

A six room transformation  
by Deborah Martin



PHOTOGRAPHY BY PHILLIP ENNIS

When the invitation comes to participate in a home's transformation at its very inception, there is a level of commitment and involvement that knows no bounds. This was certainly the case in the six-room renovation of an East Hills home in which the homeowners had resided for 16 years before embarking on a project contemplated for seven years that would

take more than two years to complete. The project would not be without its problems and delays and would require conscientious attention to every detail. According to Deborah Martin of Deborah Martin Designs, "There wasn't a zone of the house that I didn't consider daily and go to sleep with every night."

Martin took inspiration from a pair of bunching cabinets in the adjacent living room to

design an oversize custom coat closet for the foyer with ample storage space for family members as well as guests. Its antiqued mirror double doors give this dramatic piece unmistakable Gallic flair. A handcrafted iron chandelier with a champagne leaf finish and antique pearl glass hangs from the twelve-foot ceiling, its large chain links suggestive of jewelry more than lighting.



To the left of the foyer is a living room featuring a long window seat with a custom seat cushion and patterned decorative pillows. Soft-pleated Roman shades on the room's two windows provide light control and

privacy. Suspended from the eleven-foot barrel ceiling above the arched window is a dramatic chandelier composed of four oval rings in a distinctive black lacquer finish with gold leaf accents that surround a four lamp base.

A sofa in a mink textured velvet sits opposite a pair of paisley club chairs and perpendicular to the high-contrast custom finish bunching cabinets. The large format oil painting above the sofa entitled "The Road I Traveled"



echoes the room's chocolate brown walls. A highly-textured custom wool rug anchors the seating area and contrasts with the deep walnut wood floors repeated in adjacent rooms.

The luxe powder room at the end of the entry hall features dark tile flooring reminiscent of animal horn. A handcrafted gold geometric wallcovering aptly

named 24 Karat and antique gold wall tiles are the dramatic backdrop for a spectacular crystal-bedecked girandole. Its swirled crystal shades in gilded frames sparkle over a custom burl finish vanity with tassel pulls. A separate door leads to the water closet with its dedicated onyx vessel sink on a second smaller custom burl vanity. Brilliant faceted crys-



tals are suspended from the semi-flush mount chandelier in the same worn gold finish as the girandole. The black gold sheer Stroheim fabric of the working London shade is trimmed in a Kravet exclusive gilded bead trim of South African origin. A dark espresso shade affords total privacy in the space.

The adjacent kitchen was a collaborative effort with The Creative Edge, Inc. and resulted in a culinary masterpiece featuring every amenity one would expect in a home of this caliber. Exotic granite countertops, mixed backsplash materials and the same tile flooring used in the entry foyer are counterpoised with soft furnishings that include a nail-head trimmed cornice, upholstered Swaim dining chairs and the island's ostrich covered barstools. The round glass-topped table with its bronze



metal and stone sculptural base imparts gallery flair. Lighting, a favorite design element for Martin, is nothing short of dazzling in the kitchen. Glimmering translucent diffusers in the trio of brilliantly accented LED pendants suspended from an S-shaped monorail track gently spread light through distinctive, anodized glossy black fins. The Italian hand-blown milk glass pendant over the kitchen sink gets its sparkle from clear and black octagonal crystals casually stacked at its base. The hand-blown eight-arm clear Murano glass chandelier, also an Italian



import, imparts regal splendor over the kitchen table.

Comfortable seating was requisite in the generously scaled family room. Knowing that with good design, comfort does not have to be sacrificed for flair, Deborah emphasized quality upholstered pieces with durable yet elegant fabrics in the project's budget. A shaped sectional facing a fireplace dressed in warm brown marble is flanked by two Century upholstered chairs with matching ottomans. A pair of Swaim benches beneath a custom Hickory Chair console can be pressed into service for additional seating. Placed behind the sofa, the console supports a stylish

reading lamp and bridges the space between the den and adjacent kitchen. A custom wall unit spanning the entire back wall was designed around an oversize flat screen and two windows. With display shelving behind glass doors as well as concealed storage, its Biedermeier feel is echoed in the cocktail table with tapered legs akin to those of the console. While a Kravet silk plaid was used on the flat Roman shades of the smaller windows, a helix-patterned fabric is on the slider's made to close panels. The sixth pattern in the room appears on a large custom area rug.

Poised above the ebony



Swaim dining table with silver accents is a Donghia chandelier with varying lengths of crystal strands and spheres that cascade 104 inches from the pitched ceiling which is dressed in a sumptuous Belgian Kravet paper. With its custom 32-inch suspension system and considerable weight, this sensational fixture required ceiling reinforcement. A crystal encrusted tape trim adds sparkle to the leading edge of drapery panels. Ten upholstered dining chairs and a buffet, again Swaim, complete the room.

Martin successfully combined suburban laissez faire with urban sophistication to seamlessly stitch together the six rooms of this comprehensive design project achieving palpable continuity.



The soft, natural color palette established in the entry foyer and used throughout the home suc-

ceeds in creating a feeling of warm domesticity for this dynamic family of four. ■