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SALLEY**

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FASHION**

THE DESIGNERS
AND LOOKS TO
WEAR RIGHT NOW

YOUTH IN POLITICS

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ACTION NOW**

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**ELECTION
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SECOND TIME AROUND



A CONTEMPORARY MAKEOVER GIVES A WEST BLOOMFIELD HOME NEW LIFE

Nearly 20 years ago, when interior designer Jeffrey King was just starting out, he paid a visit to a new client in West Bloomfield. Upon arrival, the president and owner of Jeffrey King Interiors in Birmingham said, "It's a really nice house. What do you want to do with it?" The homeowner's response: "We're tearing it down."

That was the beginning of a very long relationship.

Roughly a decade later, the homeowners, who hired King for a family-friendly design the first time around, were ready for another redo. "The first project was geared toward being kid-friendly, and it was done back in the laminate era," the designer explains. "This time we were going for a much more sophisticated, contemporary look."

Rather than compete with the breathtaking lakefront views, the refined rooms were designed to complement them. "The whole house was based on the view," he says. "And, it's very functional. The homeowners really live in their house."

That is why, the designer says, "we were designing for form and function first. Classic and architectural design followed suit."

This time, the end result is "real classic, real clean," King says. "We were going for the long-term look."

The recent renovation began with the request for a bar for the purpose of entertaining. Made from mahogany, the curved design features a floating glass top on stainless steel supports. A Tech Lighting system incorporates a suspended glass panel that mirrors the layout of the bar. "The soft lighting provides a strong decorative ambience at night," the designer says.

Wall sculptures from Robert Kidd Gallery in Birmingham become a fascinating focal point for those seated at the bar. Nearby, another substantial piece of art, which is part of an extensive collection, helps to personalize the neutral palette. Existing pieces were reframed and repositioned throughout the home while a number of new finds were added to the mix. The homeowners shop local art shows, galleries and studios, King says.

In the living area of the great room, a mahogany fireplace makes a dramatic statement, demonstrating that the use of wood adds warmth and weight to a minimal space. The metal mantel creates a simple yet



striking contrast of materials. A recessed plasma TV is positioned below security monitors. The location of the screen allows for easy viewing.

Storage ottomans on wheels slide neatly beneath a custom coffee table that contains a Lazy Susan made of glass. The compact creations come in handy as footrests, extra seating or surface space. Symmetrical sofas from Holly Hunt keep company with Donghia chairs for a crisp, clean look. "With this much volume," says the designer, referring to the 12-foot ceilings, "using symmetry creates a strong definition of space."

Everything in the great room, and the entire home for that matter, serves a distinct purpose. Recessed lighting and strategically placed reading lamps are fashionable as well as functional. And, the sheered drapery treatments are not just for show, they slide along hospital tracks that are mounted to the ceiling.

Bleached oak floors with a whitewash finish set the stage for a number of the light-filled rooms. Large area rugs receive an extra dose of drama by way of black leather borders. Another benefit of the sturdy mate-



rial, King explains, is that "the leather keeps the rugs from curling up." The understated floor coverings are repeated throughout the house.

The hotel-style dining room was designed with card games in mind. More than 20 people can sit comfortably in the luxurious space that exudes old-time glamour in a modern-day setting. The tables contain connecting pop-up leaves to please larger crowds. Polished nickel chandeliers sporting fabric shades cast a soft glow overhead. The glass block wall, which was already in place when the second project began, defines the room without blocking natural light. King refers to the Baker chairs from The Barbara Barry Collection as "tomorrow's antiques" because the classic silhouettes can be reupholstered for years to come.

As the designer explains, the new Poggenpohl kitchen by Designs Unlimited in Birmingham was the most significant architectural change this time around. Like the rest of the rooms, the look is light and bright with punches of black. "To me, black is a neutral. It adds a lot of depth," says King, who knows just the right amount to bring into play.

Around the custom kitchen table, black leather office chairs, found on a trip to Chicago, provide plenty of comfy seating. The unique square tabletop design consists of a three-inch-thick granite slab with a beveled edge. Near the island, Harry Bertoia barstools from Knoll offer a casual resting spot. Repetition of a grid pattern, seen in the barstools, cabinets and wall niches, reinforces the classic lines and simple shapes that flow from room to room.

Other distinctive details in the sleek and chic kitchen include

textured frosted glass cabinet fronts and a backsplash made from quilted stainless steel.

When it's time for a little R&R, the master bedroom provides the perfect getaway. Here, the designer chose a variety of textures to create visual interest and intrigue in the clean-lined spaces. "The linen wall covering adds subtle texture and warmth to the walls," King says. Wall-to-wall carpeting is classic and elegant, following in the footsteps of the overall design scheme.

The fireplace box is slightly raised so it can be seen from the bed, the designer explains. Custom armoires flank the fireplace. The wall-mounted pieces provide pride of place for cherished collectibles. A cozy seating area offers a place to curl up with a book by the fire or to watch TV. The flat-screen television, which adjusts by way of a rotating arm, is recessed into the wall.

The second time around makes a good first impression. At one time, the foyer featured a motorcycle that was part of a collection. Now, the motorcycle is prominently displayed in a niche above the stairwell, and the newly furnished foyer sets the tone for the entire home. "The smile table," says King of the curved console in the entryway, "is supposed to make you happy when you walk in the house." One look at the surroundings should have the homeowners and their guests grinning from ear to ear.

👑 – Jeanine Matlow