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DESIGN

Brighter Days Ahead

Upon shedding its gloomy Tuscan roots, this 8,500-square-foot home in Quail West Golf and Country Club transformed into a timeless, traditional comfort zone

By Mary Thurman Yuhas | Photography by Randall Perry Photography

Paint is powerful. When you cover mustard, brown, and dark green ceilings and walls with icy blues, silver, and soft whites, the result is similar to opening all the doors and windows and filling a four-bedroom home with fresh air. Pops of blush further extend a breezy color palette. “I don’t think there was a surface in this house

that wasn’t painted, polished, or embellished in some way,” says interior designer Beth Walker-Fenton of Jinx McDonald Interior Designs in Naples.

The overhaul took nearly a year to complete, as all of the faux treatments were removed—most notably, the round yellow living



TO REFRESH THE HOME, THE KITCHEN CABINETRY WAS REFINISHED IN A CALMING COLOR AND THE GRANITE COUNTERTOPS WERE REPLACED WITH TAJ MAHAL QUARTZITE.



room pillars—and were replaced with serene touches like custom white wood columns. The clients opted to keep the rare sunny travertine flooring running throughout.

Because the home was sold fully furnished, the new owners gradually eliminated the ubiquitous heavy window treatments. Walker-Fenton worked many existing pieces of furniture into the design and gave them new life. “The goal was to lighten the home and give it an air of effortless sophistication,” the designer says. “We didn’t want it to feel heavy or stuffy.”

Most months, the designer’s clients reside on a small estate in England. But once winter sets in, the couple commutes across the pond. When in Naples, they entertain guests frequently, and often serve appetizers and drinks in the gracious living room. To make this space inviting, Walker-Fenton selected high-end performance fabrics for the two companion chairs adjacent to the living room sofa. Edged in European embroidered tape, they are fabulous and practical.

Design details are important to the clients and can be found throughout the residence. In the living room, every other pleat on the window cornice features a tiny button sewn into the



TO TIE THE BREAKFAST NOOK (BELOW, RIGHT) IN WITH THE KITCHEN, THE SAME FABRIC WAS USED IN THE NOOK'S CORNICE AND ON THE BACK OF THE KITCHEN BAR CHAIRS. THE FAMILY ROOM (ABOVE) WAS DESIGNED TO BE A COMFORTABLE PLACE TO RELAX, MADE ALL THE MORE INVITING BY AN ULTRA-SOFT LEATHER SOFA AND OVERSIZED OTTOMAN.

middle of the fold. On the valance's bottom, a band of hundreds of sparkling crystal balls runs fully across, creating a gentle shimmer—like faraway stars hovering above the wall of French doors. The striking design opens to a flowery terrace and tranquil pond. "It is the little details she wanted throughout the home that make it so amazing," Walker-Fenton says. "It elevates it and takes it to a different level."

In the formal dining space, a linear version of the silver-leafed living room chandelier overlooks the elegant glass-top dining table. The painting is from the owner's personal collection. "Guests feel so comfortable having dinner in the dining room that they linger in there, and that's what you want in a

dining room," notes the designer.

Initially painted a heavy cream with a glaze, the kitchen cabinetry was refinished and painted an off-white. Countertops were replaced with Taj Mahal quartzite. "Taj has more depth than granite, with its wispy and dramatic marble-like veins, and is far more handsome and is as resilient," the designer explains. To tie the breakfast nook and kitchen together, the same fabric on the kitchen bar-chair backs was applied to the nook's cornice.

The very comfortable family room is all about relaxing. Ultra-soft, the leath-



ABODE



er sofa is near tone-on-tone swivel chairs, which feature a linear-like performance fabric.

In the back of the media room, the custom sofa was the perfect shape and size, so Walker-Fenton simply re-covered it in a very soft performance fabric in a velvety, frosty blue. Walls were updated with a rich grass cloth.

Fully carpeted, the relaxing master bedroom suite is where the owners have cof-

fee every morning. "The luxurious carpet is super, super soft," the designer says. "It makes you want to take your shoes off and walk barefoot." In the suite's sitting space, more details: Drapery cornices mimic the

bottom apron of the custom nightstands and dresser. Artist Ed Loedding created the floral painting near the dresser. Everyone notices Bogie and Bacall on the custom-framed TV; the image is superimposed art



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selected by an information technologist, which was created to make the look more appealing.

To soften the stone and other hard surfaces in the master bath, the designer painted it a soothing white. Next, she appointed it with tufted ottomans and jewelry-like lighting and pulls. The large crystal chandelier overhead further accentuates the space.

All three guest bedrooms are en suite. While most have budget-friendly pieces, the blue bedroom features a custom striped bench at the foot of the king-sized bed.

Outside, plush chairs and sofas ensconced beneath a rich, dark-stained cypress wood ceiling ensure time spent in the fresh air is pleasant. The owners selected the giraffe sculptures in the opening above the fireplace.

At night, the home's exterior is the star of the show: It lights up to highlight the home's



fabulous landscaping. "The couple couldn't be more thrilled," Walker-Fenton says. "Pre-COVID, they spent only two or three months here, but with travel restricted, they were so grateful to have such a lovely place to hunker down. It worked out nicely for them." «



THE OUTDOOR SPACE HAS PLENTY OF SEATING TO ACCOMMODATE GUESTS AND ENSURE THEIR TIME IN THE FRESH AIR IS COMFORTABLE.



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