



A garage fit for a queen

With parking at a premium in this San Francisco neighborhood, the owners of this 1900s Queen Anne Victorian hoped to add a garage when remodeling. Because the house is in a “potentially historic district,” the city’s planning department strictly monitored renovations and would not allow changes that would drastically alter the facade. Faced with the

challenge of meeting the homeowners’ wishes and the city’s requirements, Ross Levy of LSarc proposed a solution. To preserve the home’s historic character, he would design a motorized, hinged bay-window garage door to match the home’s original window. His clients were delighted with his idea; the planning department, not so much. A project like Levy’s had never been attempted. The

swinging doors would have to operate smoothly, close securely, and be able to withstand persistent San Francisco winds. While it took about a year’s worth of “prove it” conversations with the planning department before Levy finally got the go-ahead for this project, he and the homeowners agree this distinctive garage door was worth the wait.

—Maureen Friedman

Door design: LSarc, San Francisco; Ross Levy, principal; Barbara Shands, project architect; Karen Andersen, project designer
Carpenter: Shane Klare **Door-operating mechanism:** R&S Erection, San Francisco



Photographs: Ken Gutmaker