

DENVER LIFE

MAY / JUNE 2010

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STYLE open house

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PHOTOS BY RON RUSCIO

When Oliver designed this room, the homeowners weren't sold on redesigning the whole home. However, as a professional designer, she took into consideration how the design would flow from one room to the next should her clients decide to continue with the project. The result was a hassle-free, quick transformation, and her clients were impressed with the result.

TIDY TRANSFORMATION

A Denver designer produces a dramatic redesign without the mess of construction.

It's difficult to imagine a whole-home makeover resulting in a dramatic change without the mess and inconvenience of a remodeling construction zone. But that's exactly what a pair of empty nesters, with an in-home business that had to keep running, wanted when they hired designer Lane Elisabeth Oliver of LEO Interior Design. "We started with just the family room," Oliver says. "Once they saw how the space could be transformed without the disruption of construction, they decided to go forth with the rest of the home."

Keeping demolition projects at bay, Oliver renewed the outdated Polo Club-area home by concentrating her efforts on the impact she could create by rearranging some key pieces of furniture and adding luxurious paint treatments and fabric. "The home had so much beige in it," Oliver says. "My clients wanted to feel the joy that comes from color." The homeowners had several Asian-inspired accessories throughout the home in beautiful blues, greens and reds. Oliver drew from those colors to build a cohesive palette rich in tasteful elegance.

A blue and red urn sets the tone for the family room where patterned pillows and ottomans with bronze bamboo legs complement the design of the pottery. A large-scale floral design on the

No detail was left to chance in this remodel. Oliver spoke directly with the chair manufacturers to ensure each one would be upholstered with a tan flower in the center of the backside of chairs and a red one on the inside. The result is a classical arrangement with an updated, fresh finish.





Oliver mixed bold patterns in the dining room while keeping the colors limited. The ceiling medallion is highlighted with a faux finish instead of disguised with a standard white finish.

draperies adds color to the wall of windows while keeping it light and airy. Oliver planned the colors and patterns for this room keeping in mind how they would flow into the adjacent rooms for a seamless transformation.

Perhaps the greatest transformation occurred in the living room. Once an outdated space with a combination of white and gold-leafed woodwork and dark, mismatched furniture, today the room is a light-filled space with rich, warm woodwork. Oliver chose a light-colored fabric with an oversized floral print to add life to the traditional chairs. "I wanted happiness and life in this room, but it still had to be traditional and classic," she says. Oliver moved in a hutch from another part of the home because its color and scale made it a perfect match for the room. To hide the dark green tile surrounding the fireplace, Oliver brought in a faux finish specialist who painted a medallion tile pattern in colors drawn from the floral fabric of the chairs. She also brought the warmth and beauty of natural wood to the room without replacing woodwork by producing a paint finish to match the furniture in the room.

The painted woodwork continues into the dining room as wainscoting topped with a fresco-style border. Oliver warmed the window

Because of the basic color scheme of the seating area in the room, Oliver was free to add a high degree of contrast in the fabric for the draperies. A faux finish transformed the built-in hutch from an eyesore to a showpiece.





Despite the bold use of color in the master bedroom, the room is serene and comforting. A tailored table skirt on the side of the room turns the focus to the ornate legs on the cocktail table in the center of the room.

THE DETAILS **Square Feet:** 3,750, **Interior Design:** Lane Oliver, LEO Interior Design, 303.722.4288, leointeriordesign.com, **Painter** (not faux finish) Aaron Harding 303.808.5577, For more information on products and furnishings in this home, log on to denverlifemagazine.com and click on Open House.

seat area with plush cushions and draperies that make it feel private and cozy. Red flows from the living room through the dining room creating a sophisticated, formal setting.

The eat-in area off the kitchen is equally as sophisticated as the formal dining room. A built-in hutch was one thing Oliver's clients considered removing from the home creating the potential for construction mess. But Oliver, seeing that the couple had beautiful antiques in need of a showplace, came up with a plan to keep the hutch in place while making it feel like a whole new piece of furniture. She integrated the hutch into the design of the room by giving it a distressed ebony finish that matches the cane armchairs surrounding the table. To give the intimate space a lift, Oliver had the ceiling cove painted with an ornate design similar to one the faux finish painter had photographed in Italy. "It has a bit of whimsy because of the crowns in the corners," Oliver says. "But the design is inspired by something painted many years ago—it's timeless."

The same timeless feeling is reflected in the sleeping quarters by incorporating traditional-style furniture with bold, yet elegant patterns. "The master bedroom design started with my clients' love for the bed," Oliver says. "Their old bed had a heavy canopy, and they wanted something light and open." Oliver chose an oval table to fit into the bay window area and added an embellished skirt to warm up the stark window space. A small curio cabinet is another example of furniture reused in the new design.

Oliver salvaged another important furniture piece, a small writing desk with a decorative pattern, and used it as the inspiration for the guest room redesign. A monochromatic palette and delicate patterns on the fabric allow the desk to be a focal point of the room.

Throughout the project, Oliver focused her attention on using the best pieces of the homeowners' furniture, adding light and color to each space, and blending patterns to make dramatic changes without dramatic construction. "The quick transformation was amazing," Oliver says. And a shining example of how to avoid the pitfalls of construction, but still achieve striking and beautiful changes that leave a home looking fresh and new. **D**