

# Creating a tearoom

BY TERESA WOODARD

## Designer's notebook

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*A custom-made curved rod follows the arch of the window*



MICHAEL A. FOLEY/IRVICUS ASSOC. (2)

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*Linen Schumacher drapery fabric draws together colors of the walls and floor tile*

## GOING MORE CASUAL in New Albany

Pam Yost faced multiple challenges in designing a tearoom, the final room assignment of a newly renovated New Albany residence. First, the room served as a thoroughfare, connecting service areas such as a pantry and laundry room to richly appointed living areas. Second, the room's Georgian architectural features—large arched windows and parallel curved walls—presented further challenges. Finally, the narrow room was to function as a casual dining area, inspired by the homeowners' memory of a hotel suite's tea room.

In creating a plan, "The windows became our focal point," says Yost, owner/president of Grand DesignGroup. The room's color palette evolved from the existing green tile and caramel-colored walls in the adjoining living area. The layout allowed for a passageway flanked by a narrow dining area along the windows. Instead of the standard single dining table, Yost proposed two smaller tables to best accommodate the space constraints and the desired informal dining style.

For the window treatments, she selected Schumacher's "Coconut Grove" linen fabric and complementary tassel fringe. Hanging from a rod custom made by the home's renovator, Ralph Fallon Builders, Yost's drapery design features a central swag followed by two symmetrical swags and two lower jabots. The clever solution accentuates the windows inside and offers street appeal from the stately home's exterior. For privacy, two-inch white wooden blinds were added from the lower edge of the arches to the base of the windows.

In furnishing the room, Yost found two glass and metal tables, like those in the hotel suite's tea room. She added two metal chandeliers over the tables and a custom-built buffet to fit along the curved wall opposite the windows. To soften and add pattern to the floor, Yost designed a carpet runner to follow the curve of the wall and mimic designs from the drapery fabric. She also added large plants to capitalize on the windows' light and the room's botanical sense. Other accessories include rattan chargers, orchid centerpieces and coordinating cloth napkins. A sculpture of a housemaid serving tea finishes the room with a touch of whimsy.

"We love the room," says the homeowner. "We've had parties that have been more casual and used the tearoom as opposed to the dining room." ■

*Teresa Woodard is a freelance writer.*

Swags and jabots  
accentuate the  
arched windows

A housemaid  
sculpture  
adds whimsy

A custom curved  
rug repeats  
patterns from the  
drapery fabric

Two small tables  
create a more casual  
atmosphere than one  
large dining table

