

PRIMROSE ESTATE GETS A FACELIFT:

A KITCHEN RETROFIT AND MASTER BEDROOM SUITE MAKEOVER GIVES THESE ROOMS A TRADITIONAL LOOK TWISTED WITH 21ST CENTURY TECHNOLOGY AND NEW PRODUCT INNOVATIONS

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Photography:

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DANVILLE, IN: After thirty years it is fair to assume that even the most beautiful rooms need some freshening. In today's modern home, these rooms also need to be brought up to speed with technology and lifestyles. Since the 1976 dishwasher died and the master bedroom was damaged by a storm, it was time to swing into action. Jamie Gibbs, of Jamie Gibbs and Associates, assembled a team to retrofit this kitchen and master bedroom suite with new materials while respecting the history and architecture of the house.....and the client's wishes.

THE KITCHEN:

The kitchen was renovated in 1976, creating a "modern" space with an island and open to a breakfast room. Custom Corsi kitchen cabinets were installed with all the latest appliances including a trash masher and built-in double ovens; one was a microwave! The stainless steel sink and gear shift faucet, laminate counters and track lighting were nods to contemporary style in the otherwise traditional space. Fast forward to 2006. The dishwasher was broken, the 36" upright freezer had stopped freezing, the refrigerator was rusting and the trash masher wasn't mashing. While the kitchen was in cosmetically good

condition, help was needed. It was time to retrofit the space. Without changing the overall style of the kitchen, new appliances were selected. The trash masher was replaced with a new 18" pot-scrubbing dishwasher. The original dishwasher was replaced with a new Ariston stainless steel unit. The old refrigerator was taken to the garage (for beverage storage) and replaced with a new side-by-side stainless unit along with new stainless steel conversion/convection oven and microwave combination. All the new appliances are stainless steel, including the cook top and an Ariston steel and glass wine cooler that replaces the old upright freezer.

When you maintain quality construction, it may fall out of fashion, but remains serviceable. The thirty- year old custom raised-panel walnut cabinets from Corsi have returned to fashion. A few new components were fabricated to accommodate the appliance sizes, but in general tightened screws and some polish later, the cabinet's look as fresh today as years ago.

The flooring also has an interesting tale. In the 1920's, the current owners' parents installed a linoleum floor in their kitchen. They bought extra flooring for the future. In 1976 this extra, already fifty year old, flooring was installed at Primrose. It was a sentimental gesture. Today, linoleum is green and appropriate. The flooring was in perfect condition. With a deep cleaning and industrial waxing, the floor looks new, again.

The biggest innovation and dramatic change to the kitchen are WilsonArt solid surface counters, backsplashes and an at-home office station. The full backsplash and ogee

profile counters give a clean, crisp sheen to the room. WilsonArt was also fabricated to become the face, sides, back and apron for the desk unit. The wine cooler, three antique sewing machine drawers and a tray bin share space under the work surface that accommodates a telephone, computer, work surface, and desktop accessories.

The window in this room, while admitting ample southern exposure light into the room, is partially obscured by the upper cabinets of the island. It had been decorated with glass shelves and collectibles in 1976. To update the scheme, a Hunter Douglas Country Woods blind was outside mounted at the window. Over the blind is a custom fabric petticoat valance from RLF Home. The plaids and solids used in the two-tier valance nicely coordinate with the Scalamandre red silk damask balloon valances used in the adjoining breakfast room where the same wood blinds had been installed two years ago.

Finishing details in the kitchen include a cheery Brewster wallpaper of raspberry vines, a red double basin sink and brushed nickel faucets from Kohler, Wusthof knives flank the prep counter and “Naturewood” tabletop accessories are from Pfaltzgraff. Custom placemats and napkins coordinate the eating counter and breakfast room table to the fabrics used at the kitchen window.

THE MASTER SUITE

While not large on modern standards, the master bedroom and bath have an old house charm. Along with the kitchen, these rooms date from the original 1847 farmstead on the property. The house was enlarged and modernized in the 1930’s.

After old paper was stripped, plaster repaired and the floor refinished, the walls were given a new lease with sunny Regency stripe wallpaper from Scalamandre. The drapes and bedding were custom fabricated by KD Designs using silk fabrics from Plumridge and Galaxy with trims from D’Kei’s Jamie Gibbs Vintage Collection. The Victorian architecture of this room, fine oil landscapes and family portraits are all set aglow by 1940’s lamps from the owner’s first apartment. “We bought those [lamps] along with a sofa, two end tables and a bed to furnish our war-time studio. I felt like a queen” says the homeowner. To coordinate the 1930’s glass tile bath with the new bedroom look, Brunschwig and Fils “Hollyhock” wallpaper, white cotton batiste “drapes” and coordinating tassel trim from D’Kei were added. All the linens have been replaced with monogrammed Sferra towels, sheets and coverlets. Deep royal purple embroidery adds life to the white, celadon, and hunter green linens.

Family antiques from several generations have been artfully updated with paint and hand-painted floral motifs. The iron bed and the multi-color dresser boast details hand-painted with colors from the fabrics and embroidery found in the room.

Jamie Gibbs and Associates is an interior design firm based in New York City. They specialize in interiors that emphasize color, texture and the client’s lifestyle. Here historic preservation, family heritage and a scenic garden environment were emphasized to produce rooms that will last for future generations to enjoy.

END

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