

back to the education you need before starting any restoration project. Attend historic neighborhood home tours and look closely at the details. Take particular notice of work done in these homes, as seen in "before" and "after" pictures. Ask docents and homeowners questions. Send a note to the homeowner praising their restoration work and asking for tips. You will likely get a response and be able to learn from someone who has "been there and done that." Take tours of historic house museums and National Landmark buildings for an opportunity to see features as they really were. Contact local historical and preservation societies, and request leads on excellent contractors and suppliers. Join these groups for ongoing support.

If your home is missing architectural details and you want to be sure what they looked like, try to locate other homes built by your original builder. In this case, forego the note and just go up and knock on the door and introduce yourself. You will see more houses this way—and remember to bring your camera. There are also many books available on the subject. Find a bookstore that specializes in architecture so you can make a day of it. Otherwise, most large chain bookstores should have at least half a dozen bungalow books on the shelf. These

**above**

*History erased: One "remuddle" after another has left only the pillars on this former bungalow. They were removed two weeks after this photo was taken.*

**above**

*"Remuddling" a Craftsman produces an undesirable effect.*

Six months of no tinkering. You will need that time for educating yourself and to refrain from doing something you will later regret.

**left**

*BEFORE: Built-ins and trim removed, altered and painted white; a value loss of \$75,000. • AFTER: The author's previous bungalow in its fully restored glory.*



**above**  
*Not long ago, putting stucco over wood siding and replacing wood with aluminum windows was fashionable. Some homeowners don't realize that it's a sure way to lower a home's value.*



**above**  
*Aluminum siding plus inauthentic windows plus flagstone equals an unwise investment. This resulted in the decrease of this Craftsman's value.*

prices. Two remained for sale for more than half a year, and eventually the signs were taken down as they were unable to sell. The latter were priced at about the same as those that did sell, but the difference was that they were nearly stripped of all their original features. There were lots of wrought iron, white drywall, vinyl windows and recessed can lights, but no buyers. The value had been stripped along with the character.

Even in today's slower real estate market, the intact bungalow is still a fast sell. On our second bungalow's street, it recently took about a year for one to sell. This Craftsman suffered from butchered bungalow syndrome, with its wood siding stuccoed over, vinyl windows replacing original ones and stripped interior. It's clear that the new owner doesn't understand the home's assets because he or she is continuing a destructive "modernization" process. Meanwhile, the beautiful vintage bungalow next door with great curb appeal and lots of original features sold for more than the asking price. There were seven offers in less than that many days for this gem.

### Six-Month Plan

By now you should be convinced of the benefits of keeping your bungalow intact. Now,

### right

*BEFORE: Don't try this at home: A homeowner replaced their Craftsman built-in china cabinet with a bookcase that clearly takes away from the interior's appeal.*

*AFTER: The china cabinet is reborn thanks to the author. Undoing a bad remodel can be costly but worth it when a skilled carpenter brings back the home's inner beauty.*

