



The living room presents an artful pairing of classic and contemporary design elements. The rug is from Frances Lee Jasper Oriental Rugs.

# GRAPHIC CONTENT

Interior designer Ron Wolz of Bittners employs classic design elements, flourishes of youthful whimsy, and bold patterns with aplomb in a home near Cherokee Park

*Written by Bridget Williams / Photography by Andrew Kung*

Glancing around rooms with thoughtfully executed interiors befitting the polish of a New York City penthouse, the convivial homeowner said the journey to get to this point was a long and winding road. After touring scores of homes for sale, and having all but given up on finding “the one”, a friend recommended that she look at a historic property near Cherokee Park. “The backyard was overgrown, and everything needed to be renovated, but the potential was there,” she said. Once she discovered that the home needed far more than cosmetic upgrades, she assembled a team captained by her good friend, interior designer Ron Wolz of Bittners, and supported by architect Tim Winters and builders Mark Campisano and Brendan Buttorff. All were committed to respecting the integrity of the historic residence while making it conducive to family life in the present-day. As the matriarch of a sociable family, the homeowner kept her focus on a singular vision throughout the process. “My family loves to get together and cook, so everything was done with them in mind,” she explained.

The renovation was implemented in phases. First, the overgrown yard was cleared to make way for a manicured lawn and

swimming pool with an integrated sundeck, triple waterfall feature and limestone coping, installed by Backyard Pools. Enclosing a screen porch located off the kitchen came next, followed by constructing a garage and completely overhauling the kitchen, the latter of which involved reworking the floor plan to make this hub of activity more inviting and open to the rest of the home.

When the construction dust settled, Wolz went to work crafting interiors that reflected the homeowner’s refined sensibilities. “We have very similar tastes and a comfort level that allowed us to freely share ideas as we went along,” said Wolz. “I really learned to trust him completely,” added the homeowner.

Hand-made wallpaper from Cannon/Bullock was chosen by Wolz for the foyer due to its architectural aesthetic. “It mimics the lines of cut stone but in a contemporary fashion,” he pointed out. The idea of bridging the gap between classic and contemporary is a recurring theme throughout the home. The vignette is given additional edge with a collage of Polaroids embedded in wax by artist Letitia Quesenberry on display near the stairs to the second floor.



Outdoor furnishings are from Brown Jordan and Summer Classics.





Ample storage is disguised behind the paneling in the keeping room. The drapery is from Schumacher, and sofa is an Aerin Lauder design. A pair of Ralph Lauren Home hurricane candle holders and a piece of Mata Ortiz pottery are displayed on top of the Oly Studio coffee table.

With walls whose color calls to mind a camel cashmere wool coat, the living room masterfully melds traditional motifs such as Greek key with abstract art. A sofa covered in sumptuous ivory wool flannel is positioned under a painting with bold brush strokes. At the far end of the room, a library table is positioned in-between a pair of built-in bookcases; the contrast of the chairs pulled up to it—Kara Mann cane side chairs with black caning and ivory slipcovered armchairs—echoes the contrast of the room’s predominate artwork. Grounding the space in soft hues of grey and blue is a rug from Frances Lee Jasper Oriental Rugs. According to Wolz, the gravitas of an exquisite antique Biedermeier secretary in one corner of the room is equalized by a mid-century table lamp resting on its fall-front writing plate. “To me it’s like adding a smiley face to what would otherwise be a very serious piece,” he said.

A graphic Moroccan rug discovered while the duo was vacationing in California served as the starting point for the

design of the dining room. Brian Keenan, one of the master craftsmen at Bittners, designed and built the curly burl wood table. The homeowner’s existing Chinese Chippendale chairs were given a facelift with a matte black finish. Illuminating the space is a mid-century chandelier. Grasscloth from Cowtan & Tout graces the walls above the picture frame wainscoting. “The room feels like Palm Beach meets Palm Springs,” said Wolz.

Quiet, comfortable and bathed in natural light, the homeowner’s home office is a chic spot to take care of business. Simple graphic statements abound, beginning with the basket weave parquet floors, which are balanced by bright white walls. Wolz explained that the dark grey color of the window mullions tricks the eye into looking past them to the outside views. Bold drapery from Schumacher serves as the room’s exclamation point. Furnishings are few but impactful: a campaign-style desk and vintage tub chairs in orange leather with nailhead trim.



Wolz refers to the mid-century lamp resting on the writing ledge of the antique Biedermeier secretary in the living room as a smiley face on a serious piece.





Backyard Pools and Clay Ferris Landscaping worked in tandem to dramatically transform the once overgrown yard into an outdoor oasis.



Created by enclosing what had been a screen porch, the space is now a preferred spot for casual dining and cozing up to the fireplace in the winter. Kara Mann cane chairs surround the dining table.



Schumacher drapery makes a graphic statement in the light-filled home office.





Atteberry Smith fabricated the cabinets in the renovated kitchen. Quartz was selected to top the island, while soapstone countertops are found at the perimeter. Pendant lights are from Moooi. The Madigan counter stools are from Hickory Chair.



The dining table was custom-made in the Bittners workshop. Looking across the hall, a pair of raffia-wrapped Ralph Lauren African chairs are visible in one corner of the living room.

Converting the screen porch into year-round living space made the home more livable. The relaxed space, with ample windows from which to enjoy views of the pool and garden, functions as ancillary dining room; a fireplace makes it extra cozy during colder months. A dog-friendly sisal rug over the tile floor and whimsical woven bead and raffia chandelier speak to the room's indoor/outdoor aura.

Referring to the kitchen's former state as "dark and awkward," the homeowner says that of all the projects carried out, the renovation of the kitchen should win the award for most improved. At the heart of the space, a quartz-topped island finished with a double beveled edge is large enough for the homeowner's children to gather with their families. Countertops

at the perimeter of the room are soapstone. Cabinets were fabricated by Atteberry Smith. Resembling orbs of white silly string, a pair of fanciful Random Light pendants by Bertjan Pot for Moooi suspended overhead dial back the formality.

In the keeping room, rough-hewn ceiling beams in a dark finish stand out against white paneled walls. Sumptuous velvet upholstery was selected for both the Aerin Lauder sofa and a pair comfy armchairs that are oriented to face one another in front of the fireplace. Resting atop the Oly Studio coffee table is a piece of Mata Ortiz pottery, whose monochromatic geometric design appears quite modern, but is based on an artisan tradition that is hundreds of years old. This simple, yet impactful vessel, much like the home it graces, aptly represents the tenets of timeless style. **sl**