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DESIGN

A New CLASSIC

A Naples Mediterranean home gets reimagined with transitional flair

By Mary Thurman Yuhas | Photography by Amber Frederiksen

The trend to rethink Mediterranean-inspired architecture from the late 1990s and early aughts continues in Naples. For one couple who moved south from Canada, a bright, transitional style felt more apropos than the tired Mediterranean look, so they commissioned Chrissy Howard of Naples-based Jinx McDonald Interior Designs to helm the substantial renovation.

Located in Olde Cypress, a gated golfing community in Naples, the home had great bones and a coveted view of the golf

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A WHITE GLAZE TRANSFORMED THE DARK KITCHEN CABINETS, WHILE GRAY VEINING ON THE BACKSLASH AND COUNTERTOPS ADD CONTRAST TO THE DARK WOOD ISLAND AND RANGE TRIM. REMOVING BUILT-INS AND NICHE IN THE FAMILY ROOM OPENED UP THE SPACE, GIVING IT A SOPHISTICATED LOOK.



course. Maintaining views was a priority, but what drove this project was “the client’s art collection from their extensive travels and making sure the artwork was the focal point in every space,” Howard says. “Everything else was the canvas or backdrop.”

Guided by her client’s design philosophy that less is more, Howard and design associate Barbara Schwenk imbued the 3,580-square-foot residence with a sleeker look, partly by eliminating niches and arches. Replacing the original porcelain tile floor with an espresso wood-grain porcelain tile added density and provided contrast against the light walls. The designers maintained the tray ceilings, which helped delineate the living spaces in the spacious floor plan.

They also kept the color palette simple. “We used only three colors: pure white, very light beige, and espresso,” Howard says. “Never underestimate



THE STUDY'S ORIGINAL CABINETS WERE PAINTED A DEEP JAVA FOR A RICHER, MORE MODERN FEEL. NEW LIGHTING AND FLOORING IN THE MASTER BEDROOM GIVES THE SPACE A BRIGHT, CHEERFUL LOOK THAT CONTINUES THROUGHOUT THE OVERHAUL OF THE SPACIOUS MASTER BATH.



BEFORE



color. Painting is the most inexpensive thing you can do, and it can completely alter a space.”

In the kitchen, a white glaze transformed the existing wood-faced cabinets. Keeping with the motif, Howard and her team installed “seamless” quartzite with bold gray veining on the backsplash and countertop. For contrast, they introduced espresso-hued accents via the kitchen island and a band of wood molding on the range hood.

To achieve a cleaner look in the casually sophisticated family room, the designers removed a bulky media cabinet and finished the wall with a textured beige silk wallpaper, which serves as a chic backdrop for a custom media cabinet with perforated wood panels. The room is as inviting for watching television as it is for relaxing in front of a linear fireplace, above which hangs *A Café in Paris*, an oil painting by Canadian artist Andrea Padovani.

Removing walls and niches opened up spaces and improved the overall flow. For instance, the living area adjacent to the kitchen was closed in and rather dark. In the absence of walls and heavy-handed interior details, the room shines with a simple fireplace and a quartet of pared-

down wing chairs covered in an oatmeal-colored Sunbrella fabric.

The clients didn’t like the idea of a chandelier in the dining room, so the designers installed overhead lighting and bronze sconces, which provide the ideal level of illumination and make a more modern statement. For continuity, they reupholstered the owner’s existing chairs with the same striped Crypton fabric introduced in the living room ottoman.

“Crypton is a treated fabric that never absorbs liquids, and stains never penetrate this fabric,” Howard says. “It’s popular because you can’t tell if it is indoor/outdoor fabric, and it’s not scratchy.”

In the study, the designers kept the original cabinets but painted them a deep java color to achieve a richer, more current look. “This is one of

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the strongest rooms in the house and the only place where the espresso color is used vertically,” Schwenk says. The space is further modernized by the use of a sleek, metal-based desk and a light fixture with a rusty bronze mesh metal cage.

The master bedroom is brighter and more cheerful, thanks to new lighting and flooring, a custom bed upholstered in tweed, oversized nightstands, and a seating area by the window. Once dark and dull, the master bath is now an inviting space with new white cabinetry and millwork, and quartzite countertops. A painted mirror frame and sconces echo the subtle tones of the framed watercolors by contemporary artist R. H. Quayman.

“I think this house supersedes trends,” Howard says. “Everything is classic, timeless, and restrained. I think the clients will love this measured interior 20 years from now.” <<



IN PLACE OF A CHANDELIER, OVERHEAD LIGHTING AND BRONZE SCONCES MAKE A MODERN STATEMENT IN THE DINING ROOM AND PROVIDE THE IDEAL LEVEL OF ILLUMINATION.

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