

Winter 2006

# from house to HOME™

Old & New Meld  
In Daphne Tuscan-Style Home

A Little  
Light Magic

With Christopher Lowell

Cheesecakes

5 Sweet  
Temptations

Surefire Hearth  
Inspirations

THE PRESS-REGISTER'S HOME & LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

# Then & Now

Renovating the dining room brings elegance and beauty to this home

text | Dayna Del Val

**T**oday's modern homes often don't even have a separate dining room due to the little use they get, but if you have a classical, older home, the dining room may be one area that has been overlooked—but where your dramatic designs can flourish.

#### Problem:

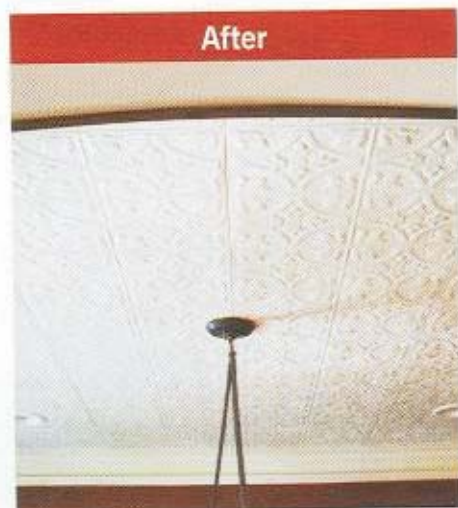
This dining room was a very basic, long, rectangular room with dull, mocha-colored walls, a flat, white ceiling, standard lighting fixtures, and windows that flooded the space with natural light, washing out the already pasty colors. The team came in and recognized the incredible potential that existed, but was buried under too much blandness.

#### Concept:

There were some features that gave a glimpse of what this space could be—such as the arched entry, the detailed chair rail and bottom half of the walls, the hardwood floor, and the windows, if properly managed. Mostly what was missing was color and texture. It is commonly said that the two rooms in the home that can be over-the-top are the dining room and the guest powder bath, since these are the two areas where guests may spend quite a bit of time. It was time to find the hidden diva in this room.

#### Solution:

The wall color needed to be updated. The bold selection of a deep, rich Bordeaux immediately elevated the status of the room. Added to the color was the decision to not just use paint or traditional wallpaper. A thick canvas had colored Sheetrock paste applied thinly over it to give the illusion of rich leather. These large sheets were then cut into diamond shapes and applied



The bold selection of a deep, rich Bordeaux immediately elevated the status of the room.



- Council Companies
- Hickory Chair
- Hickory-White
- Bevan Funnell
- Henredon
- Maitland-Smith
- Hancock & Moore
- Hekman
- Kittinger
- La Barge
- Ficks-Reed
- Sealy
- TempurPedic  
and Selected Imports

- Brunswick & Fils
- Scalamandre
- Pierre Deux
- Thibaut
- Schumacher
- Van Luit

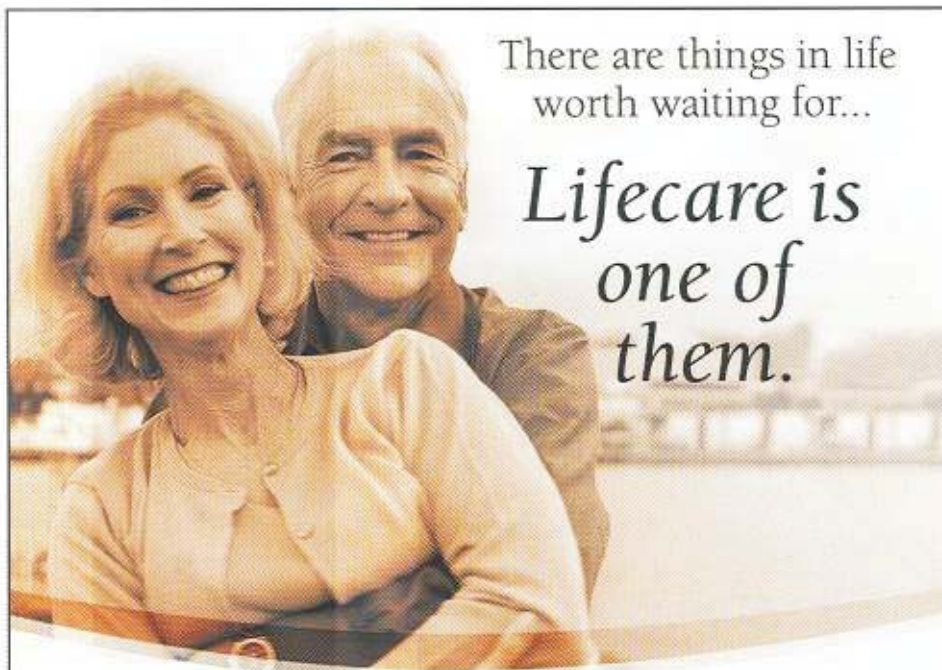
**Gardberg's**  
MOBILE'S LARGEST SELECTION  
OF FINE HOME FURNISHINGS

