



FAMILY TIES
 The kitchen (top) was designed to be a common area for the family. The butler's pantry (bottom) has similar elements. dbinteriors, llc, designed these rooms and the bar.

Kitchen update

This year's original kitchen was functional and fashionable, but its high gloss cabinetry, stainless steel ceiling, and sleek metals seemed out of place in a century-old dwelling. Interior designer Diana Bryant of dbinteriors, llc, helped design the new kitchen, butler's pantry, and bar.

Bryant chose a combination of pecan cabinetry with a cherry glaze on the floor level, and maple cabinetry with a sierra clay finish for the upper row of cabinets. The combination creates a timeless kitchen that would be fit for a stylish kitchen of any decade. The oak floor has been warmed up with a gentle stain, and light brown walls enhance the room's warmth.

The family, like many families with children, expected to spend much of their time together in the kitchen.

To accommodate that wish, Bryant set up a corner sitting area, with a sofa, loveseat, and gentle lighting. One particularly large cabinet opens up to a flat-screen television, so Mom and Dad can watch the news after dinner, or the kids can watch cartoons in the morning. Bar stools around the center island ensure that the family can stay together during meal preparation. Clark Appliances offered new appliances at a fraction of their retail cost, and the previous range was donated to the Diabetes Youth Foundation Camp in Noblesville.

"We tried to bring back the kitchen to the period of the house, but with some modern conveniences," Bryant says.

Incorporating existing features

The living areas of the home each have a distinct character, from the more formal front living room, to the casual parent lounge on the third level, to the nearby media

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and game room. The current homeowners asked that the home's deep rich wood cabinetry and trims remain untouched, so designers worked to incorporate the dark wood tones into the new, brighter palette.

Bob Mead, owner of Bob Mead Interiors, Inc., took on the living room. Mead's history with the Decorators' Show House goes back 30 years, when he first participated in the annual event. Mead was assigned a front living room with hardwood floors, an elaborate wood-framed fireplace, a large bay window, and folding glass and wood doors on either side of the room.

The window seat's cheerful red cushion helped Mead set the color tone of the room. Mead fashioned a sitting area with two matching red chairs and a light colored sofa he borrowed from his own home and recovered in a creamy raw silk.

"We tried to bring back the kitchen to the period of the house, but with some modern conveniences," says designer Diana Bryant.

Mead also worked to ensure that his living room flowed naturally into the adjacent library, which is painted in dramatic aqua stripes. Mead included a blue throw pillow on the sofa, a blue vase on the side table, and a large teal-painted canvas that complements the library walls.

The room is symmetrical, with matching dining room doorways on either side of the fireplace and matching folding glass doors on opposite ends. Mead offset the symmetry with two original paintings by local artist and interior designer Barry Lantz. One painting is 18 inches by 24 inches, while the other is 18 inches by 36 inches. Sitting together over the fireplace, the paintings draw the eye and bring balance into the room. Contemporary furniture also balances the room's vintage feel.

"It's just blending very clean, straight lines," Mead says.



THE EMPTY VASE

Flowers

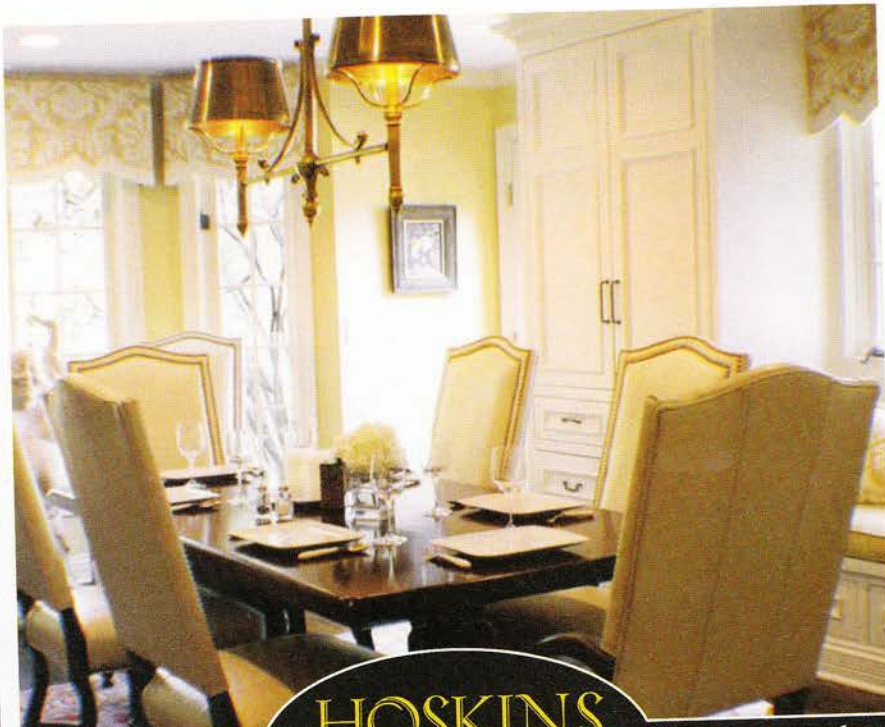
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