

Anchored by a vibrant Heriz rug from Anabel's Oriental Rugs, four English-style leather library armchairs with a leisurely-reclined back from Ralph Lauren surround a textured brass coffee table from Baker in the hearth room.



STABLE TO STUNNING

The gradual transformation of an historic carriage house into an elegant, eclectic, and enviable abode.

Written by Bridget Cottrell / Photos by Andy Llanes Bulto

There are homes to be lived in and homes that live within us. This is a story about the latter.

"As soon as I saw it, I thought 'that's our house,'" remarked the wife about the circa 1910 carriage-house-turned-residence in Cherokee Gardens, even though her husband wasn't initially quite as enthusiastic. Loaded with architectural gravitas, the exterior reflects a blend of historic styles, including the Arts and Crafts movement. Although the era of the carriage house's construction coincided with the start of Ford's mass production of its Model T, signaling the beginning of the end for the "horse-drawn era," the attention to detail and investment in this substantial structure speak to the value the original builder placed on the care of horses and carriages.

"They've touched every surface," said Amy Cimba, Vice President of Residential Design at Bittners. She has worked with the homeowners for years, helping them restore original details and make thoughtful additions and renovations. The result is an eclectic and elegant abode, perfect for modern life and gracious entertaining. The wife, who likes to rearrange furniture, jokes that their long collaboration is also due to Cimba's willingness to help with the heavy lifting. "My husband will never let her go because of it!" she said. "The benefit of buying lovely pieces is that they can work in multiple spaces," said Cimba.

The full-on charm offensive begins as soon as one crosses the threshold and enters the double-height foyer. Laid atop the

original slate floors is a vibrant antique Persian-style runner from Anabel's Oriental Rugs. A verdigris French Quarter-style copper lantern is suspended above an antique rosewood center table procured from the Bittners showroom. It is flanked, front and back, by iron Excalibur benches from Maitland Smith, with zebra-patterned hair-on-hide upholstery. Cimba had the Bittners woodworking shop add a wood fleur-de-lis mount to the antique three-arm sconces to better match the scale of the space. In the powder room, the custom vanity resembles a polished hunter-green tack truck with snaffle-bit drawer pulls.

Original, distinctive double crossbuck brace sliding doors define the entrance to the dining room. The beadboard detail on the doors carries over to the coffered ceiling. Comfortable seating areas on either side of the banquet-sized dining tables allow the space to be used for pre- and post-dinner entertaining. Cimba said they worked closely with antiquarian Steve Tipton to source art and antiques, including a large hunt scene hung on the opposite end of the room from a vintage advertising poster for Longines watches, created by the renowned artist Leonetto Cappiello, roughly a decade after the carriage house was built. Cimba added Ralph Lauren raw silk to the room's drapery, which carried over from the homeowners' previous residence to compensate for the higher ceilings.



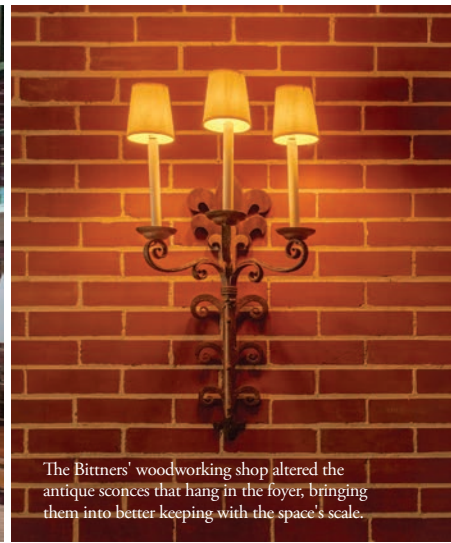
Centered beneath a French Quarter-style copper lantern, a vibrant runner from Anabel's Oriental Rugs ground a rosewood center hall table and a pair of Maitland Smith Excalibur benches.



The original, distinctive double cross-brace sliding doors define the entrance to the dining room. The dining chairs are upholstered in a striped velvet from Manuel Canovas. To the left of the hearth is a dye sublimation print on aluminum by Madison Cawein.



Designed by architect Tommy Kute, the sunroom is the most recent addition to the home.



The Bittners' woodworking shop altered the antique sconces that hang in the foyer, bringing them into better keeping with the space's scale.



Harris Tweed upholstery on the armchairs in the sitting room accentuates the room's country house aesthetic.

Throughout the home, there's a Wunderkammer vibe, with varied and interesting art, accessories, and furniture spanning eras and continents, creating endlessly beguiling spaces and alluding to the interesting lives of its occupants. Nothing seems too precious, as underscored by fine art casually leaning against the wall in the dining room or sitting atop the mantle in the hearth room, along with a high-low mélange of collected objects. Cimba also allows the architecture to take center stage by limiting loud patterns and favoring a layered approach, adding visual interest through accent pillows, rugs, and carefully considered vignettes. "It's a good lesson that you don't need busyness to create impactful spaces," explained Cimba.

Across the foyer from the dining room is a casual multipurpose sitting room that leads to the husband's office and a stylish full bath, formerly a livestock pen. The wife said they were reminded of the home's former life when hay rained from the ceiling during renovation. Defined by a hand-hewn beam and original brick walls, an original harness case that was relocated from another space now serves as a cabinet of curiosities. A waxed-bamboo, polished-nickel chandelier hangs above the library table. Harris Tweed upholstery on the armchairs accentuates the room's country house aesthetic.

An earlier addition at the rear of the home encompasses the kitchen, casual dining area, and a hearth room opening to a large walled terrace. Reclaimed wood floors finished with a French polish accentuate the wood's natural grain beneath a glass-like finish. Classic recessed wainscoting around the windows counters a predominance of dark wood tones, while the deep coffered ceiling matches the architectural heft of the original steel and wood beams, including one in the kitchen that still bears the pencil markings of a craftsman. Anchored by a vibrant Heriz rug from Anabel's Oriental Rugs, four English-style leather library armchairs with a leisurely reclined back from Ralph Lauren surround a textured brass coffee table from Baker in the hearth room.









Designed by architect Tommy Kute, the thoughtful design of a recently added sunroom appears to be original to the home. Cimba remarked that the sinuous lines of the Hickory Chair sofa nestled into the bank of windows "adds a little touch of drama," along with vintage Fortuny pillows, and an antique Italian table.

Even for the casual visitor, impressions of this special home endure. A touch of envy creates an emotional anchor, leaving behind the quiet, lasting feeling of having visited somewhere deeply personal and authentic. [sl](#)



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