

INDY INTERIORS

YOUR GUIDE TO THE LATEST IN HOME DESIGN



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PHOTOGRAPHY BY TONY VALAINIS

Deep color on the walls of the dining room (opposite page) contributes to the space's formal feel, aided by antiques and the 72-inch round table and matching chairs from Beauchamp's Antiques. - The decor of the hearth room (below) is a wonderful illustration of adapted English Country style, with antiques on the walls, a softly colored Oriental rug on the floor, a mix of patterns on the furniture, and a generously sized brick hearth.



A RARE FIND

REMAKING A DATED INTERIOR RESULTS IN A HOME FOR THE AGES.



The music room (this page) provides a dramatic space for entertaining, with soft reds and golds in the overstuffed furniture reflecting but not distracting from the high ceiling and arched windows. Bold Gold & Silver granite covers the countertops in the kitchen (opposite page), where cabinetry and furniture accents disguise professional-grade appliances. Window seats provide a relaxing spot to converse with the chefs.



- BY SHARI HELD -

NEW YEAR'S EVE IS A TIME OF CELEBRATION and new beginnings for most—but for one area house-hunting couple, the last day of 2005 didn't bring much to celebrate. The house they had fallen in love with was taken off the market that day, setting back their plans for getting settled into a new home in the New Year.

Undeterred, the couple continued their home search, spending hours each Saturday and Sunday driving to open houses and checking out newly listed residences. Finally, a few months later, their hard work paid off when they closed on a Country English house in Carmel's gated neighborhood of Winterwood.

The house had a lot of pluses—a quiet neighborhood that afforded privacy, great curb appeal, a generously sized backyard, a main-floor master bedroom, oak woodwork, and much more. However, the house needed work as well—and by the time the remodel was completed, every square inch of the home's approximately 7,000 square feet would be touched in some way.

The couple started the remodeling process by searching for an interior designer. Although they already had several specific design elements in mind for their new home, they also wanted a professional to guide them through the project. "We made lots of phone calls to acquaintances asking them about their experiences," says the homeowner. "We spent hours flipping through magazines."

During a visit to Broad Ripple, the homeowners saw interior designer Deanna Hoskins' Abode boutique, remembered it from an advertisement, and decided to check it out. As fate would have it, Hoskins was available—and, after a short chat, everything clicked. "There was a cer-





An imposing four-poster bed dominates the furniture of the master bedroom, where a gentle aqua on the walls and furniture provides a restful atmosphere for sleeping. The room's ceiling was raised during the renovation, giving the space its current spacious feel.

tain look that we were going for, and we just loved the pieces we saw in her store," the homeowner says. "We both really love the old European classics, but comfy and cozy like French or English Country. We hired Deanna on the spot. It was that easy."

Meeting the challenges

What wasn't so easy was bringing the home up-to-date without eliminating its original feel. Tim Graham of Zionsville's Graham Construction was the general contractor for the structural side of the project.

"The biggest challenge was the construction updating needed in the master suite and the kitchen," Hoskins says. "It needed to look integrated and original to the house rather than look like an addition. When you start taking out walls you need to be willing to extend woodwork and trim so that it seems as though it was always there. You have to think about scale and balance. It takes careful planning, great finish carpenters and a client who will go the distance to make it happen properly."

The small, dark, outdated kitchen was a huge minus for a couple whose lives revolve around family, friends and food. He cooks, she bakes, and both share a love for informal entertaining. The kitchen was a top priority, and they had a very clear idea what they wanted—down to the appliances. "We love to cook," she says. "We knew the kitchen was going to be the hub of our household."

That meant expanding the space to accommodate two or more cooks simultaneously, and to provide a gathering place for onlookers. The wall separating the kitchen from the sunroom was removed, effectively increasing the space by 50 percent, and Hoskins used paint and accessories to minimize the ceiling-height difference in the two areas, creating a natural transition.

Padded window seats with marble-topped set-offs were custom-built to supply seating beyond that of the bar. The kitchen's amenities include hardwood floors, cream cabinetry with a coffee glaze finish, and bold Gold & Silver granite countertops. The latter are a striking addition to the space.

"We wanted something unique," Hoskins says. "Granite is available now in so many patterns and colors, why not do something fabulous? You can get away with a bold pattern on a horizontal surface—the effect is much more subtle."

