





# Elegant Transformation

text | Alisa Nass  
images | Jonathan Harper

When a Columbus couple purchased a Georgian-style home in New Albany, they knew they wanted changes made to the first-floor master suite but not necessarily the rest of the house. In the year and a half since, the suite has undergone a magical transformation adding luxurious his and her baths. As interior designer Pam Yost, architect George Acock, and builder Ralph Fallon started work, the trio cast a critical eye on the rest of the house and new plans began to snowball. Inspired, the owners couldn't say no. The owners were "very receptive to what the house could be," Yost said.

The homeowners sought a functional, but elegant home. They also wanted to display an extensive British and French antique silver collection they had acquired during their world travels as well as other museum-quality art pieces.

Although a beautiful space, the home's architectural scaling was off and not as detailed as one might expect. A more substantial look was given to columns gracing the great room. Once stopping at the second-floor balcony, the columns now extend to the ceiling. "The fireplace was replaced with a larger-scale limestone fireplace and the wall faux-painted to look like block limestone," Yost said. A unique feature of the semicircle room is the soaring 27-foot ceiling. The room's décor was done in a "neutral color palette with sumptuous fabrics that are rich in texture, but with subtle patterns," Yost said.

The open kitchen and bar have similar color schemes to create a seamless flow from one area to the next. Fallon's company, which did all of the custom woodwork, replaced the standard kitchen cabinets with double-









stacking cabinets and extended them to the ceiling, giving the room a new look.

The teamwork between the architect, builder, and designer is evident in the beautiful 12-foot mahogany bar that provides a great gathering spot for entertaining. Acock drew up the plans that were carried out by Fallon. Yost added her input on the doors' design and use of seeded glass panes. "Everything in the house was a collaborative effort between the three of us and the homeowners," Yost said.

Decorated in pecan and aquamarine colors, the room's wrought-iron tables provide seating with a view of one of the home's many gardens.

A hotel tea room the homeowners had visited provided the inspiration for a sunny room off the kitchen where one can take in a casual meal. Decorated in pecan and aquamarine colors, the room's wrought-iron tables provide seating with a view of one of the home's many gardens.

Although accessible by staircases, the guest bedrooms and a lavish 18-by-17 dressing room for her can be reached by the new elevator. It also takes one to the 3,000-bottle wine cellar and tasting room. But the adventurous way is down a hidden, winding staircase. French limestone lines the staircase, lending it an Old World look. An oval-shaped tasting room and temperature-controlled cellar awaits visitors. Pecky cypress wood was used to make the cellar's interior doors and wine racks. "One of the things that makes this house luxurious is the elaborate attention to details," Yost said.

The master suite—the reason for the renovations—features an ornately carved bed with matching nightstands. The bed underwent a 13-step process to achieve its gold-flecked finish. To keep the room from looking cluttered, the 42-inch plasma-screen TV was hidden in the ceiling.







One of the things that attracted the owners to the home was the first-floor master suite. "They've always had two master baths so we had to make two rooms," Yost said. This was accomplished by walling off one end of the bedroom to create the second bath. A step-through shower with *fleur-de-lis* inlaid marble and glass doors connects the two. A small, wall-unit fireplace, Jacuzzi tub, breakfast nook, and a smaller, walk-in closet is found in her master bath. A crystal chandelier and wall sconces lend an air of feminine elegance.

The open kitchen and bar have similar color schemes to create a seamless flow from one area to the next.

The homeowners, who lived in the home's guest suite during the renovations, are happy with the results. "We're real pleased," said the homeowner, "I love it." They are also happy to finally see the dust settle. From a simple renovation to a project that took a life of its own, the homeowners are finally able to enjoy their new home—only a year and a half after closing. |

