

LUXE LIVING

JUNE 2015

THE NAPLES LUXURY HOME REDEFINED



The artful home MASTERED

*Harmonious use of special pieces
creates a perfect happy place*

TIM GIBBONS / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Shop Talk

Zazou puts zest in area shopping options. **12** ▶



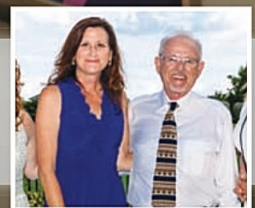
Designer Q&A

Robert Couturier feeds his design



Design Society

A new model designed by Norris, and more. **14, 19** ▶



Small spaces, big results

Living-room remodel done the professional way

BY KELLY MERRITT
Florida Weekly Correspondent

When Naples design newcomer Laverne Gehman received an assignment to revamp his client's uninspiring, non-functional living room, he was tasked with finding a different arrangement to repurpose the space.

He says while the project didn't come with a blank check, the love was evident in details such as wrought iron and colored-glass lamps, drapery hardware to reflect the furniture and carpet, and carved detail on chairs and lighting.

"Even if your style is less traditional or more monochromatic, there are always ways to find detailed accents to create a look that is as unique as you are," Mr. Gehman says. "This was the last room to be given attention in a long series of rooms, and having brought early apartment furniture along when they moved in, the intention was to redecorate this space someday."

Mr. Gehman says that "someday" was continually put off due to children going off to college until finally the client was ready to decorate the space. The room functioned as a morning coffee and reading room for the husband and wife.

"We carried black accents throughout the project and complemented the finished project with small splashes of accent colors and glam lighting, keeping the window treatments light with the use of colorful fabric panels to add to the softness of the room," he says.

The challenges included a baby grand piano he had to leave in the space, which limited the options, plus the owners wanted to keep the color scheme that was already part of the house, and have the space still function as a reading room.

"When it comes to planning these types of spaces, these challenges are what make the project fun, and several things made this room unique, including a different layout, unique flooring option and bright accent colors," Mr. Gehman says. "We did not try to force a sofa into the room just because that is what they originally had there, because such a large piece of furniture was unnecessary and would have crowded the space."

Instead, Mr. Gehman used two comfy chairs with delicate, carved arms and added a round ottoman to be shared by both chairs. Typical plain carpet was replaced by a patterned, woven carpet with a black background with a tea-stained look and color to complement furniture and drapery panels.

"The overall effect of this flooring tied the adjoining room colors into this room, as well as giving the room a much larger dimensional perspective," he says.



COURTESY PHOTO
Lots of greens and dark wood colors upgrade a dated parlor.

period of many years can take a look and almost immediately see the home or the room to be renovated in a completely different way, so in the long run, someone with these skills will save you time and costly mistakes," he says. "Also, I have seen people do things in their own home just because it was the trendy thing to do — like something a friend had done — so don't give into peer pressure when designing a home."

Mr. Gehman also encourages homeowners not to be afraid to follow their own intuitions.

He says with the help of an experienced designer, a renovation project can take a homeowner outside the comfort zone. But as informed as consumers think they are, there are professionals in every field for a reason.

"It is unfortunate that so many people think they are saving buckets of money doing a renovation themselves, because it usually shows," Mr. Gehman says. "Consider what you do as a profession, and then think about whether everyone can do it. You will have more satisfaction seeing a finished project done correctly." ■

— Laverne S. Gehman, Allied ASID
717-395-7095; DesignerLaverne.com

COASTAL CHIC

Rustic *Contemporary*

Lighting First®

www.LightingFirst.us

Naples - 239.775.5100, 4600 Tamiami Tr. E.
Bonita Springs - 239.949.2544, 28801 S. Tamiami Tr.
Fort Myers - 239.322.5488, 12879 S. Cleveland Ave.

UP TO **\$500** IN **FREE MATERIAL UPGRADES AND ACCESSORIES!**

plc closets
Your Hometown Closet Company

1408 Railhead Boulevard, Naples, Florida 34110
info@plcclosets.com

○ 239.260.1890 W plcclosets.com
Call us today to set up a complimentary estimate!

*See your PLC sales representative for more information.