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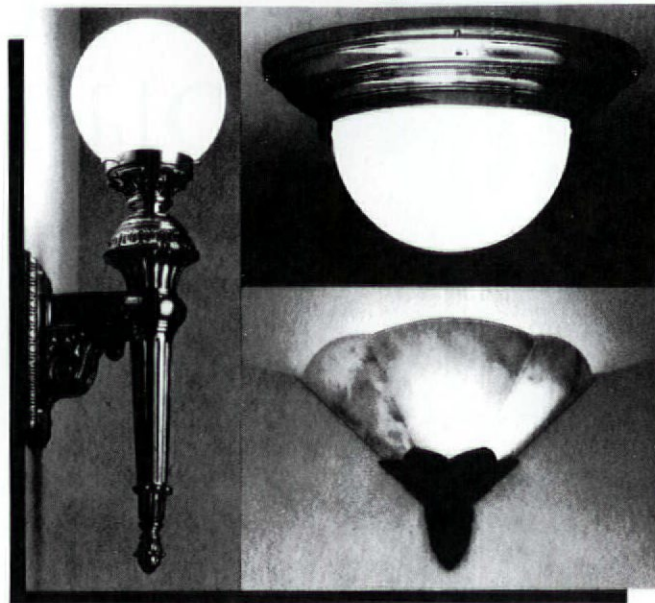
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KEY TO ABBREVIATIONS

(G)=Glossary Item; (L)=Letter; (P)=Product; (RN)=Short Item (Restorer's Notebook, Ask OHJ, etc.); (J/F)=January/February 1992; (M/A)=March/April 1992; (M/J)=May/June 1992; (J/A)=July/August 1992; (S/O)=September/October 1992; (N/D)=November/December 1992

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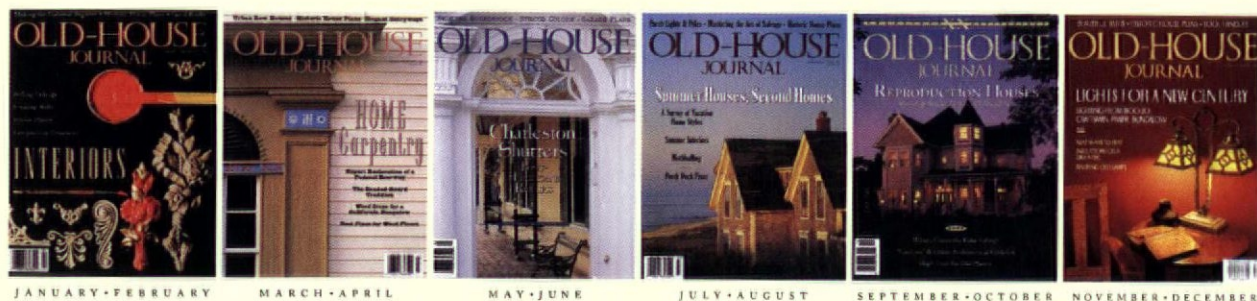
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Remuddling



STONED AGAIN

FROM CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, a classic example of why slap-dash “improvements” to the looks of old houses rarely work. The original, undulating facade of this Victorian town house, especially the three-sided bay that meets the sharply pitched roof, is designed to add to its eye-engaging appeal. Now clad in a faux-masonry veneer, the walls appear to be weighed down, and the contrast between wall angles is lost in a lumpy surface. Oddly — or thankfully — the decorative corner brackets were allowed to remain, but they have to fight for attention with the two

different styles of stuck-on stone. Probably about the time the facade got troweled over, a blocklike concrete stoop was added — no match visually for the imitation rubble it meets.

A neighboring town house shows the architectural alliance that should exist between structural and ornamental details. Here the terra cotta belt course and lattice-work corner brackets soften but don't detract from the crisp lines of the brick exterior and gable roof. Far from being faceless blanks in the wall, the original three-part windows with stained glass transoms and ornamental woodwork

are also in keeping with the house's proportions. And finally, the existing stoop is an integral part of the house, rather than just an appendage.

Obviously, the first house should be freed of its fabricated facade, a veritable millstone around its neck.

Having avoided a detail-disguising encounter with mock masonry, the charms of this Victorian town house (left) are evident. Not so for the unlucky neighbor (right), whose appeal is lost under an application of phoney stone.