



The painting surmounting the mantle is a custom work inspired by the pattern of the Jim Thompson drapery. In the foreground are Oly Studio Lancaster barrel chairs with nailhead trim.

CALM, COOL & COLLECTED

Interior designer Elaine Crockett of Bittners helps guide the evolution of a family home into an entertaining haven.

Written by Elaine Crockett and Bridget Williams / Photos by Robert Burge

What happens when the pitter-patter of little feet and paws prorogues? While some reduce their real estate footprint, the owners of an Indian Hills home instead opted for a rethink. Not quite ready to relocate after nearly twenty years in their graciously proportioned home that offers the husband ample space to exercise his green thumb, the couple consulted Elaine Crockett, an interior designer with Bittners, to help with updates that stylishly guide them into their next chapter.

Elaine recounted meeting the homeowners 30 years ago when they were neighbors. A former staff attorney for the Kentucky Supreme Court, who also dabbled in interior design and spatial planning, Elaine joined the Bittners design team a decade ago and said the wife was her first client. “My favorite part of being an attorney was resolving challenges, and that’s what I love to do as a designer as well,” said Elaine.

In addition to cultivating a collection of antiques to ground each room, the homeowners requested interesting modern additions to create welcoming spaces that present a contemporary and fresh vibe. Elaine says that integrating unusual modern pieces with meaningful ones from the past is her favorite way of balancing the intriguing and unexpected with the comfort of the traditionally classic.

Architect Beverly Baker is credited with exterior upgrades. The front of the home received a facelift with new windows and

shutters and custom walnut front doors by Ed James of Four Board Woodworks. A larger portico and dormer windows and decorative details were also added.

Upon entry into the foyer, guests are greeted by chairs flanking a circa 1900 Italianate chest. The wallcovering by York is a granite and quartz application that creates a wonderfully textured and warm atmosphere and sets the tone for the mix of old and new found throughout the refreshed rooms.

Family antiques mingle with a modern Bittners-made sideboard in the dining room. The centerpiece is a custom-made Bittners oval stump walnut veneer dining table with banded inlay of Carpathian elm burl wood bordered by bands of walnut herringbone and quartered walnut resting on a pair of birdcage bases. Enveloping the walls is a patterned hand-blocked wallpaper highlighted by a subtle copper metallic shimmer that calls to mind the flecks of gold found in the entry’s wallcovering.

Textured plaster walls are covered in pale high gloss paint in the living room. Oly Studio Lancaster barrel chairs with nailhead trim over curved wood backs upholstered in gray mohair settle nicely beside an antique scallop front chest. The dramatic floral painting over the mantle was commissioned by the homeowner, who gave the artist a sample of the room’s No. 9 Jim Thompson drapery fabric for inspiration.



The backyard, with landscaping by Perry & Kaelin Landscaping, is a haven for entertaining and relaxing.



The refreshed television room boasts cork floors and a grasscloth wall covering.



Interior designer Elaine Crockett refreshed the spacious guest suite and selected whimsical wallpaper for the hallway connecting this retreat to the rest of the home.



Chairs flank a 1900 Italianate chest in the foyer. The wallcovering by York is a granite and quartz application.



A console table in the living room is a custom piece by the Bittners woodworking shop.



In an alcove between the dining room and kitchen, a vintage pie safe stands adjacent to a pair of leather chairs separated by a burnished gold figural floor lamp from AERIN. Cozied up to one of the chairs is an 1854 Bourbon Table by Bittners.





What had been an under-utilized pass-thru from the living room to the kitchen has been given a stylish purpose as a proper game room.

What had been an under-utilized pass-thru from the living room to the kitchen has been given a stylish purpose as a game room. Anchored by a proper leather-topped game table, Ellen filled the built-ins with leather and linen-bound books that are complemented by the wife's collection of handsome vintage wooden tea caddies and jewelry boxes. It is now a cozy spot for working puzzles, playing games, or overflow seating from the kitchen.

Thoughtfully composed, an alcove between the dining room and kitchen encapsulates Elaine's design ethos that every room needs three elements: layers of texture, something old, and something interesting. Here, a vintage pie safe stands adjacent to a pair of leather chairs separated by a burnished gold figural floor lamp from AERIN. Cozied up to one of the chairs is an 1854 Bourbon Table by Bittners.

Elaine refreshed the spacious guest suite and selected whimsical wallpaper for the hallway connecting this retreat to the rest of the home. In the nearby television room, she selected cork floors and replaced the recessed lighting with more interesting alabaster flush mount fixtures by Kelly Wearstler for Visual Comfort.

The backyard, with landscaping by Perry & Kaelin Landscaping, is a haven for entertaining and relaxing. A covered terrace that sports comfortable slip-covered furniture and a fireplace with custom wrought iron screen, a pool surrounded by a manicured lawn, and an outdoor kitchen are among the amenities.

Pleased with all that's been accomplished to date, the homeowners are now working with Elaine on plans to renovate the kitchen. "[The homeowners], who are unbelievably fun to work with, have classically good taste, and are not afraid to experiment," remarked Elaine. **sl**

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MAGGIE BADE KING
502.419.5140
mking@lsir.com

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3803 Brownsboro Road
502.899.2129
lsir.com