



HOUSE BEAUTIFUL

Interior designer Amy Cimba of Bittners collaborates with color-loving homeowners to craft an abode that expresses their *joie de vivre*.

Written by Bridget Williams / Photos by Robert Burge

"We've been with Amy every step of the way," said the wife, whose family has called this historic Cherokee Gardens charmer home for a decade. Over that time, they've relied on interior designer Amy Cimba of Bittners to tailor the interiors to suit their style and the needs of a growing family.

The formal architecture has idiosyncrasies, which Cimba and the homeowners fully embrace. Crossing the threshold, visitors step down into a foyer defined by a black and white checkboard floor and a vintage wallpaper mural painted on canvas, the spring-like colors of which set the color story for the home's entirety. Cimba says the Lilly Pulitzer-esque palate's vibrancy matches the family's effervescence. "It just exudes happiness," she remarked. A tall, arched window bathes the curved stairway in natural light.

Holding pride of place in a corner of the spacious formal living room is a Steinway grand piano. Cimba pointed out that a cloverleaf-shaped ottoman tucked under the instrument is one of her "signature moves." "It's a great way to utilize what would otherwise be dead space," she added.

The living room opens to a gracious dining room boasting raised panel wainscoting, swing-door access to the kitchen, and arched niches holding a collection of Herend china. Cimba amped up the elegance with iridescent damask wallpaper, a crystal chandelier, and a round dining table seating eight. Columns delineate the space from the loggia, which opens to a tiered limestone terrace with balustrades. The shape of the loggia's pendant light recalls the living room ottoman.





Like many who either took on a home project or adopted a puppy during the pandemic, the homeowners' most recent endeavor was reworking their kitchen and butler's pantry. Cimba recalled that the space was in full demolition mode when the COVID shutdown happened, forcing her to work closely with kitchen designer Michael Smith of Artistic Kitchens and builder Aaron Esposito to "gently overlap" subcontractors. The result is a highly functional use of a relatively compact space, which included converting a coat closet into a butler's pantry with a hammered silver sink and a second dishwasher. The kitchen's cabinetry is thoughtfully designed to mirror the 1930s-era architecture. Unique touches include honed marble countertops,

smoked glass mirrors in upper cabinets, gold pulls, and blue and white French bistro-style stools pulled up to the island. A blue pagoda-style pendant light continues a subtle chinoiserie thread established by the Chinese Chippendale insert in the front screen door and fretwork chairs in the casual dining area. A self-professed bibliophile, the husband's second-floor study, just off the primary suite, is a repository of his prized publications. The family inherited the room's bearskin rug from the wife's father, an avid outdoorsman. "The homeowners' own every bit of color in this home," said Cimba, who added that she's rarely given carte blanche to express such chromaticity and relished the opportunity. **sl**



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