

**From:** [Madden](#)  
**To:** [Anne Hersch](#)  
**Subject:** notes on design for 703 Talbot  
**Date:** Friday, March 09, 2012 8:41:49 AM

---

Dear Anne,

I don't know if we will have a chance to explain our choices for design on March 13th.

I want the review committee to know the following.

Jeff and I have two awards from the A.I.A. for public art sculpture. We renovated one of the nicest houses in Albany (1014 Curtis St.) ten years ago and recently sold it for over-market price due to its highend detailing. We are trained architects and landscape architects (although not licensed) and build quality designs. Please see our website.

**The Design:**

- The new front porch with its slightly higher and now pitched roof will mostly hide the back two-story addition from the street, and will give a charming facade to the neighborhood.
- The cedar shingle siding with cream colored windows and wide trim will look very "craftsman" and well built.
- To strengthen this concept we have research craftsman porches. The proposed tapered columns and the slight arc to the roof support will add grace to the facade.
- We have added two street trees to the plan and have proposed "gifting" trees to all our neighbors. (Most neighbors don't want even a free tree, surprisingly. But we are still hopeful they will change their minds once they see ours.)
- We intend to plant the sidewalk strip and remove the concrete. All plants will be drought tolerant.
- The front walkway and stairs (now an ugly pink concrete) will be covered in flagstone to go with the craftsman look.
- We have put a hip roof on the back addition to be mindful of our neighbors. This reduces the amount of view and light blocked. (Note: there is only one neighbor to our north and the only thing our addition will block is a slight bit of light in her garden in the winter months.)
- We changed our back upper-story window layout to accommodate our neighbors. We put in corner windows rather than windows overlooking our garden to keep more privacy with our backdoor neighbors. (Their two-story house is three inches from our property line!)
- We have shown our three bordering neighbors these plans, and all have shown support.

Jennifer Madden  
[Madden@ReedMadden.com](mailto:Madden@ReedMadden.com)  
510-734-1782  
[www.ReedMadden.com](http://www.ReedMadden.com)

