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21st-Century Traditional

Streamlined spaces and contemporary patterns bring this traditional home into the modern world

By **ELISABETH A. SULLIVAN**
 PHOTOGRAPHY BY **EMILY MINTON REDFIELD**

IMAGINE A SPACIOUS, well-appointed home that recalls a French chateau, nestled into Littleton's horse country with panoramic views of the Front Range. On paper it sounds like an ideal abode for homeowners with a penchant for classic design and outdoor living. But for these 30-somethings and their designer, it didn't quite make the grade.

"This house was your typical serious, brown Colorado home and we wanted to give it some life and energy. We wanted to 'young it up,'" says interior designer Andrea Schumacher.

The homeowners liked the family-friendly layout, but they wanted to strip away some of the ornate millwork in favor of a more streamlined, mountain-appropriate look, balancing



(left) In the family room, designer Andrea Schumacher replaced an ornate mantel with a more modern limestone surround, added built-ins, and balanced the space with an appealing mix of furnishings and fabrics. (above) Modeled after a French chateau, the home's stucco was refreshed and the wood was refinished.



(opposite) Schumacher offset the study's existing wood paneling with an artful, contemporary chandelier and sconces by Global Views. Delft blue in the antique sofa and rug add a rich blast of color. (above) A blue beaded chandelier from Arteriors Home and custom painted wainscoting add a colorful, not-so-serious twist to the dining room's soft Osborne & Little wallpaper and traditional good looks.

the formality with more playful touches. They recruited Schumacher and project manager Shadie Copeland of Denver-based O Interior Design, and general contractor Brian Husmann of Diamond Homes in Englewood, to renovate nearly every room in the house.

The design team refinished the floors, staining them dark brown for a more contemporary look, and spent months re-plastering walls and refinishing millwork. They painted and wallpapered, and installed new cabinets and crown molding. They reworked almost every surface, inside and out. "It was a pretty extensive renovation, although no walls were moved," Husmann says. "It took six or seven months to complete because of the attention to detail."

In the family room, the team removed an ornate mantel and a gas

insert, and installed a wood-burning fireplace with a limestone surround. They flanked the fireplace with custom Shaker-style cabinetry. To balance the masculinity of the weighty stone and heavy beams, Schumacher introduced a few feminine touches, including a Moroccan-style coffee table and a pair of armchairs upholstered in a bold, red ikat print. "The ikat chairs are a little daring, but I thought the room needed a fun pop of color," she says. "I wanted that space to maintain some formality because it's the first room you walk into from the front door, but it still has to be comfortable because it's where people hang out."

In the adjoining kitchen, Schumacher chose deep blue Moroccan tile for the contemporary backsplash, a counterpoint to the classically styled cabinetry, to play off of the orange-red fabrics in the family room.



(opposite, top) In the breakfast nook, Schumacher matched the window valance to the family room's orange-red drapes and brought in deep blue upholstery that connects with the kitchen's eye-catching Moroccan-tile backsplash. A playful Currey & Co. light fixture crowns the space. (opposite, bottom) To create traditional interiors with a twist, Schumacher mixed classic and streamlined furnishings; this pairing of a Shaker-style desk with a contemporary leather-and-metal chair from Phoebe Marsh is one strong example. (above) The deep blue Moroccan tile backsplash from Decorative Materials brings a contemporary pattern and a big dose of color into the otherwise traditional space.



(clockwise, from above) In the main powder room, Schumacher played with scale to add visual interest and make the space more playful, flanking a small mirror with dramatic, contemporary sconces by Currey & Co. "In the powder room, you can have a little bit more fun," she says. "That's where people are willing to experiment." The graphic wallpaper is from Osborne & Little. In the wife's bathroom, the designer and homeowners started with the existing fixtures and cabinetry and added decorative touches such as the window treatments from Egg & Dart and an antique rug. Working with the secondary powder room's existing fixtures, Schumacher papered the room in a youthful print called "A-Twitter" by F. Schumacher.



In the master bedroom, the design team renovated the fireplace, bumping it out from the wall to add depth. "We wrapped it in a geometric, grass-cloth wallpaper in a fun lime green color," Schumacher says. She paired the contemporary pattern with classic prints for the drapes and bed linens. A rug that mimics the wallpaper's pattern and a French armchair and ottoman upholstered in a strong, modern print maintain the traditional-modern mix.

DESIGN DETAILS

Interior Designers

ANDREA SCHUMACHER
SHARIE COPLAND
O INTERIOR DESIGN
ointeriordesign.com

Builder

BRIAN HUSMANN
DIAMOND HOMES, INC.
diamondhomesinc.com

Fine Art Gallery

WALKER FINE ART
walkerfineart.com

"In the family room, everything was brown on brown on brown," Schumacher says, "so I turned to opposite sides of the color wheel to add some visual interest."

Classic patterns and saturated hues add more visual interest in the dining room, which Schumacher clad in a soft, seemingly faded floral wallpaper and custom wainscoting. A blue beaded chandelier and metallic papered ceiling crown the space, adding a younger, more playful touch to the room's traditional design scheme.

That balance of formal and fun carries into the powder room, which is a study in contradictions. The classic cane-printed wallpaper shows off a contemporary geometric pattern, and the oversized, modern sconces and small-ish mirror hang above a classically-shaped porcelain sink.

In this room, as in the rest of the house, Schumacher played with scale, layered classic and geometric patterns, added traditional and contemporary touches, and balanced formal beauty with family-friendly comfort. Her rule-defying approach shows that you can bridge design eras and styles to create a home that's planted squarely in the here and now—and full of good surprises. □

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