



living

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creative condo living

by Zehi Pollon

photographs by Amadeus Leitner

TUCKED AWAY ON A SIDE street off Canyon Road, hidden among tall trees, is a 2,000-square-foot Territorial-style home that underwent a complete transformation last spring, courtesy of Douglas Maahs and D Maahs Construction.

The bones of the home—a condo, actually—were excellent, according to Maahs. But when it came time for the renovation, every bit of the home received a makeover. “There wasn’t anything we didn’t do,” he says. Among other improvements, Maahs raised the roof, added skylights throughout, converted kiva fireplaces into gas, and enclosed an outdoor *portal* to create a new sitting area.

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The homeowners, who make their primary home in Dallas, had been vacationing in Santa Fe for the better part of 40 years when they decided to buy their Eastside condo. "There's such charm to the City Different, and we fell in love with it, funkiness and all," the owner says, noting that the location of the home within the city was paramount. "We wanted a house that was within walking distance of the Plaza and in an attractive neighborhood, and we believed that the Compound condos filled that bill. Security and location were uppermost."

To bring personality to the neutral, '90s-built spaces, Maahs worked closely with Dallas-based interior designer Cathy Youngberg-Gammon, whose 30-year-old business focuses on residential design showcasing a diverse range of styles, from classic French to art-centered contemporary. Youngberg-Gammon, who had worked with the homeowners in the past, says her instructions for this project were to focus on comfort while emphasizing the owners' art collection. The designer ultimately came up with a look that she refers to as "Santa Fe Provence."

To cultivate the feel of an eclectic art gallery, Youngberg-Gammon added details—like a custom-designed checkered



American Clay walls, a custom cast stone fireplace, hand-carved corbels, and an antiqued faux ceiling with new lighting transformed the living room. Above: An enclosed patio looks out to the private, secluded courtyard.





“There wasn’t anything we didn’t do,” says builder Douglas Maahs.

kitchen backsplash using tiles from Statements in Tile/Lighting/Kitchens/Flooring—that bring out the striking paintings and sculptures featured throughout the house. “We wanted color in the kitchen that would complement the colors in the [nearby] artwork and add a retro element to the design,” Youngberg-Gammon says. The unusual pendant lights in the kitchen and a matching small chandelier above the eating area are custom pieces, made by Firefly Lighting from tin cans and blown glass in a traditional Mexican fashion.

Throughout the one-level home, however, it’s the intricate woodwork by La Puerta Originals that creates the feel of a folk art museum, albeit one with very modern touches. The kitchen cabinets—aged wood stained a barnyard blue—hide high-end, built-in amenities like an 18-inch dishwasher, a trash pull, and swinging steel shelf units with automatic lighting. “We worked closely with Scott Coleman at La Puerta Originals to custom-design the kitchen cabinets and all of the doors,



Gorgeous cabinetry and woodwork by La Puerta Originals is found at every turn. The once-neutral home is now bursting with Santa Fe blues, greens, and reds, used with joyful abandon to evoke a sense of stylish antiquity that carries through the house.



A colorful, geometric kitchen backsplash is flanked by similar patterns in the contemporary and folk art pieces in the dining area. *Coralito Suite* by Carlos Estrada-Vega (William Siegal Gallery) adorns the far left wall.



The indoor portal opens into both the courtyard and the master bedroom. *Guardian of Fire*, an imposing 7-foot mask by glass artist Suzanne Wallace Mears, is from Pippin Contemporary.

windows, and trim throughout the house with repurposed wood from India and Latin America,” Youngberg-Gammon says. Wood corbels supporting the vigas in the living room and a frame around a bathroom door were transformed into works of art themselves; intricately carved details add texture and personality.

The predominantly brick flooring, once a traditional red shade, was finished in a deep brown, and Cat Dog Walls provided the American Clay earth plaster finish for all the interior walls. Santa Fe By Design met the homeowners’ hardware needs.

And then there’s the art. Self-described “eclectic collectors,” the owners recently attended a Sotheby’s auction in France with William Siegal, owner of the William Siegal Gallery, which specializes in pre-Columbian and contemporary art. The couple purchased several pre-Columbian pieces at the auction and others at Siegal’s gallery in Santa Fe, all of which are displayed in the smoke-blue shelving unit



Reminiscent of early-20th-century lighting designed by architect Mary Elizabeth Colter, this custom chandelier, created by Firefly Lighting, is made of blown glass and intricately carved and molded tin cans.

A custom cast fireplace works with art and new lighting to enhance a remodeled living room, while distressed wood cabinets (right) showcase some of the owners' pre-Columbian art. The master suite (below, left and right) is a comfortable blend of contemporary and traditional styles.



"There's such charm to the City Different, and we fell in love with it, funkiness and all," says the homeowner.



"The people who have had the opportunity to see the home are generally left speechless," says builder Douglas Maahs. "Every little detail is special, and the home is filled with details everywhere you look."



Mixing different styles and designs is what gives this home such personality. A powder room blends an Asian-inspired cabinet with distinctive metallic accents.



in the living room. A selection of Bolivian woven ponchos (also from William Siegal) hangs on the wall across from the shelving unit, while oil paintings depicting the southwest landscape adorn the room's other walls. "Art galleries in town like Meyer East and William Siegal are only two of the many that satisfied our eclectic tastes," the owner says.

A brightly colored, seven-and-a-half-foot-tall glass mask from Pippin Contemporary enlivens the home's enclosed *portal*, while a handmade rug featuring a brand from the homeowners' ranch in Texas covers the dining room floor. Youngberg-Gammon chose the fleece used for the rug, and master weavers Irvin and Lisa Trujillo from Centinela Traditional Arts in Chimayó created the work.

"I'm thrilled with the result of all the creative craftspeople and artists involved in this project," Youngberg-Gammon says. "Melding the elements together was an absolute delight, which I think shows through in the personality of the home." **sf**



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