

Before photo above; at right, everything in the music room is new except for the piano and the coffee table. A black crystal chandelier hangs above the piano. The painting was done by Greg White.



THE BIG PICTURE

Grosse Pointe residence gets a new attitude

By Jeanine Matlow

Though Ann-Marie Anton was originally brought on board to furnish just one room in this traditional-style house with a Cape Cod twist, she knew her clients would require a bit more to bring their dated interiors up to speed.

“When we first started, all they wanted to do was pick out furniture for the great room,” says Anton, who suggested the couple might want to consider something more dramatic.

Luckily, they took her lead, and the results are striking.

“We began gutting the room and the changes led to one room

after another,” she says.

Though the roughly 4,300-square-foot home did not undergo any major structural changes, the rooms took a big step forward with the help of Anton, owner of It’s Personal Design in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Acts of Greatness

Today, the great room is hardly recognizable with new beams and drapery pockets that cleverly disguise less-than-desirable features, such as the wing walls that stood out before.

The master bath received another radical redo. Where there once was a sunken tub and purely decorative French doors now sits a

modern-day oasis from head to toe.

Anton, who worked primarily with the wife, says the interiors “were far more traditional than where we landed in the end.”

She describes the new look as transitional.

Inside Out

Nature plays a part throughout. “The wife is an avid gardener who is really into nature and birds,” Anton says. “We wanted to bring the outside in because she is really an outdoor person. A nod to nature was one of the goals for the great room.”

This was a challenging space, with the wing walls, arched

windows and the fact that Anton had to incorporate a desk area into the overall plan.

A built-in wood cornice complements the unique peak. Drapery pockets accommodate tall sheers, which hang alongside motorized roman shades, giving the homeowners the privacy they want at night with unobstructed views during the day. Ceiling beams extend the wing walls, making them disappear.

“It was an interesting transformation,” Anton says.

The wife requested carpeting that wouldn’t show red wine, “part of the reason for the dark carpet,” the designer says.

Once again, nature comes into play with the floral pattern and the

soft green hues throughout the room. Most of the fabric and furniture came from Michigan Design Center in Troy. The sofa and chairs are covered in mohair, while armchairs wear a tame animal print.

A pop of pink appears in the desk chair, which pairs velvet with a silk plaid. The built-in desk is less obtrusive than the former version.

"I tried to make it as subtle as possible," Anton says.

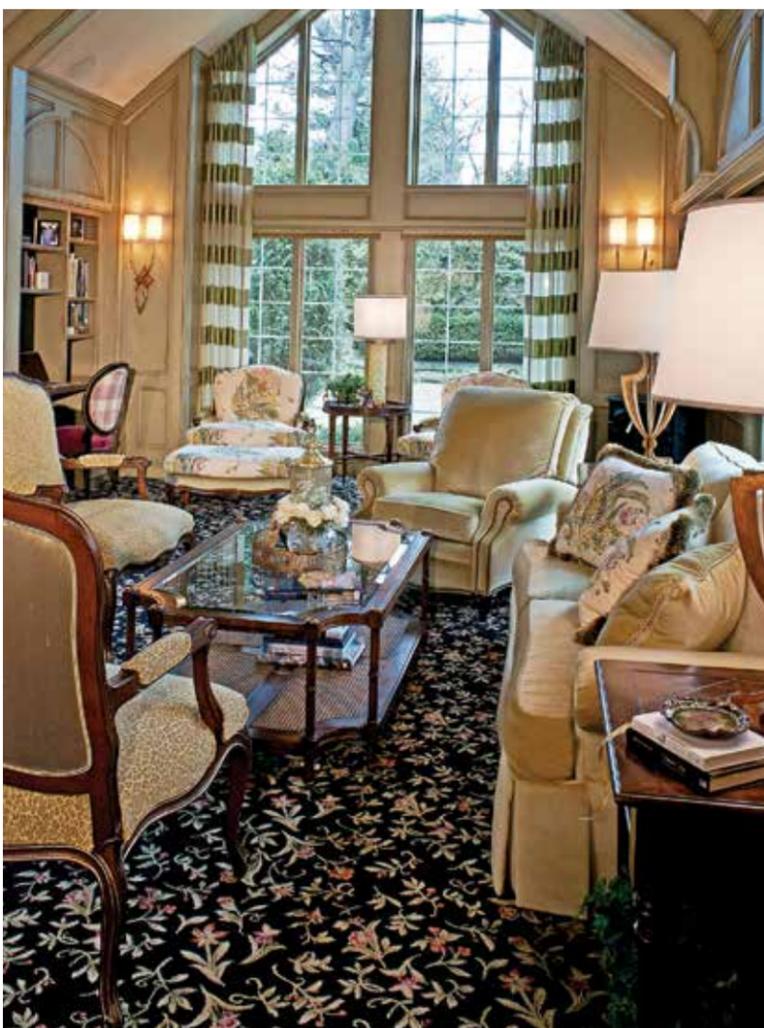
She credits Legendary Millwork in Troy for the impressive carpentry and Detroit-based artist Greg White for two commissioned oil paintings, as well as the glazing on the walls.

High Note

There was already a piano in the music room, which the husband plays.

"The space functioned like it does now, but it had orange walls," Anton says.

Custom shelves were added along with shades of green in the draperies and rug. A dated fireplace was



The great room was where the project began. Wing walls went from eyesores to barely there with visual tricks of the trade. A nature theme is found throughout.



A newly carved niche was created in the dining room for an oil painting done by Greg White. Chairs wear a leaf pattern, while a shapely light fixture hangs overhead. The centerpiece is by Gerych's.



A pale palette envelops the master bedroom, where custom bedding and an upholstered headboard set the soothing tone.

painted black and accented with glass tiles; the oil painting above it is by Greg White.

"I wanted something with a square shape that was really bold," Anton says.

Peace Offering

The master bedroom features an embossed velvet headboard and custom bedding. As Anton explains, this space is lighter and more contemporary than the rest of the home, but it ties into the metallic grasscloth in the hallway.

"It's a little more soothing with a neutral palette," Anton says.

White lacquered nightstands flank the bed, while floral photographs repeat the nature theme. An existing chaise near the window was reupholstered. Plantation shutters provide privacy, while stationary drapery panels add a lovely touch.

Bathing Beauty

A sunken tub and purposeless French doors were removed from the master bathroom in favor of a clean slate. The exquisite transformation combines marble walls and floors with marble mosaic tiles, and delicate sconces flank a hand-carved mirror.

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Creative updates can transform a space:

- A built-in desk in a room with other functions feels more fluid than a traditional piece.
- Painting an existing mantel and replacing brick with glass tiles are cost-effective solutions for a fireplace.
- The use of black goes a long way. It's a neutral color, but it's powerful and makes a statement.



Ann-Marie Anton