

Brunschwig et Fils Caen Stone wallcovering makes a subtle statement in the foyer. The Oushak rug beneath the center hall table is from Anabel's Oriental Rugs.


## THE THIRD TIME IS JUST AS CHARMING

Bittners Interior Designer Ron Wolz leads his third renovation of the last residence designed by architect Stratton Hammon.

*Written by Bridget Williams / Photos by Robert Burge*

From 1930 onwards, Stratton Hammon (March 6, 1904 – October 22, 1997), Kentucky's 35th registered architect, is credited with designing 100 Louisville-area homes in his signature Colonial Revival style. Said to have drafted his first house at age 16, his work was briefly interrupted during World War II, during which Hammon participated in the Normandy

Invasion in June 1944 and served as one of the "Monuments Men." He was recognized by the French government for his valor with the *Croix de Guerre* and appointment to the Order of the Legion of Honor. Evidence of the prolific architect's enduring appeal is that when a home he designed hits the market, it's typically mentioned in the opening line of the listing.



A Bittners-made table is centered in a dramatic breakfast room addition designed by architect Tim Winters.



Wolz refers to the design of the living room as "relevant and happy." An Oriental rug from Anabel's Oriental Rugs was repurposed for the upholstery on the bench in front of the fireplace.





Louisville artist Clare Hirn created the dining room's whimsical handpainted mural.



Such was the case for Hammon's last commission, built in 1991 and nestled amid ten leafy acres at the terminus of a private river bluff lane. Its present owners weren't even considering a move when the home was listed for sale in 2022. "Once we saw it, I said I didn't care how it looked on the inside; we had to buy it," remarked the husband. Even though it's a little over three decades old, the exterior presents distinguishing architectural features of a classic home, such as Flemish bond brickwork, second-floor Juliet balconies, and French drains.

Lovingly looked after by its previous owners, interior designer Ron Wolz of Bittners has had the distinct pleasure of shepherding three design updates, all of which maintain the spirit of Hammon's design while reflecting the needs of its stewards. "Architecture makes a difference, with good bones being integral to designing a great house," said Wolz. He added that the home's latest iteration is a "continuation of quality." The homeowners noted Wolz's enduring signature style, surmising

he'd been behind the previous design. They said it seemed fitting that he should lead the renovation and redesign.

Thoughtful interior design can transcend decades, evidenced by what remained from previous renovations, including the Brunswig et Fils Caen Stone wallcovering in the foyer (highlighting the curved staircase, a Hammon hallmark, further accentuated by a cherry handrail and spindles) and the dining room's silk drapery with tassel detail and whimsical handpainted mural by Louisville artist Clare Hirn. The subdued pattern of the foyer's wallpaper provides a neutral backdrop for an animated Oushak rug from Anabel's Oriental Rugs placed beneath a center hall table and a colorful abstract painting of a forest scene hung at the midway point of the stairs.

Many of the upholstered pieces and case goods were sourced from the Bittners showroom, but the couple also went hunting for antiques in New Orleans. "Ron is so good about bringing in our treasures," the wife remarked.



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What had been a formal living room was converted into a study with the bookcases, walls, and trim painted a subtly shiny shade of hunter green. Wolz chose to go for a full-on lacquer finish, remarking that "The luster casts the most romantic glow at night". A partial reinterpretation of the living room in their previous home, the space pays homage to the couple's love of and involvement with horseracing.

Wolz refers to the design of the living room as "relevant and happy." The vibrant drapery fabric in shades of blue and green, chosen by the wife from a dozen fabric samples, and the bedrock of the room's color scheme, leans heavily on hues from the views outside the bayed window wells on either side of the fireplace. Full of pattern and grounded by neutral walls, the room is a hushed reflection of the wife's love of color—lively without being overly loud.

Pegged hardwood floors define the kitchen and adjacent breakfast room, dramatically set beneath a cupola supported by columns, a design detail orchestrated by another acclaimed Louisville architect, Tim Winters. Wolz worked with Katie Reece, a cabinetry

designer at Century Entertainment and Furnishings, to redesign the kitchen, a process that the husband, who loves to cook, was keen to be involved with. The white cabinetry feels even more ethereal when surrounded by light blue walls. The substantial reclaimed wood Bittners-made table with butterfly joints placed atop an oil-cloth rug transitioned from their previous residence.

The parade of patterns and colors continues in each of the four second-floor bedroom suites. A bright yellow stripe adds panache to the light blue drapery in the primary bedroom. The salmon shade of the walls in the primary bath casts a flattering, rosy glow. An artisanal glass Talia chandelier from Visual Comfort in a guest bedroom recalls the artistry of a stunning piece of art glass by the late Stephen Rolfe Powell on display downstairs in the living room.

While the third time has been just as charming as the first, Wolz remains enormously grateful for the continued opportunity to be part of the story. "The home is just as lovely as the people who've lived in it," he said. **sl**