



**The Willman Home by D.M. Renton • 1415 North Michigan Avenue**  
**[www.1415Michigan.com](http://www.1415Michigan.com)**



**"I want my D.M. to build it.  
No one ties a tin can on our D.M."**

1415 N. Michigan is a two-story Craftsman home attributed to D.M. Renton (1878-1947), a prominent local builder with a flair for marketing. "Watch Renton Make It Grow" proclaimed an ad for one of his subdivisions. And grow they did—all over Pasadena—despite the financial panics of 1907 and 1912, with over 100 buildings eventually credited to Renton, including Mt. Wilson Observatory. Renton's early pedigree as a contractor for the architectural firms of Greene & Greene, Hunt & Grey, and Frederick Roehrig assured that every one of Renton's clients benefited from residences of inspired design and thoughtful craftsmanship. Among the more notable of these, Renton was the builder of record for the Greene's Deforest House on California Blvd., and Myron Hunt's own residence on Grand Avenue.

Known as the Willman Home, 1415 N. Michigan Avenue is one of Renton's later Pasadena structures. It was built in 1914 for Carrie and Leo Willman, Leo serving as vice president of Pasadena Furniture and Carpet Co. By 1919, the prolific Renton came under the industrious gaze of chewing gum magnate William Wrigley, Jr. Commissioned to build Wrigley's Turkish bath at what is today's Rose Parade Tournament House, Renton so impressed Wrigley that by 1920, Renton was charged with overseeing the development of Wrigley's greatest legacy, Santa Catalina Island.

*-chewing gum magnate William Wrigley, Jr.,  
on designer and builder, D.M. Renton*



fireplace flanked by casement windows complemented by a built-in bookcase and boxed beams. A colonnade creates the transition from living room to dining room. The columns, like all the woodwork in the living and dining rooms, are made of Port Orford Cedar, which the owners painstakingly stripped of paint. Featured on the opposite side of the room is a built-in china buffet and casement windows. The dining room light fixtures are the originals and have been restored.

Regarding 1415 N. Michigan, the current owners having completed an extensive restoration project. Their passion was to restore the home to its former state of grace, as Renton would have conceived and built it. The restoration also involved expansion while remaining true to the use of Craftsman-era materials and detailing. Added to the home are a family room downstairs and a master bedroom and bath upstairs.

Aided by a c1915 photograph of the home, the owners recaptured its original façade, including replacing the shingle roof with a rolled edge roof, and copper downspouts. All of the concrete porches and driveway are new, yet appear period-correct due to tinting and acid washing. The residence's front door features beveled glass with casement sidelights. Typical of Craftsman homes, the front door opens directly into the living room. Here you'll find a brick





Passing into the kitchen feels like stepping back in time. The only original elements, however, are the built-in stove hood and the lower cabinets on the wall adjacent to the dining room. All other cabinetry is new, yet sensitive to the original feel of the home. The two Bosch dishwashers are concealed behind cabinet façades; even their air gaps have been located to the home's exterior so as not to compromise the vintage look. (The O'Keefe & Merritt stove is excluded.) The breakfast nook/butler's pantry has been converted from a screened-in porch. It features bench seating for seven, and out-swinging casement windows with casement stays.

Beyond is the family room, the latest touch being the ceiling's new box beams, fixtures and picture rails. Connecting the family room to the parlor is a 3/4 bath with v-groove t&g wainscoting, hex floor tiles and vintage-look shower hardware and subway tile. The parlor features crown molding and two banks of French doors leading to porches. A pocket door separates the parlor from the living room.

Upstairs, the master bedroom enjoys brand new maple flooring and drop pocket windows that slide into a slot in the sill. The master bath uses period-correct hex floor tiles. In choosing pedestal sinks with exposed piping, and nickel-plated shower fixtures, the owners sustained the period look. Down the hall from the master bedroom are two bedrooms separated by a doorway minus its pocket door, but equipped with the necessary, though hidden, sliders to make it work. Both bedrooms feature French doors opening onto the front balcony.



The fourth bedroom was originally a sleeping porch.

Departing the house into the backyard, you'll discover the generous lot proportions, newly planted garden with tree roses and strawberries, new heavy-duty sliding gate, and children's play set (negotiable with sale). The latter was specially designed and built by the owners, instantly recognizable as imitating in smaller scale the Craftsman-era elements of the parent house.



Other Features: all additions on permit; home completely rewired; 200 amp service panel; wired with T5 cable; all copper plumbing with recirculating hot water system, including water main; dual zone HVAC; foundation retrofitted w/T braces & shear plating; large capacity water heater; built-in 48" KitchenAid Superba refrigerator, and Kenmore front-loading washer & dryer are included; newer sewer line; 12 zone automatic irrigation system; 75 amp service in garage; underground electrical service from the pole.

*Price upon request.*







[www.1415Michigan.com](http://www.1415Michigan.com)



An advertisement for Roland &amp; Roark Sotheby's International Realty. It features a photograph of two men in dark suits and ties. Below the photo, the text reads "Roland &amp; Roark Sotheby's INTERNATIONAL REALTY". At the bottom, there is a graphic of several bright oranges with green leaves and the website "RW2.com".



**626-396-3921**