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by: Allison Klingler

# A NEW VICTORIAN

for: Private Residence



Above: "Addams Family House." Painting originally by Louis McManus, copy via HookedonHouses.net.

Right: "Private Residence in Autumn" rendering by Allison Klingler, Dever Architects.



## Dever Architects Combines Old and New in One of a Kind House:

Although best known for their hospitality, retail, and other commercial work, Dever Architects got its start in the residential business – and continues to do a few residential projects every year. It's a sector of architecture that we enjoy to work on whenever we get the opportunity.

But despite our history and experience with residential work, it still took the whole firm aback when a client came in and said they always wanted to live in the Addams' Family House. As we're always striving to meet our client's requests, we first had to research the history of the house in order to get the design right.

The original "Addams' Family House" was first built around 1887 as the house for Henry Gregory Newhall in Los Angeles, California. The original building was less ornate, with a hipped roof, rectangular windows, and a central bay rather than a tower. The Addams Family producers liked the house, but wanted it to look more dramatic and so turned to artist Louis McManus, who painted over a photograph of the house to create the now iconic image.

McManus added a mansard roof, a large, central tower, curved windows, dormers, and prominent cornice and railing work – which was all strongly based on the Second Empire style of house.

Originally popular in Paris in the early 1850s, by the end of the decade the Second Empire style began to show up in the United States. It became especially popular for civic and public buildings in the 1860s and 1870s, during the post-Civil War boom. But the style quickly began to fade by the 1880s.

While much of the requested design was typical – three bedrooms, four bathrooms, upper floor laundry, a basement rec room, and a two-story foyer – the owners had some unique additions. They wanted a patio and balcony wrapped in French Quarter-style decorative iron railings and friezes, a large bar that could open to their living room, and a grand porte cochere, which is very typical in Victorian designs.

The house will have many unique elements, including others that are best left as the owners' secrets.

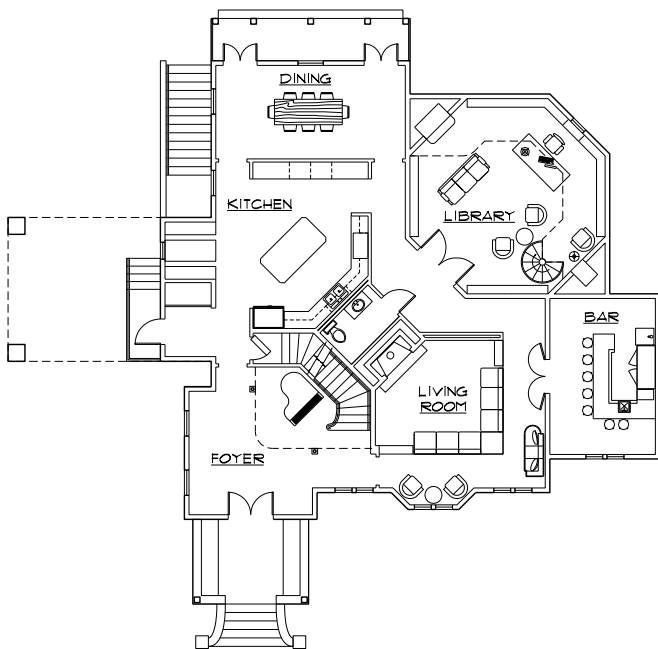
But perhaps the most unique aspects of the design are the two-story, octagonal library and the tower that leads to a rooftop deck.

An essential part of any grand Second Empire or Victorian house, the three-story tower functions as both a grand foyer with enough room to display the owners' prized piano and access to a private music room and rooftop deck with sweeping views of the area.

The library has a double door entry, a grand fireplace, and a spiral staircase that leads to a catwalk with shelves. The library will have 17 custom book shelves with two rolling ladders and over 460 linear feet of shelving. For the book loving owners, the library is the crown jewel of the house.

Construction began on the house in September 2019.

At Dever Architects, we're proud to create dream houses – no matter what the owners' unique style or request might be. We're committed to creating a design that functions well, keeps the owners safe and warm, and embraces their own taste so that they may always feel at home.



Left: "First Floor Plan" drawing by Jeff Ivins, not to scale.

Right: "Tower Framing" photo by owner, used with permission.