



Builder Doug Amlung, architect Dan Fultz and interior designer Ron Wolz of Bittners worked together for two years to create a new home with a timeless appeal.

HOME IS WHERE THE HAPPY IS

A new house with a jovial old soul in Mockingbird Gardens

Written by Bridget Williams / Photography by Andrew Kung

“It was a great collaboration; we were all marching in the same direction,” said interior designer Ron Wolz of Bittners about the team that came together over the course of two years to build a family-centric house in Mockingbird Gardens. Wolz, along with builder Doug Amlung and architect Dan Fultz, were successful in creating a new home with a distinct sense of permanence. “Architecturally, there is a timelessness about it that will hold the same appeal in one hundred years as it does today,” added Wolz.

While the bones of the home may be timeless, the interior design definitely displays a youthful exuberance, influenced by both the homeowners’ love of color and their strong desire to include amenities that will entice their teenagers to spend more time at home. Wolz and the wife spent two days at the Design Center at the Merchandise Mart in Chicago to glean inspiration and engage in big-picture conceptualizing. Back in Louisville, Wolz sifted through myriad ideas to tease out recurring themes, with judicious use of vibrant colors being paramount. Reflecting

a more au courant approach to color, there is a predominance of white on the walls and trim work, which is punctuated with perky patterned wallpaper, fabrics and floorcoverings.

In the wife’s office for instance, a single wall behind the contemporary campaign-style desk makes a statement with a bold silk wallcovering from the French company Élitis. Giving both a nod and a wink to tradition, classic Chinoiserie wallcovering, reinterpreted by Miles Redd for Schumacher, was chosen by Wolz for its “happy coloration.” A round dining table, custom-made by the master craftsmen at Bittners, is an instant heirloom. Vibrant green grasscloth enveloping all of the walls in the family room plays well against a familiar blue-and-white motif. A second floor reading nook artfully combines no less than six distinct patterns with aplomb. Citrus Garden, a whimsical Josef Frank print created in 1947, and printed on linen by Schumacher, feels fresh as a relaxed Roman shade in the breakfast room.

A departure from the white and bright rooms elsewhere in the home, Wolz chose comfortable upholstery and a whimsical overhead light fixture to lighten the mood in the husband’s study.





Citrus Garden, a whimsical Josef Frank print created in 1947, and printed on linen by Schumacher, feels fresh as a relaxed Roman shade in the breakfast room.



Though newly built, the house boasts architectural elements indicative of a past era. The stair runner is from Stark.



A second floor reading nook artfully combines distinct patterns and color with aplomb.



The home backs up to a large expanse of greenspace, so the design of the master suite places emphasis on the colors its occupants can admire outside the windows.



Brass accents on the Waterworks vanity and tub fixtures, and an eight-arm burnished brass chandelier from Visual Comfort in the master bath provide just the right amount of luster.



Vibrant green grasscloth enveloping all of the walls in the family room plays well against a familiar blue-and-white motif.

In the hallway that leads to the golf simulator room, the pattern of the hardwood floor transitions from straight to herringbone.



The wallcovering in the dining room was designed by Miles Redd for Schumacher. The custom dining table was made by the master craftsmen at Bittners.





With its abundance of built-ins and a box beam ceiling, the husband's study represents a slight departure from the joviality elsewhere, but Wolz kept the mood light with comfortable blue velvet on the tufted sofa with nailhead trim and a whimsical overhead light fixture. "Its nostalgic, classic and clubby vibe makes it one of my favorite rooms in the house," said Wolz.

The home backs up to a large expanse of greenspace, so the design of the master suite places emphasis on the colors its occupants can admire outside the windows. Touches of spring green and fuchsia pop against an overall soothing palette of gray and taupe. A sense of serenity continues in the master bath, with

brass accents on the Waterworks vanity and tub fixtures, and an eight-arm burnished brass chandelier from Visual Comfort providing just the right amount of luster.

An indoor lower level basketball court and first-floor golf simulator room certainly serve as enticements for the couple's children and their friends to spend more time at home. Wolz designed an acoustical carpet mural for the wall behind the basketball goal, which helps to absorb sound and adds visual interest to what would otherwise be a large blank wall. "This is a fresh, young and happy home where kids don't mind hanging out," said Wolz. [sl](#)

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