

NO CUTTING CORNERS

A collaboration of interior experts, led by Lori Andriot of Bittners and architect Gerald Baron, results in a home with all the right curves in all the right places.

Written by Bridget Williams / Photography by Robert Burge



A watercolor surmounting an Asian sideboard was acquired in Chicago as part of a contemporary art group trip organized by the Speed Art Museum.

Starting with a shell—albeit a substantial one made up of two combined units in The George with front-to-back views—architect Gerald Baron looked beyond the blank box with four concrete walls and lots of right angles to conceptualize a curved wall enveloping the kitchen. Then, working in tandem with Baron, interior designer Lori Andriot of Bittners took the inspiration up a notch by proposing sheathing the focal point in a micro-thin, hand-inlaid, paper-backed wood veneer with a starburst pattern. "It was the jumping off point for the entire project," explained

Andriot, who, along with Baron and contractor Carl Baker of Sterling Development Group, rounded out what she calls the "dream team," a group that had collaborated more than a decade ago on the homeowner's previous residence.

While the project commenced during COVID and experienced several setbacks, the wife focuses on the positives, doling out ample praise for everyone involved. Calling Baron "a visionary," she also said that Andriot "has an incredible eye and knows exactly what to do with a room as soon as she walks in."

Gracing the fireplace wall in the living room is a vibrant photograph by Chilean photographer Roberto Edwards. The rug is from Anabel's Oriental Rugs.



A life-like sculpture by Carole A Feuerman rests atop a pedestal.



Glass sculptures by Leah Wingfield displayed in niches specifically designed to accommodate them.





Architect Gerald Baron designed a number of built-in display spaces for the couple's sizable art glass collection.



A complex woven photography work by Vietnamese artist Dinh Q. Lê surmounts the buffet in the dining room. One of the few commissioned pieces in the home is an acrobatic form in glass and bronze by attorney-turned-artist David Bennett that shares a display ledge with a sinuous blown glass vessel by the late Stephen Rolfe Powell.



Interior designer Lori Andriot said the fabric used to create accent pillows on the bed served as the inspiration for the primary bedroom's color palette.

While the couple reduced their square footage by forty percent, what they weren't willing to downsize was their diverse art assemblage. The wife, who has a background in art history, said that they never considered themselves collectors until the question was posed. Rather, she said their acquisitions began organically, picking up a piece here and there while traveling and visiting art shows in places like Chicago, Los Angeles, and Palm Beach. "At art shows, we enjoyed meeting gallerists and artists from all over the world, and over time our collection sort of evolved," she explained. The couple's only hard and fast rule when it comes to collecting is that they both have to agree on a piece, a pact she says remains intact with a lone exception.

Andriot said that while she had preliminary thoughts on where to place certain pieces, which included intentional niches designed by the architect, at the wife's request, placement decisions largely took place towards the end of the process. In the meantime, working with an architect averse to hard angles

provided Andriot with a unique set of challenges. She recounted that she spent hours working with Denise Duncan of Carpet Specialists and flooring installer Willie Schumacher to determine the ideal layout for the pattern of the hardwood floors.

A beguiling shade of plum selected for the highly lacquered front door gives the subtlest hint at the eye candy that lies inside. For the wife, collecting art represents the pursuit of happiness. "There's nothing like the feeling you get from being surrounded by all of this creativity," she explained. In this home, architecture and interior design work in concert to give each piece its due without overwhelming the eye.

In the entry, a circular surrealist C-print self-portrait by Argentinian artist Flavia De Rin hovers above a bench whose concave back mirrors the photograph's shape. The piece has traveled with the homeowners from home to home over the years, with a simple reupholstering of the bench seat all that's needed to keep it in step with its new environment.



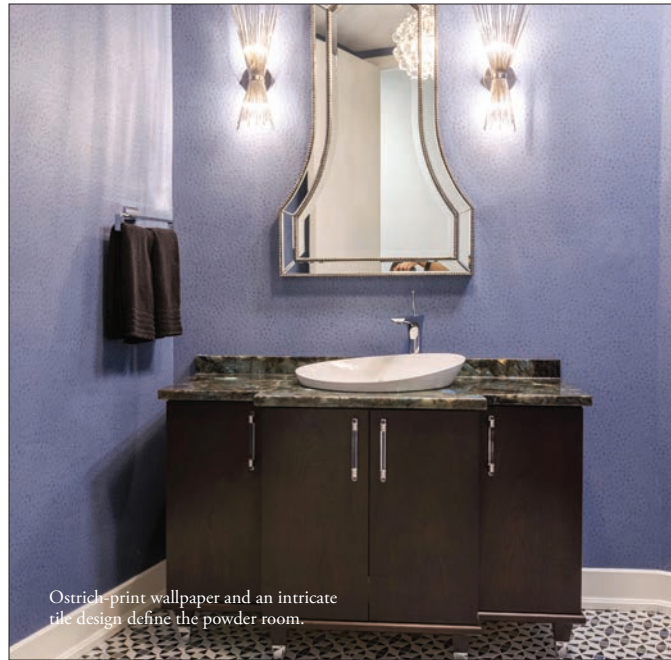
In the entry, a circular surrealist C-print self-portrait by Argentinian artist Flavia De Rin hovers above a bench whose concave back mirrors the photograph's shape.



The curved wall enveloping the kitchen is swaddled in a micro-thin, hand-inlaid, paper-backed wood veneer with a starburst pattern.



A hidden pantry that runs the length of the kitchen keeps clutter at bay.



Ostrich-print wallpaper and an intricate tile design define the powder room.



Interior designer Lori Andriot recounted spending hours working with Denise Duncan of Carpet Specialists and flooring installer Willie Schumacher to determine the ideal layout for the pattern of the hardwood floors.



Interior designer Lori Andriot collaborated with Robin Straub from Louisville Tile to scale the dramatic mosaic mural spanning the width of the primary bath.

One of the most compelling aspects of being in the home of a passionate collector is that there's often a story associated with each piece. In the extended foyer, for instance, a watercolor surmounting an Asian sideboard was acquired in Chicago as part of a contemporary art group trip organized by the Speed Art Museum. Gracing the fireplace wall in the living room is a vibrant photograph by Chilean photographer Roberto Edwards. A departure from the prevalence of playfulness is a complex woven photography work by Vietnamese artist Dinh Q. Lê that the wife characterizes as "strong." One of the few commissioned pieces in the home is an acrobatic form in glass and bronze by attorney-turned-artist David Bennett that shares a display ledge with a sinuous blown glass vessel by the late Stephen Rolfe Powell.

While art provides the preponderance of color, subtle-to-significant additions are sprinkled in via the rugs, accent pillows,

and tile work. From the kitchen backsplash (a favorite of the wife, who remarked she wished there was room for more of it) to the intricate mosaic in the primary bath, these deliberate design flourishes complement the art's palpable energy. Andriot said that tile installer Steve Thomas of The Carpenter's Son went "above and beyond" in the level of detail required to successfully carry out all aspects of her tile designs, conceptualized in collaboration with Robin Straub from Louisville Tile.

Steve Balz of Balz Custom Woodworking gets credit for all of the custom cabinetry. In the kitchen, a hidden pantry running the length of the space keeps clutter to a minimum and allows for lighthearted moments, such as when someone mistakenly tried to throw away a glass banana "left" on the counter. "I love the whimsy of our conglomeration," said the wife. ⁵⁷

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