

APRIL/MAY 2007

from house to HOME™

Traditional Elegance

At Home In Jenks

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THE DETAILS

42" PLASMA HI-DEF TELEVISION

Installed over the hearth creates the perfect viewing spot for everyone in the family.

WEATHERED STONE

surrounding the fireplace imbues the flat, plain walls with depth and elegance.

DARK-STAINED BOOKCASES

adds a certain stately sophistication, while balancing and offsetting the creamy mantel.

THE FIREBOWL

draws all eyes toward its dancing warmth, rivaling the television above.

A Lovely Living Room

By adding drama and depth, this room went from average to elegant

TEXT DAYNA DEL VAL

It's funny that we tend to see ourselves as unique individuals, and yet many of us live in houses that have very conforming, blasé qualities. That is not to say that the space doesn't have potential, but until we tap into that potential, many of the rooms in our houses are just, well, rather bland. This issue's transformation was no exception.

Problem

This newly constructed home has a large, open living room area with a tremendous amount of natural light. The centerpiece, as is so often the case in both older and newer homes, is a fireplace, which in this case, has some nice detail work on the mantel. Flanking both sides of the fireplace are two large bookcases that are stark and lifeless. Above the mantel is a large expanse of mocha-colored Sheetrock that is simply crying out for a makeover. The floor beneath the

fireplace had two shades of marble and was the most interesting feature in the room—green with cream streaks and a dominant taupe with earth tone accents. All in all, this is one boring focal point.

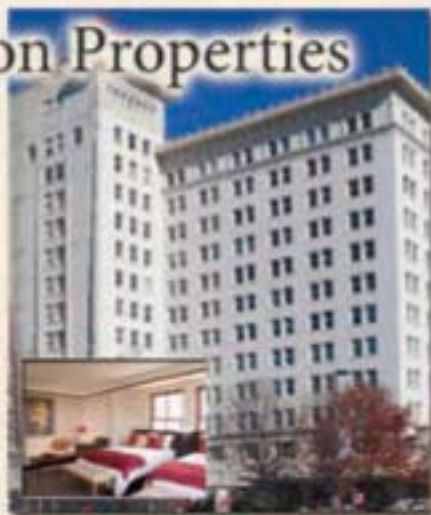
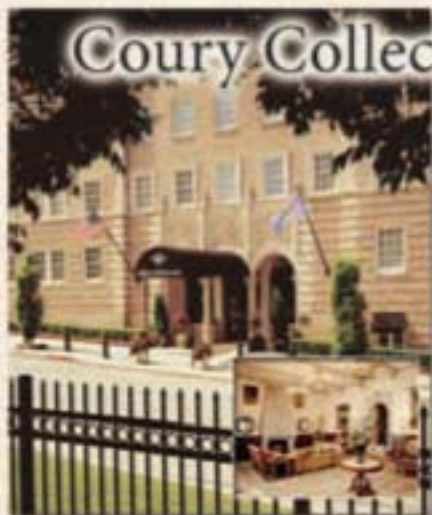
Concept

Recognizing that there is beauty and practicality in both the bookcases and the fireplace, there was no desire to tear them out. Rather, the team decided that the insipid colors currently

BEFORE



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on the items were too washed-out in a space with so much natural light. The consensus was that the bookshelves would be darkened significantly, a natural faux stone finish would be applied to the Sheetrock, and a firebowl would be placed inside the fireplace for added drama and beauty.

Solution

There is a product called "Weathered Stone" that is basically stretchy sheets of canvas with a unique plaster hand-finish that looks exactly like stone. Stretching these sheets, which are applied like wallpaper with a special glue over corners and tight spots, was no problem. After that step is complete, a grout is applied and cleaned off and, suddenly, what was once a boring, dead space has become a stone fireplace with a beautiful hand-carved mantel.

...several styles of elaborate trim were chosen to cover every inch of the bookcases.

The bookcases were next on the list to tackle. Sheets of espresso-stained paneling, bead board, and several styles of elaborate trim were chosen to cover every inch of the bookcases. The tops of the shelves, inspired by the foyer floor, have a stunning marble and wood criss-cross patterns, incorporating the green marble accent colors from the floor of the fireplace.

Small accent lights were installed on all the shelves to highlight pieces of art, photographs, and books. These were placed on dimmers for even more depth potential. Antique copper pulls replaced the basic pulls on the doors to finish the cases. Now, these two spectacular bookcases stand in gorgeous contrast to the stone fireplace.

The last major transformation was to install a firebowl into the fireplace. Rather than be hampered by the mess and fuss of a fireplace, this bowl, made of beautiful, dark iron, is incredibly dramatic and, again, adds yet another level of depth to the entire wall. Almost gothic in its design, this element definitely upped the elegance of the fireplace.

This room, which was once so bland and boring, is among the most favored in the house for its beauty, drama, and gorgeous contrasts. The family no doubt will have many enjoyable events in this room, which now exudes warmth, richness, and a unique personality. ■

Dayna Del Val is a regular contributor to From House to HOME; she recently purchased her own home, also in the midst of transformation.

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