

It was the Richard N. and Lillian Stillwell house at 2040 Prairie. They always said that if they could have any house in Quincy, they would choose the Stillwell cottage.

When three of their four children left home and they decided their five-bedroom house on College was too big, the Edgars' dream house went on the market and they snapped it up.

The house had many appealing features. The Craftsman-style interior was both a surprise and a plus for the Edgars.

"From the outside, we didn't expect that it was (Craftsman), but were happy when it was," Carrie said.

They were drawn to the interior's simplicity, open floor plan and beautiful wood trim on the fireplace, doors and windows and the richly stained wood floors.

They also liked the built-in drawers in the bedroom closets and the master bedroom fireplace.

Once they moved in, they furnished their new home with Mission-style furniture and accessories so visitors are enveloped by the 1920s feel of the house.

The refinished floors, door and window trim was a "gift" to them from the previous owners. There also is a new kitchen and a breakfast room addition with a main floor laundry area. All the trim in the redone area is of the same flavor as the rest of the house.

Mark said the former owners had done things "just right" so all they had to do was move in and enjoy their down-sized home.

However, after celebrating a few holidays, the Edgars realized they needed more space for family gatherings. So they're turning the large screened-in porch into a spacious family room. When it is complete, they will change their current TV room/sunroom into a home office.

Mark is doing the project himself and is learning a lesson about how much time such a large project takes. Although he had done some construction when he was young, he said he is glad for advice from his stepfather, cousin and friends.



Mark and Carrie Edgar's home in the East End Historic District, at left, did not appear to be a Craftsman-style house when they first looked at it on walks through the neighborhood. But when they bought it they discovered a Craftsman interior. The home is furnished with Mission-style pieces, so that the interiors, pictured above and below, have a real 1920s feel.



The Edgars are intent on making the addition compatible with the rest of the house, and they scoured magazines and renovation catalogs to find the right Craftsman style items for their new living space.

The Edgars' back yard is an additional living space in good weather. They



treasure the woodsy ambiance and privacy of the back yard.

"We use the yard a lot. The big old spruce trees whisper with the slightest breeze," Mark said.

Carrie loves gardening and has quadrupled space that the garden takes up in the back yard. Shade plants such as

bleeding heart, ginger, hosta and ferns are already up and thriving.

As unit leader for the University of Illinois Extension in Quincy, Carrie coordinates the Master Gardener program and has an "in" for finding just the right plants for their outdoor living room.