The couple always wanted top-notch appliances, and the kitchen reflects their wishes: The space includes a 48-inch Wolf cooktop with a hammered-copper hood, Wolf wall ovens, a Sub-Zero refrigerator, an Asko dishwasher, and the couple's favorite: a Miele coffee system in the coffee bar.

While they relied on Hoskins for guidance and direction, the owners enjoyed actively participating in the remodel. "It was fun," she says. "We had done our homework and knew what we liked, which made it much more simple. We were really quite pleased with the way it all turned out, knowing that we had a little bit of a hand in it."

Like many renovations, the project took on a life of its own: "It started with the kitchen, and then the whole house ended up getting redone," the homeowner says.

Updating the master suite

The master suite presented a different set of challenges. The owners wanted an updated bath, extra storage and a large entertainment center, but the original space lacked room for even a basic reorganization.

Hoskins managed to solve the puzzle by incorporating the existing bath space into the bedroom, and repurposing a guest bedroom to create a new master bath. During the process, walls were torn down and ceilings were extended to the roofline. Ultimately, the remodel doubled the size of the master suite.

The space's decor was inspired by the sumptuous pink and aqua fabric used for toss pillows. "We kept the master bedroom from being too feminine by using aqua on the walls, but the accent in the fabric runs from delicate shell pink to fuschia," Hoskins says. "We used it sparingly and kept the room very elegant and classic instead of trendy. The pattern is huge, and when I do a huge pattern, I usually do it on everything, or I am very subtle with it. I find that to be more successful. I never take a medium approach to pattern."

The seashell motif is repeated in the bed-

room accessories, the wall-covering for the water closet and an elaborate mirror in the bath. The master bedroom's new furnishings include a pale pink sofa nestled underneath the bay window, and a pair of aqua chairs with matching ottomans that sit in front of a built-in wall unit in a distressed pale peach finish. A crystal chandelier, trimmed with turquoise, adds the final touch to a functional and luxurious master suite.

Visitors have three guest bedrooms from which to choose—the "blue" room, inspired by an antique two-tier Dutch table; the "pink" room, which is French and feminine with a touch of Asian influence; and the charming attic-level "secret" room, featuring dormer windows, a French black antique iron bed, a red chest of drawers and toile wallpaper in a cream, brown and black hunt motif.

Making beautiful music

The graceful, elegant music room to the left of the entry needed only a few enhancements: The space already featured a beautiful wood ceiling following the roofline of the house, a built-in fireplace, and arched windows with wood keystones at the apex.

The existing wood trim was enhanced, and the walls were washed with a neutral color allowing the reds and golds of the furnishings to shine. Several seating areas located throughout the room help it function well for both large and small gatherings. "It's a great entertaining room that they use all the time," Hoskins says. "My goal was to make the room warm and inviting, and color really sets the mood. The wonderful antique painting over the fireplace really drove the color selection for this space."

The music room provides a perfect showcase for additional antiques, including a pair of matching Italian crystal chandeliers, two smaller paintings and several occasional tables. Hoskins frequently employs vintage pieces for their warmth and patina, giving rooms a "more evolved" look. These pieces, and most of the antiques throughout the house, are from R. Beauchamp Antiques in Westfield. "It is just a nice, happy mix," Hoskins says. "You need to select pieces that work well together—pieces that have a nice relationship without being redundant."

Although the rooms reflect a variety of looks, the home's overall style is European or Continental. The design can't strictly be

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called eclectic, because there are no modern or contemporary pieces in the execution. "When you include a couple of antiques or a unique painting in a room, you change the whole tenor of that room," says Robert Beauchamp of Beauchamp Antiques. "That is what Deanna is very, very good at. She knows how to use pieces to the benefit of the client to make their house special, warm, inviting and unique."

The home's striking museum-quality 1920 player piano was a gift from the homeowner's uncle. "He knew that we really love music, and as the house was being completed he said he would like for us to have it because we had the 'perfect room' for it," she says. "It was almost like we had saved that space for the piano. It gets played every day, and it is so wonderful that it has stayed in the family."

Other gathering spaces

A series of arches, stained to match the kitchen cabinetry, leads from the kitchen to the hearth room. The latter space has character in abundance, via its high-pitched wood ceiling, a brick wall and fireplace and French doors to the outside. Guests have

easy access to the sofas and chairs in the outdoor living area near the pool and pool-side kitchen.

