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A Redmont home gets a sophisticated update with a classic remodel



a cottage remodel



Before the remodel, architect John Hudson of Hudson Architecture says he described this Redmont home as “a simple cottage.” After, and to the credit of his thoughtful addition which stayed true to the home’s original structure, John says he is still proud to describe this cottage as a simple one.

His careful architectural details and the delightful designs of interior designer Paige Sumblin Schnell, ASID, ensure the old cottage blends with the new addition. Visitors are hard-pressed to see where the remodel begins and ends.

Before, the cottage was around 2000 square feet. The addition of a keeping room and porch added no more than 1000 square feet, and the multi-functioning spaces can be used year-round, their convenience and enjoyment more valuable than any square footage.

John remembers that when the homeowners, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Walker, first sought a remodel for their residence, they envisioned two or three different renovations. “But during the initial walk through, I realized I could do all three renovations in one,” he says.

FACING PAGE, TOP: Interior designer Paige Sumbly-Schnell of Tracery Interiors kept the interiors minimal to complement the home's simple exterior. Beyond the dining space, Architect John Hudson of Hudson Architecture designed a coffee bar and nook. **FACING PAGE, BOTTOM:** John says the home's entrance is lower and more intimate. This keeping room just beyond is a more dramatic space. **THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT:** Textured fabrics including this bed coverlet add spice to the home's more minimal features. **THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT AND BOTTOM RIGHT:** Neutral paint hues continue from the old exterior to the new addition and allow art pieces and accessories to pop. **THIS PAGE, MIDDLE RIGHT:** The pecky cypress ceiling is repeated several times in the home.



High-quality materials and fine craftsmanship helped keep to the look and feel of the original home. "A pecky cypress ceiling, marble fireplace surround, limestone flooring on the porch, casement windows and pine walls are among other fine details that allow the two areas to blend seamlessly," John says. Since the ultimate goal was to unify the old with the new, he ensured that small details help to unify the space, including awnings, French doors and custom windows.

And fine furnishings don't hurt either. John credits Tracery Interiors, a Dungan Nequette company, with finding furniture that connected well with the architecture. Paige kept the paint palette very neutral and the same hues extend from the existing home into the new addition. "We even chipped the original paint colors to have a seamless flow into the new addition," Paige notes.

She adds that she furnished the home with some very clean lined furniture with a lot of textural fabrics, and then used antiques to fill in the spaces and complete the look of mixing the old with the new. Rich antique rugs are side by side with newer cut jute pieces to complete the look.

Ultimately, John says great clients, a great dialogue about the design, fine materials and stellar craftsmanship, led to a successful renovation. "When doing an addition it needs to stay seamless and be borne from the home that is already there," Paige says.

resources:

Hudson Architecture, LLC, Homewood, AL 35209; John Hudson, AIA; design@thehudsonstudio.com; 205.637.6116; www.thehudsonstudio.com

Tracery Interiors, Birmingham & Rosemary Beach, Paige Schnell, Anna Kay Porch, Doug Davis; 205.329-7030; www.traceryinteriors.com



safe house

While you're remodeling, why not go ahead and upgrade your security? Ensure your valuables and loved ones are kept safe with these helpful tips from Lt. James Hope, Lieutenant Commander of the Burglary Unit for the Birmingham police:

- Safety starts outside. "Make sure all of your valuables are out of plain sight, all of your car windows are rolled up and your garage doors are never left open."
- Know your neighbors. "One of the best things you can do for your family is acquaint yourself with your neighbors and, if possible, join or create a neighborhood watch."
- Cut shrubberies below window level. "Trimming greenery will keep burglars from hiding behind them."
- Keep track of your valuables. "Keep a record of the make and model of your electronics, and even mark them with a number, that way if your items are retrieved they can be returned to you promptly."
- If in doubt, call the police. "Report anyone walking around the neighborhood who seems suspicious, or any questionable activities, to the police. It's better to be safe than sorry." —Kelly Forshee



THIS PAGE, TOP LEFT: A garden fountain provides white noise. The fountain was existing, but the architect removed and relocated it. "We had to make sure it looked like it had always been there," says architect John Hudson of Hudson Architecture. THIS PAGE, MIDDLE LEFT AND BOTTOM RIGHT: Even though this home has the look of a cottage that has been there for awhile, sleek modern appliances were must-haves. THIS PAGE, BOTTOM LEFT: A courtyard and workshop area are tucked below the porch. THIS PAGE, TOP RIGHT: "In the outdoor porch area, outdoor furnishings and outdoor drapes make it look more like a room than a porch," Paige says.