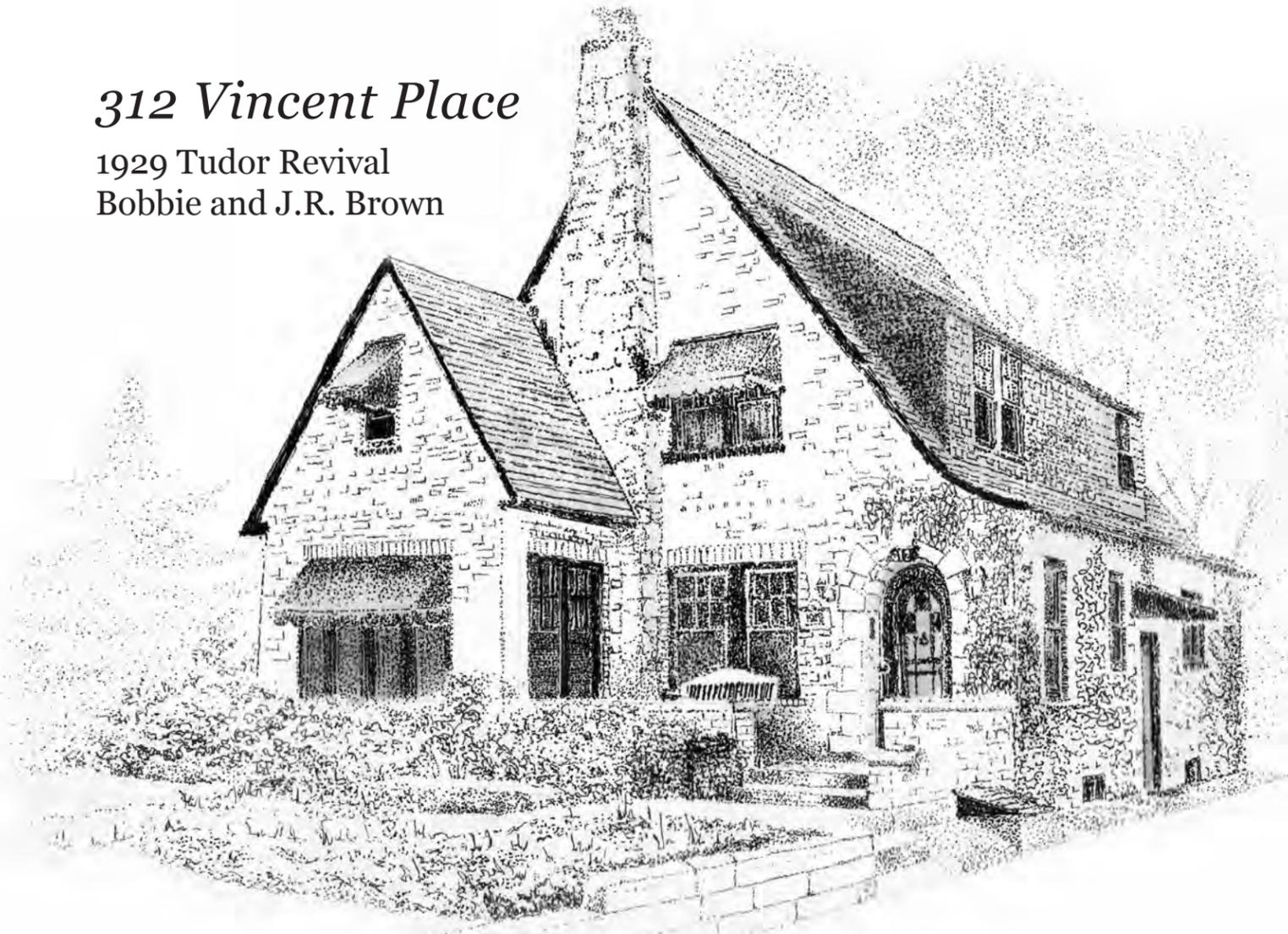




312 Vincent Place

1929 Tudor Revival
Bobbie and J.R. Brown



The home of Elgin businessman Edward O'Beirne, which was featured on our 2010 Historic House Tour, is located just two houses south of this one. Mr. O'Beirne's residence is a fine example of the type of houses that Elgin's prosperous business owners, managers and professionals were building in the mid-1920s. To ensure that his new neighborhood would be up to his standards, Mr. O'Beirne had purchased about five square blocks of the land north of Lawrence Avenue which he subdivided into lots and sold. The sale contracts for these lots included a clause that each new house constructed would be of at least \$5,000 in value. In 1928, Richard and Edith Kadow purchased a lot and constructed 312 Vincent Place the following year.

