

Embrace the space

Deborah Martin demonstrates her creative talent in this two-room, floor-to-ceiling renovation

Photography
by Phillip Ennis

Uncertainty over floor tile placement prompted this Lake Grove homeowner to seek out professional design help. Overhearing her frustration, her housepainter prompted her to make the call by saying, "You need to speak with Deborah." Deborah Martin of the eponymous Deborah Martin Designs located in Head-of-the-Harbor, New York, remembers the urgency of this late-June telephone conversation as well as her break with convention by agreeing to meet on a Thursday, the very next day. Perhaps it was the earnest nature of her call predicated on the tile installer's growing impatience or the designer's imminent travel plans that would mean otherwise delaying a meeting for several weeks that resulted in this hastily arranged initial consultation.





Ultimately, the decision was made to install floor tile throughout the open plan entry foyer, powder room, kitchen and family room and to choose an area rug to anchor upholstered seating in the latter. Thus began a series of design projects throughout the home that included these rooms as well as second floor bedrooms. Encumbered by the customary host of professional, educational and recreational commitments, this busy dual-career couple with two elementary school-aged children lacked the spare time to engage in the successful completion of these

time-consuming projects.

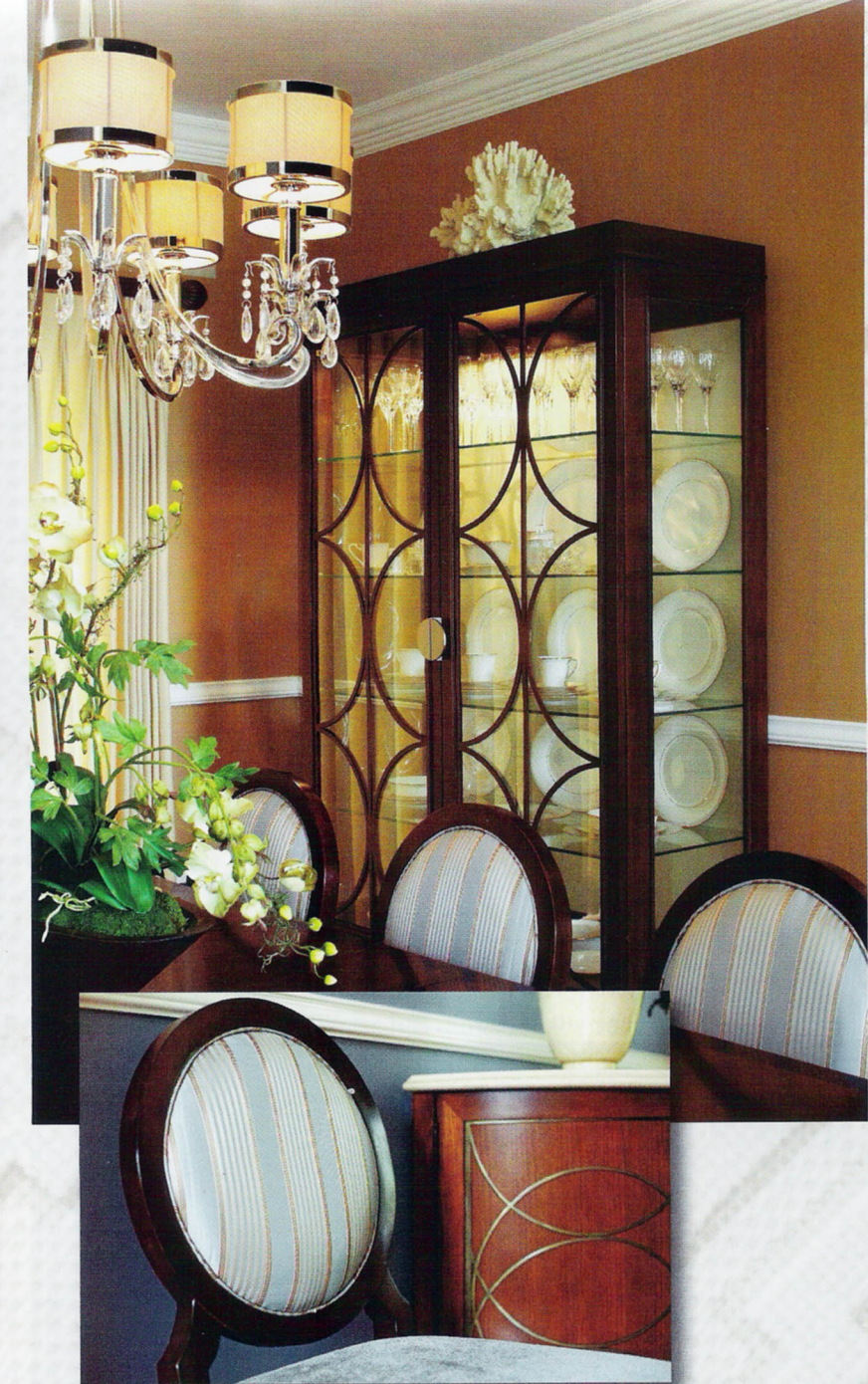
It is in the dining room and living room, however, the homeowners' so-called "final frontier," that Deborah Martin comprehensively demonstrates the depths of her creative talent. A floor to ceiling renovation that began with new hardwood flooring and extensive millwork, was inspired from two Benjamin Moore wall colors, a watery blue for the accent wall running the length of both rooms and a camel brown for adjacent walls. Seeking to create inviting yet sophisticated spaces, Martin chose clean, straightforward sil-

houettes for custom casegood and upholstered furnishings incorporating luxe Kravet and other COM fabrics to compliment the tranquil palette.

Window treatments featuring custom-finish decorative hardware and exquisite trimmings were designed to maximize the beauty of the arched living room window and the functionality of the dining room slider leading to a country club-like backyard. Crystal chandeliers, sconces and table lamps with soft silk shades bring glamour and sparkle to the rooms. In the living room, the custom, deeply-sculptured, wool

area rug adds polish to an often neglected design element. Careful appropriation in the budget secured its dramatic presence in the room.

When fewer than a handful of accessories are chosen for a room, each assumes paramount importance and, therefore, must be carefully considered. Estate quality egломise vases and a bronze sculpture top the dining room's French antique-inspired, marble-topped demilune below an original oil landscape featuring the gnarly bark of tall beech trees in the dining room. In the living room, a series of four floral



Soiche Marin serographs in sublime indigo tones were hand-picked for their location inside decorative mouldings above the plush down sofa. Tall crystal obelisks add sparkle to the hand-rubbed antique silver finish glass cocktail table beside a handsome mahogany lidded box. A tall, silver Lillian August nickel dot wire vessel on a mahogany corner pedestal houses whimsical feather balls in soft blue and neutral tones.

The project's design aesthetic began with architectural

fundamentals, navigated through the clients' often disparaging likes and dislikes and ultimately delivers an exhilarating, sophisticated space rich in design details based on Martin's penchant and real instinct for quality.

According to Martin, "It is when I fall in love on a personal level and embrace the space for my own that I know I have succeeded in creating an interior the client never could imagine but at the same time never feared would be anything short of sensational." ■