*We Specialize in  
Hand-Cleaning  
Oriental Rugs*

FURNITURE, RUGS, CUSTOM WINDOW TREATMENTS, MIRRORS, LAMPS  
AND ACCESSORIES, LEATHER FURNITURE AND ORIENTAL RUGS

28 SOUTH FLORIDA STREET • 478-8449

MONDAY - THURSDAY 9:30 TO 5:30 • FRIDAY 9:30 TO 6:00 • SATURDAY 9:30 TO 4:00



There are things in life  
worth waiting for...

**Lifecare is  
one of  
them.**

The lifestyle you've dreamed of & the retirement you've earned.

Located in beautiful Fairhope

**THE HAMLET**

251.928.5413

A jewel in the heart of Spring Hill

**PORTIER PLACE**

251.343.4449

MercyMedical.com

Lifecare Retirement  
Assisted Living  
Memory Care  
Rehabilitation  
Home Health  
Hospice

directly to the wall, similar to wallpapering. Using this type of material allows for an extremely rich, opulent look. The canvas works beautifully to give the appearance of a gorgeous faux finish, in both design and texture.

Next, the ceiling needed some attention. Keeping the recessed lighting, pressed tin squares were applied and painted a warm, creamy white. A spectacular, star-shaped drop light was added. The interesting feature to this fixture is that a direct spotlight beam shines down from the center, through the glass-topped table, and highlights the intricate detail of the table base.



**After**

Rich color and luxurious texture on the dining room walls give guests a warm welcome.

**Before**

Mirrors were brought in to add depth and more elegance. Where the bare windows exposed too much light in the old room, with the dark colors of the walls and furniture, now the natural light is the perfect offset to them.

The homeowners say they wanted a room that was warm and inviting. They got that, and more, with the simple update of color and texture.

*Dayna Del Val has just moved into a new house where she promptly redid her dining room—just to add a bit of "diva" into her home as well.*

## elements of transformation



Lighting



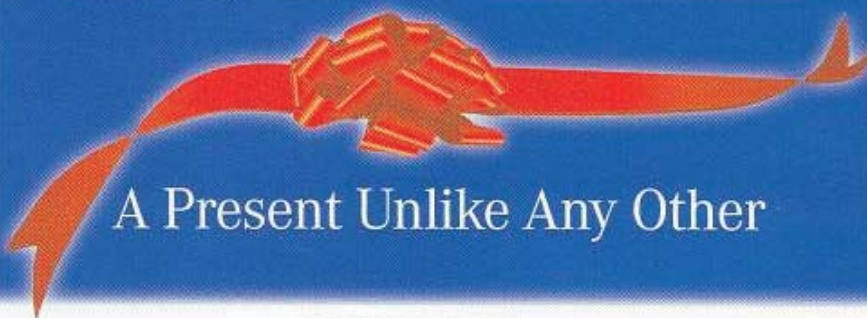
Wall  
Covering




Tin Ceiling tiles

## participating products

- **Award-Winning Star Light**  
by Restoration Hardware.
- **Leather-look wall coverings**  
by Sean Howard for Weathered Stone.
- **Ceiling tiles**  
by American Tin Ceiling.
- **Kristina Dining Chairs**  
by Frontgate.




A Present Unlike Any Other



The All-New 2007 Mercedes-Benz S550

# McConnell

251.476.4141  
Dauphin Street East of I-65  
[www.mcconnellautomotive.com](http://www.mcconnellautomotive.com)



Mercedes-Benz

## *Vandalet Mailbox Co.*

Manufacturers Of Quality Custom Iron  
Mailbox Posts



Presents  
*Curb Appeal*  
Value • Large Inventory & Selection  
• Installation & Service  
[www.VandaletMailbox.com](http://www.VandaletMailbox.com)  
(251) 455-7518