



## Inspired by the Past

A new residence in Edina combines traditional style with modern comforts.

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When a couple decided that their 1970s rambler in the desirable Indian Hills neighborhood of Edina no longer met their needs they opted to tear the entire structure down and start over. They really had no desire to move elsewhere. After all, the lot — with its many mature trees — was beautiful and large enough to accommodate the more spacious home they had in mind.

The couple then sat down with award-winning local architect Jack Smuckler, of

Smuckler Architects, Inc., and interior designer Jennifer Sheffert, Allied ASID, Senior Interior Designer, Gabberts, to plan their new residence. “They wanted this house to work for day-to-day living and formal and casual entertaining,” recalls Sheffert, who is also a friend of the owners and had decorated their lake house. As for the architectural style, “the brief was for a classic traditional with European flair,” she says.

So Smuckler conceived a graciously-proportioned 10,500-square-foot home. The

spacious interior is laid out on two levels, with a grand entry and great room on the main level, along with a kitchen and dining room, the master bedroom suite, a guest suite and a library each for the husband and wife. A curved staircase leads from the entry to the floor below, where there are two other guest rooms and media, billiards, exercise and hobby rooms, among others. At the base of the stairs, the architect installed a fountain that can be heard throughout the house. In addition, decks,

**Opposite Page:** A kitchen designed for the wife, who likes to cook, functions equally well for caterers.

**Above:** In the dining room, a crystal chandelier hangs from the high coffered ceiling. Heavy silk drapes frame the bay window. A still-life in oil sits on the marble fireplace mantle.



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**Above:** In the great room, a stone fireplace is a dominant architectural feature. The walls are hand-painted Venetian plaster.

landscaped gardens, a terrace with a fire pit and a swimming pool offer venues for relaxing and entertaining outdoors. Sheffert and the architect collaborated with their clients through all phases of the project and created the versatile living and entertaining spaces they were after. The great room though, is the main gathering place in the house, where most of the entertaining takes place — family, friends, formal and casual. The room has twenty-foot-high, coffered ceilings, a massive

stone fireplace (handcrafted from the same stone as the exterior) and, like the rest of the house, is supremely comfortable and luxurious. The interiors throughout are “warm and inviting, not overwhelming or intimidating,” explains the designer, alluding to the challenge the home’s generous size and scale occasionally posed. “To achieve a warm and cozy feel, I used a color palette of rich browns, russets, gold, bronze and a few greens and chose heavy textured fabrics such as chenille and lots of

fringe and trim. I also found beautiful Persian rugs for the wide plank walnut floors.” Cherry wood and mahogany were chosen for almost all the paneling, custom cabinetry, fire surrounds and other architectural details. “Lighting also plays a huge role everywhere.” Even in the dining room, the most formal and grand room in the house, Sheffert was inspired to create a cozy spot. The bay window offered the ideal space for a captain’s table for overflow seating and intimate table-for-two dining. This



is the wife’s favorite room. According to the designer, the couple are very happy with their new home. She was pleased to learn from the wife that they really do use every square inch, just as she and Smuckler intended.

**Above:** The husband’s library features a coffered ceiling and fully-paneled walls in cherry wood. This “gentleman’s den” also includes a hidden file room.