Originally the hearth room was a casual dining area, but the current owners wanted additional seating near the kitchen. "The hearth room is a nice comfortable spot to sit in front of the fireplace in the winter," Hoskins says. "A spot to read close to the kitchen. A spot for her if he is cooking and for him if she is baking. It expands seating when they are entertaining, and keeps the flow of traffic away from the kitchen."

The nearby media room provides the perfect place for kicking back and watching the large flat-panel television. The walls are a warm chocolate brown accented by gold, brown and cream plaid drapes and matching valance. The gold oversize sectional has set-offs at both ends, accompanied by a tufted ottoman.

The other side of the kitchen opens to the formal dining room, and its challenge was the shape of the room. "A square room is hard to deal with," Hoskins says. "We wanted to seat as many people as possible and still allow for circulation around the table."

The solution was to have the 72-inch

round table and matching chairs made to order in England through R. Beauchamp Antiques. "There's something really friendly about a round table," Hoskins says. "We wanted it to look casual and inviting without being underdone." An antique crystal chandelier and rich rosy red walls complete the room's elegant but casual transformation.

Hoskins used a variety of chandeliers throughout the home, even in untraditional spaces such as the laundry room. "I can't tell you how important I think lighting is," Hoskins says. "Both from an ambiance and a task level. When you turn on a chandelier or a sconce, it is very visible—and it should be beautiful, no matter where it is located."

An impressive chandelier in the foyer has a smaller companion chandelier over the upstairs staircase. "Originally when you came into the foyer all you saw was doors," the homeowner explains. "Bathroom doors, basement doors, the TV room door. We eliminated all but the bathroom door to give the foyer a more flowing space and to also open up the basement and make it feel like it was more a part of the home."

One of the home's attractions was the lower-level theatre room and the large-

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screen and projection equipment that remained with it. The theatre room and a full bath were the only finished spaces on the lower level when the home was purchased.

"Everything in the theatre needs to be fairly dark, because if you get very much reflection off the walls and upholstery, it can affect the picture," Hoskins says. "So the walls are red and the upholstered furniture is bronze, brown and black. The bath is wallpapered in a khaki, charcoal and black impressionistic zebra-motif wallpaper. It is very dramatic and fun."

On the upper level, both the loft overlooking the foyer and the unfinished attic space received makeovers.

Formerly a sitting area, the loft is now a library/office where the homeowners pay bills and conduct other household business. Custom-built shelves, a humidifier and a built-in desk add functionality to the area that commands a view of the backyard pool on one side and the foyer on the other. "It is far enough from the other areas that there is privacy for him," Hoskins says. "But he's not isolated there. And he likes that."

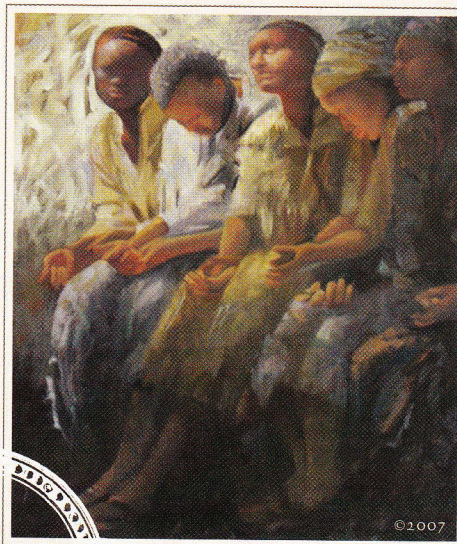
The space's original brick wall with a fireplace works well with the added masculine touches—cigar-motif ashtrays, a turtle-shell lamp and a wooden statue of an American Indian—and a comfortable Ralph Lauren brown leather reading chair and ottoman. The custom cabinetry also houses the whole-house audio system.

Refinishing the attic provided space for a game room and a fourth bedroom, called the "secret" bedroom because it is the perfect retreat. "We had the theatre room in the basement, but we wanted a place for large groups of people to go to watch football games or for kids to play Nintendo and the pinball machine," the homeowner says.

"For us it was all about creating a home that reflected who we are, and putting the things we loved in it," she continues. "The house is wonderful. There isn't a day that doesn't go by that we both don't feel so grateful and blessed, because we love our home. It's hard to get us to leave. We feel so fortunate that the first house didn't work out and we are here. This is our home now."

For Hoskins, the best part of the project was the clients' willingness to make the home everything it could be. "What this house exhibits is a comfortable, laid-back approach to elegance," she says. "That's the basic personality of these clients." ●

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