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VINTAGE COMFORT

An historic Hyde Park Tudor fits the bill for contemporary comfort

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The slogan of DIGS, a real estate, design and renovation firm based in Hyde Park, is “DIGS Does It.” A perfect case study evidencing the breadth and depth of their capabilities is an expansive Tudor-style home on a private lane in Hyde Park.

Long-time clients of DIGS interior designer Brian Gibson were looking to move from the outer suburbs back to the city in order to be closer to work and their children’s schools. No sooner had they mentioned their intentions than Brian found the perfect house. Though not officially on the market, Brian was familiar with the home and knew it was an exact match for his client’s needs.

What the homeowners liked best about the home was the potential inherent in the large rooms. In their prior home, the rooms were smaller and more formal, and in the new home

they were looking to take advantage of the large rooms to create more comfortable living spaces.

Case in point is the multi-tasking living room. A large, vibrant antique Oushak carpet purchased for the home dictates the color palette. The room is rich with layers of texture and color, from the faux finish on the walls that brings to mind varied hues of a sunset to the tufted leather armchair with fringe detail and the mountain of pillows artfully scattered on a cozy window seat. The window valence came from the homeowners’ previous residence. Gold silk undercurtains were chosen for their understated simplicity. An armoire conceals the television, making the cozy seating areas a preferred spot for the adults in the home to relax. One area of the large room functions as a fully equipped home office.



The fireplace chair is a custom piece of furniture. The rug is a custom piece of furniture. The ottoman is a custom piece of furniture. The armchair is a custom piece of furniture. The sofa is a custom piece of furniture. The window treatments are a custom piece of furniture. The lighting is a custom piece of furniture. The artwork is a custom piece of furniture. The overall design is a custom piece of furniture.



An antique French advertising poster for the breakfast room complements the vintage appeal of the space.



The table and chairs are new acquisitions and accommodate the homeowner's penchant for entertaining a crowd. A combination of antique and upholstered dining chairs make the room feel a bit less formal.



A screened porch off of the living room was converted to use as a den and auxiliary TV room. Pella windows and doors appropriate for the period of the home allow the renovated space to appear as though it were part of the original design.

A second large antique Oushak carpet, similar in hue to the living room, anchors the dining room. Bookcases that were used in the office of their old home have been repurposed as a china cabinet. The table and chairs are new acquisitions and accommodate the homeowner's penchant for entertaining a crowd. While, in Brian's words, the room is a "straightforward, traditional room" he used a combination of antique and upholstered dining chairs to make the room a bit less formal. The printed valences were yet another carryover from the previous home, and the gold undercurtains are the same as that used in the living room.

What is most surprising about the kitchen renovation is what lies underneath the faux finish on the cabinets: white Formica. The homeowners had no intention of changing the physical layout, so Gibson retained faux artist Scott Johnson to create the illusion of distressed wood. A simple subway tile backsplash and framed French antique advertising poster in the breakfast room adds to the vintage appeal of the space.

By using a contemporary color palette and comfortable furnishings, Gibson succeeded in making an historic home functional for life in the 21st century. "We kept the colors bright and light to allow the many rich wood tones found in both the Tudor architecture and in the homeowner's existing furniture to create rooms that are both elegant and inviting," said Gibson. ■