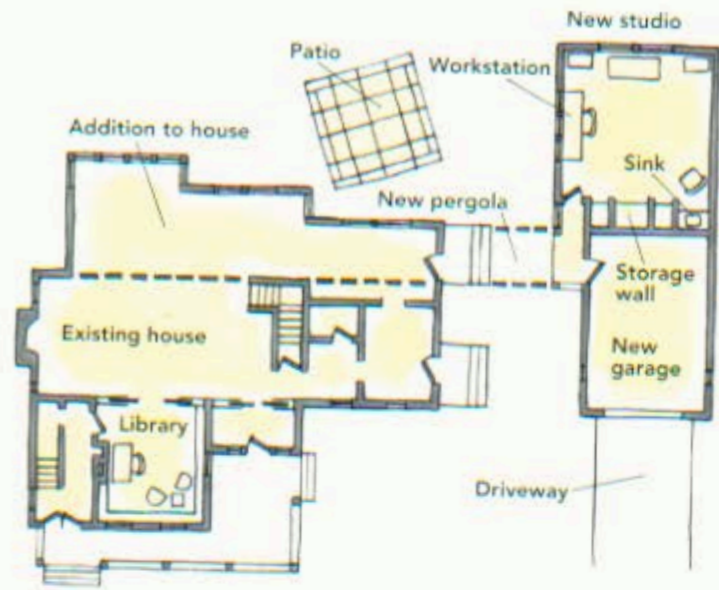
A workplace addition in a historic district has to conform to some strict regulations, which typically dictate not only the size of the addition but also its color and style. When Hans, an artist/illustrator and owner of the house featured here, was evaluating the property for a suitable studio location, he hired Boston architect Gary Wolf to help him come up with a renovation plan that would work for him as well as for the town. The house is in the Northbridge district of Concord, Massachusetts (where the “shot heard round the world” was fired in 1775).



◀▲ The main workstation in the studio, a simple flat surface supported by wooden sawhorses, looks out upon additions to the back of the house and to the peaceful yard and sunken patio.



Wolf targeted an existing garage at the side of the house for the new studio. There was a room at the back of the garage, at one time used as a study, but it was neither big enough nor bright enough for the owner's needs. Wolf proposed that the side building be razed, and in its place a new garage and wider studio be built, replicating the style of the original house and connected to it via a pergola-covered open walkway. A small addition was also planned for the back of the house, which was not subject to



▲ The owner wanted a clear separation between the place where he does his illustration work and the place where he pays bills and attends to other administrative tasks. Space was found in the library off the entry hall in the main house.

the same strict regulations as the front. Modifications on the back side could be a bit more playful, including a geometrical panel design in pastel colors, which was continued onto the side of the studio (see the floor plan above).

The architect chose a simple form for the new studio, with a high ceiling domered over the main workstation to bring in more natural light. The picture window faces north, overlooking the back of the house and a sunken patio. The wall adjoining the garage is floor-to-ceiling deep storage to accommodate flat art of various sizes and miscellaneous supplies. Hans requested a sink in the corner so he wouldn't

Storage for Special Project Documents

Drawings, maps, photographic archives, and other specialized documents can be difficult to store because they come in such a variety of sizes and don't always fit standard files and cabinetry. You have two options: Custom-build shelves or cabinets to fit, or buy storage units that are made for large-format or nonstandard documents. These are often sold through stores that specialize in providing products to a particular industry.



▲ A wall of deep storage accommodates flat files of the artist's work.

have to traipse into the house to wash his brushes. In its simplicity and openness, the space is flexible enough to allow for any future changes in arrangement the artist might care to make. ■