



Paint JAR

Paint JAR, of Chicago, stripped this entire home (including chimney) from 1900 with Multi-Strip and a power stripping tool. Water-damaged wood work, siding and decking were all replaced and the porch restored. Sherwin-Williams and Benjamin Moore top-coats on the home and Cabot decking stain completed the project.



By John Leeke

Making History

Repainting old and historic buildings is complex. Here are some considerations.

As painting professionals, we should give every project our best effort. But old and historic buildings seem deserving of even more. These timeless sentries past require special care and impose demands for authenticity that more modern buildings do not.

It's quite a challenge. Painting and painting removal practices and technologies have changed dramatically since the horse-and-buggy days. The builders of these grand old structures could not have envisioned the products or problems of today.

The task for painters, then, is to adapt the best of today in prepping and painting the structures of yesteryear. The fact is, painting historic structures requires both art and science.

Goodbye, graceful aging

Long ago, my father taught me the two purposes of painting: appearance and performance. It's ironic that painting is supposed to protect the wood, yet now sometimes ends up damaging it.

How did that happen? Call it the unintended consequences of progress.