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UPDATING A CLASSIC

A Fort Smith family enlists a Little Rock interior designer to bring updated design to their home

BY MICHAEL STAED

WHEN MARTHA and Dr. Vent Murphy of Fort Smith decided to renovate their home, they knew exactly who to call. Tobi Wells Fairley of T. Lamarr Interiors & Fine Art in Little Rock previously worked with the Murphys in the design of their three daughters' bedrooms and knew the family's style well. Initially, the Murphys wished to add on to their home, but after thoughtful consideration and a nudge from Tobi, they decided to re-design the home, making better use of the existing space, by working with Danny Ruggles of American Dream Homes.

Tobi's focus was on the main level of the home, as well as the master bedroom and bathroom. With the home's traditional architecture, she took a refined, classic approach with touches of modern elements. "This interior could have been designed in any decade," she says. "It's truly timeless and such a good fit with the architectural style of the home." While new pieces were

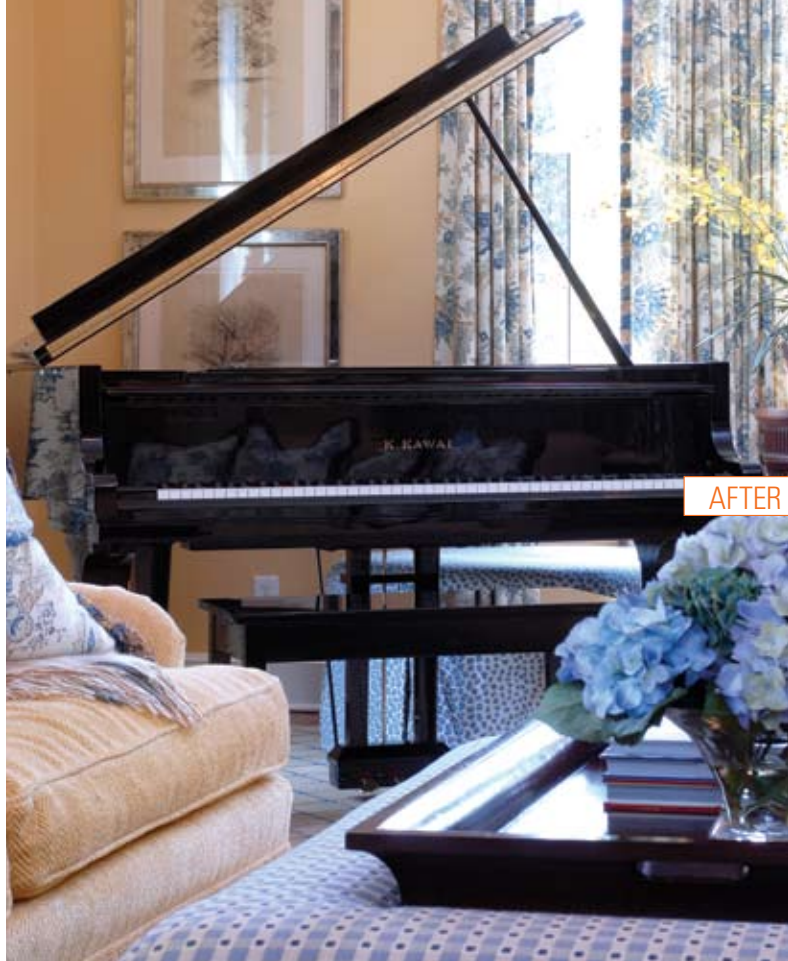


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AFTER BEFORE

(above) The blue, yellow and cream color palette works with the living room's banks of windows to lighten up the previously restrained space.



(clockwise from above) New and old pieces come together in the living room, which the Murphys describe as having a luxury hotel feel. A grand staircase greets guests in the foyer, which features a wood sculpture by Arkansas artist Robyn Horn. In the kitchen, larger windows were installed for more light, and elegant accents like the rosewood countertops and the trio of pendant lights combine with the new cabinet finish by Eric Stoll for a sophisticated, yet casual effect.



added, many existing items were reupholstered in the home's updated color palette of cream, blue and yellow. Custom-made rugs with geometric patterns add interest in the living room, and the Murphys describe the new space as "like a luxury hotel."

While the majority of the renovation focused on the aesthetic features of the home, the kitchen received the biggest makeover. Larger windows were



(top) The master bedroom is bathed in soothing hues and plush furnishings. **(above)** A cozy sitting area in the master bedroom is surrounded by the room's relaxing color palette of robin egg's blue and chocolate brown.

installed to allow more natural light into the kitchen, and the cabinets were extended to the ceiling and refaced with a custom glaze by faux finisher Eric Stoll. Tobi had rosewood countertops installed on either side of the Viking range to add warmth, while also creating a visually appealing surface.

The foyer is flanked by the dining room and the living room, and guests are greeted by an intriguing wood sculpture by Robyn Horn, which appears to float in mid air thanks to its Lucite column. Tobi commissioned several other pieces of original art by Arkansans Ashley Saer and Arden Boyce to fill the house with color. At the top of the winding staircase, the master bedroom suite boasts robin's egg blue walls accented by chocolate brown. Numerous seating areas are located throughout the suite, and Vent can often be found relaxing there with a good book. Finally, the master bath achieves the proper combination of function with elegant overtones, giving the Murphys the perfect retreat. ■

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