

# Custom Brick Case Study



## Custom Brick™ Transformed Townhouse Into High-end Luxury Home

For Chicago homeowner Christine Struminski, fitting in to her new surroundings was very important. Fresh off a corporate relocation from New Jersey, the Struminskis found a lovely traditional Chicago row home that was close to work and met all of their needs.

“We really loved the layout of the house, but it needed some pretty extensive repairs. Knowing we had to fix the problems anyway, and seeking to match the character of our neighborhood a little better, I also wanted a brick exterior,” Struminski said. “I was disappointed to find out that the home lacked the structural strength needed to support new brick facing.”

Disappointed, but far from deterred, Struminski found the solution after discussing her dilemma with her contractor, American Restoration, Ltd. It was American Restoration that led Struminski to the ultimate solution – Dryvit’s Custom Brick™ finish.

“I was excited about it because we had lived in a Dryvit home in New Jersey that had held up well, so I was familiar with the product. But I wasn’t familiar with Custom Brick. That turned out to be a great solution for us,” Struminski said.

Not only would Struminski get the brick exterior she wanted, but she would also get it at a substantially lower cost. Using Custom Brick, the exterior renovations could be made without the costly structural changes that would have been necessary to accommodate brick.



What Struminski did next was show American Restoration another home in the vicinity with a brick pattern she liked. After two or three samples were made and refined to Struminski's liking, her goal had been met.

"Basically, I showed Joe (Sider, of American Restoration) the brick and said to him 'this is what I want.' It didn't take long for him to match it," Strumsinski said.

Although the Struminskis are not able to offer precise numbers, Christine is certain that the Dryvit system under the Custom Brick finish is providing significant energy savings in the famously chilly Windy City winters.

"We had another contractor in the house doing some work and he made a point to tell us how airtight the home was. That, and our previous Dryvit experience in New Jersey, leads us to the belief that we're doing very well, in terms of energy efficiency," Struminski said.

Struminski served as her own General Contractor and designer, and worked closely with American Restoration throughout the project. Ultimately, they settled on a Custom Brick finish with Ameristone™ (another Dryvit finish) accents to match neighboring buildings.

"We're extremely happy with the way it all came out, and our neighbors have told us how much they like the way the house looks.

Like many homeowners, the Struminski's bought their home as an investment. With teen-age children and the Empty Nest years visible on the horizon, they plan to sell the home because they will no longer need all the space. "We would love to use Dryvit again on our next home" Struminski said, "we'll be excited to see what other finishes you develop by then!"

For more information about Dryvit Custom Brick, or any of the systems and products sold by Dryvit Systems, Inc., call Dryvit Customer Service at 1-800-556-7752 or visit us on the web at [www.dryvit.com](http://www.dryvit.com).

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