

# This Is The House That Kate Built



My sincere thanks to the Scarff/Cooper family  
for trusting me with this extraordinarily challenging  
and fabulous project!

In all my years stitching House Portraits, this has to  
be the most complex and rewarding of all ... (even  
if I never want to see another brick again!)

House Portrait commissions are unique because  
they represent so much more than the physical  
structures I portray.

A house becomes a home once it starts to fill up  
with memories and family traditions. My House  
Portraits often trigger those happy recollections  
thereby turning a two-dimensional piece of art into  
a multi-dimensional experience.

The following pages illustrate my journey and  
experience with this beautifully maintained and  
much-loved building ...

“Kate, can you stitch this?”





I laid down a background for the house and then blocked in the main structure leaving openings for the windows (*oops, I missed two ... don't worry I'll cut them out later*).

Then I tossed a few clouds into the beautiful blue Goderich sky, planted the front lawn and used a couple of strategically placed trees to obscure the views of any other buildings in the neighbourhood.



I spent the day creating forms and shadows to go behind the glazing on the windows. I even installed tiny stained glass details in the upper sections of the two most prominent ones.

I began the first part of the red brick detailing just to see if I had the patience to cut them with my scalpel.

Still forgot those two other windows, but I'll get to them before long.

'A. J. Cooper' was carved into the cement on the path in front of the house and the lawns were edged.





This photograph illustrates several steps in my process.  
I finally got around to installing the missing windows and adding window frames  
and sills to all of them.

I installed the doors and put up a foundation for the porch I've yet to build.

And then ... it was all about the bricks ... lots of bricks!

Shade was applied to the lower left section in anticipation of the shadows that will  
be cast by the porch when it's added.



Still bricking it! Brick detailing and stones are added above the windows and I tacked the wooden porch on to the facade. It all looks a bit sad without a roof and with steps I wouldn't trust, but I'm so relieved to be finished with the bricks, I'm ready for anything!





Much progress has been made ... the house finally has a roof on it! Even the chimneys are peeking out over the top.

The porch has been properly attached and a border of flowers is already growing up in front on it.

The stairs look even more treacherous than before ... they'll have to come out. But, as you can see, some finicky detailing above the upper windows and beneath the roof overhang is well underway.





Adding the foundation planting has made the building look far more grounded and less likely to fall off the page.

There's also a gorgeous hanging basket filled with geraniums and lobelia hanging from the porch and some irises have popped up on the front lawn.

The stairs look a bit more solid and, with the addition of banisters, they're probably quite safe now.



This is my kind of gardening! Couldn't help myself, so I added some blooms to one of the foreground shrubs, some foliage detailing to a couple of others and a few more flowers to the bed along the front path.





The wrought iron railings were installed today ... incredibly intricate work, but well worth it.

A bit more fine tuning to attend to (just noticed that the hanging plant is suspended in thin air, perhaps I'd better secure it to the porch) and then I think this beautiful House Portrait will be ready to be presented to its new owner!





... and there she is, in all her brick 'n gingerbread glory! What a magnificent home and fantastic project!

For a 'behind the scenes look,' turn to the next page ...





Perhaps not the tidiest back view of a piece of art but quite intriguing nonetheless.



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