

**Celebrating Our 30th
Anniversary Year**

Adding value by infusing period architecture with the modern lifestyle

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS:**



Thank you for another year of success for our company. Our family, associate painters, craftsmen, and landscape installers all thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Sincerely,
Paul Helmer

Your newsletter with help for design & color



QUESTION – The front of my house is dated & boring. What should I do?

RESPONSE – Just because a house is boring could have to do with lack of personality. White paint can leave a lot to be desired as well as poor design features. Here we have a corral railing that looks like it may have come from a Texas ranch. White paint is more an indication of a colonial style home not a ranch style. This white vertical siding on the recess porch tends to separate the two brick extensions on the two ends of the house. The schizophrenic house sports one window with shutters. Our Curb Appeal Renovation changed colors to homogenize the house into a more complete medium color tone. The color on the front and garage doors repeat the brick hue and add unity. Prairie style columns with vertical and horizontal webs frame the window and porch area. The response of the neighborhood is that the house is vibrant and exciting.



BEFORE & AFTER

SUBURBAN WORK:



Overland Park Home:

Color and design can make such a difference to an entry. This home has had drama added with different values of the same color. Windows in a cream, gold for the trim and a vibrant gold on the front door adds a centering at the door. To make the body of stucco a background a tan color coordinates with the stone mortar color between stones seen on the left side of the door.



A close-up view of the house with good bones and enhanced personality.



A close-up view of the garage then and now.

A GARAGE REDO:

Kansas City, KS - before and after



2 years ago we changed the colors to the house & garage on this Cambridge address property. This year we were asked to improve the garage door to make it appropriate to the Bungalow style. This is the result.



Saving money over an expensive Carriage House door we installed a flat face overhead garage door. Details and hinges were added to give the door an appropriate side-open look. The owner did not want anyone to look into the garage hence we installed false windows that are black backed Lexan. Even up close one thinks that the windows are real.

URBAN WORK: The Harry Truman Historic District in Independence, MO recently expanded its district to help assure preservation efforts. Touch of Distinction was asked to give two talks: one on Period Color Schemes and one on Period Landscaping. To a large audience these are some of the images shown which are part of our contributions to historic color and design.



Above on Maple St. is a formerly white variation of the American Foursquare style, having a great deal of timber-work in its gable. Today the detail has been picked out to bring attention to the detail.



Below and to the right is a Queen Ann style Victorian, formerly pink and white it now sports a 7 color scheme which is more in keeping with its elaborate embellishments. No longer is the teenage son embarrassed to invite friends for a visit.



A REAL GENTLEMAN AND CRAFTSMAN:



Bill Garth of C.M. Works Company Inc. KCKS is an excellent gutter-man metal smith.



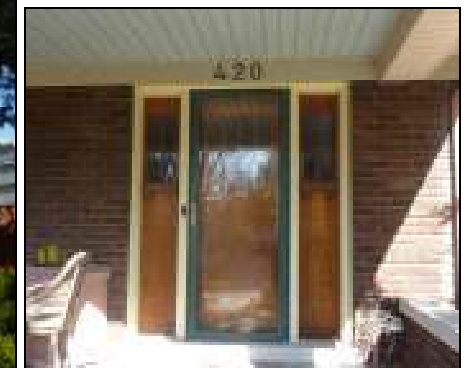
My rebuilt box gutters
I have had the privilege of Bill's workmanship on my own Hyde Park residence. Here he rebuilt my box gutters and did numerous woodwork repairs.

**You can get hold of Bill at:
(816) 560-7804 for regular gutter needs too.**

More Independence work:



This Maple St. residence is an interesting combination of Deco and Mediterranean styling. The home, once grey is now alive with enhancements to its lovely details.



A Shirtwaist home on Farmer has an interesting array of color on its stucco with subtle coloration on its fascia and windows. To the right is the blue-green ceiling and dramatic doorway.

CHURCHWORK TOO:



From all of us Thank you for our 30 years of growth – many years of helping to beautify Kansas City, the Midwest Region and beyond with our own special TOUCH OF DISTINCTION.

More Independence work:



The Russel Majors home is one of the oldest (1850's) and most historic homes in Independence. Majors was one of the founders of the Pony Express which connected the East and West with mail service in Pioneer days. Today the white trim has been returned to a close approximation of its original coloration. Shutters will soon go back up not as a decoration but as a past era protection for expensive and hard to get window glass.



Happy Holidays – Merry Christmas – Happy Kwanza – Peace on Earth