Richard Kadow was 50 years old when the couple moved in. It would become his residence for 49 years! Edith lived there until her death in 1970. Richard died in 1978, after a brief stay in a nursing home. Two more sets of owners

followed the Kadows. Then, in 2001 it was purchased by the current owners, J.R. and Bobbie Brown.

J.R. Brown was born and raised in Oklahoma. Bobbie was born in Puerto Rico, and grew up in Kansas City, Missouri. The couple met while working together in Kansas City and eventually married. Life's journey brought them to the Chicago area about 24 years ago. After renting for two years, they purchased an older home in Aurora and lived there for five years. The couple then moved into a brand-new home in Naperville for another five years.

Bobbie is a global sourcing specialist for Sears Holdings Corporation. She works with vendors that supply the giant retailer with sweaters. She is based at the corporate headquarters in Hoffman Estates. Shortening her commuting time prompted the Browns to look for a

house closer to work. Commuting was not a problem for J.R. who is able to work from home. He has been in the "green industry" for 35+ years, over 20 years as an award winning landscape designer. He has been employed by Studebaker Nurseries, Inc., a large wholesale grower of nursery stock, as the Chicago sales rep for the past 5 years.

Having come from a new home, surrounded by new construction, the Browns were looking for "a real neighborhood, not a subdivision" to move into. They wanted the charm that comes with a variety of housing styles, mature trees, traditional street grids and neighborhood amenities such as small shops, restaurants and attractions. They found Geneva and St. Charles were too expensive, but Elgin turned out to be a pleasant surprise. The prices were reasonable. There were homes rich in character, and good-quality neighborhoods could be found. Elgin's other resources, such as the library, riverfront and cultural attractions were a plus. After considering about 40 properties, they chose this distinguished home in 2001.

J.R. immediately put his landscaping expertise to work on the yard and garden design. As Bobbie recalls, "The Monday after we moved into the house, J.R. already had his crews at the house removing all the old shrubs!" He enjoys the ongoing satisfaction that comes from tending to this special environment. The gardens are his palette. Bobbie says, "I can not imagine moving again." They find the house welcoming and comfortable, making them feel that they have settled here.

After having attended several Historic Elgin House Tours, the Browns are excited to be able to contribute to this year's effort. We are grateful for the opportunity to show off this beautiful home and neighborhood. When the Browns are not enjoying their home, they may be out pursuing one of their other interests, tent camping. They are familiar with some of the best camping sites in the Midwest, so if you see them while on the tour, stop and ask them for some vacation ideas.

Architectural Notes

The Tudor Revival Style flourished in popularity during the 1920s. Elgin has numerous fine examples ranging from modest to high-style

versions. Tudor Revival is defined by steeply pitched roofs, which may also feature dormers and cross gables. Examples from the 1920s-1930s usually have multiple front-facing gables. Brick, stone and stucco are commonly used for the exterior wall cladding, with accents of half timbers, clapboards and/or shingles. A massive and prominently placed chimney is a key feature. Arched entryways, often highlighted by stonework and heavy wooden doors, are another characteristic. The windows have multi-pane sashes. Many Tudor Revivals from this period, have somewhat larger windows using a single pane sash which allows more sunlight into the building.

The facade of this house is given extra depth and texture by setting some of the bricks a fraction of an inch further out from the rest of the wall. This effect, in conjunction with the stone work, gives the house a more hand-hewn and cottage-like feel, in keeping with the architectural heritage of the style. The effect is carried to the interior where the plaster is given a slightly rough and uneven texture.

This home is a good example of how the asymmetrical footprint of the building creates opportunities for interesting interior spaces. There are nooks, bump-outs and small areas off of larger rooms. On the second floor, the sloping roof lines and dormers help create rooms that are not box shaped by allowing for built-ins, niches and slanted ceilings. As Bobbie says, "It is a house with a lot of little surprises."



Carpentry with Integrity, Inc.
527 Laurel Street, Elgin, IL 60120
847.742.9122
www.carpentrywithintegrity.com

Carpentry with Integrity proudly supports Elgin's Historic Homes

Historic Renovations Interior & Exterior Remodeling

WINNER
2006 ARTISAN AWARD
CITY OF ELGIN

"AS SEEN ON" DIY Network!