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A historical treasure gets a new look

BY ANDREA GRAZZINI WALSTROM PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVID HEIDE



It may be no surprise that after twenty years in their house, the owners of a Lake Harriet two-story decided to remodel it. What is a surprise is that it had been nearly 75 years since the house had undergone a renovation.

The current homeowners are only the second family to own the property, which may explain why it's taken so long to update it. Perhaps the first owners were reluctant to tamper with the home's distinct design. It's listed on the National Register of Historical Places as an outstanding example of Mediterranean villa-style architecture. And the well-executed art deco interior supplied plenty of character to discourage any temptation to cleave to passing fads. In any case, spared the inevitable wear and tear of many owners, the house was well preserved. Until now, the second owners were content to leave good enough alone.

But as their three children grew, the couple wanted to create more comfortable gathering spots in the kitchen and family room. Yet the overriding commitment was to preserve the house's heritage. The owners, says David Heide, project designer of David Heide Design, "were very concerned about doing the right thing by the house."

So before he started knocking down walls, Heide studied the house closely, looking for ways to combine historical details with modern solutions. Having cycled back in style, stainless steel appliances (albeit now with infinitely more

LEFT This recent remodel combined elements of the original house, the latest amenities, and the owner's personal heritage. An outside terrace is now a mahogany-accented family room just beyond the new kitchen island. Limestone imported from Jerusalem covers the floors.



The large kitchen is sectioned for efficiency. Clearly defined work spaces within the kitchen, such as this butler's pantry, make cooking easy and keep family members from tripping over one another.



LEFT The wine service just off the dining and breakfast rooms was one of many new additions to the existing kitchen, and a must for the owners who frequently entertain.

options) were easy to replicate. A matching stainless steel decorative band was integrated from the original design. And light birch cabinets were mimicked by figured maple cabinets. The elliptical island and ceiling patterns echoed the room's original shapes. And sliding glass doors, frosted blue glass backsplash, and Venetian plaster are faithful representations of the original period of the home.

Yet for all its dedication to the past, the remodel is contemporary, with duplicate top-of-the-line appliances, granite countertops and a flat-screen TV. Heide likens the marriage of past and present to a puzzle: "You have your checklist and you kind of go back and forth," trying to get everything in just the right place. In this puzzle of mixed generations, the pieces fit together perfectly to form a beautiful home. ■

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LEFT In this kosher kitchen everything has its place. The owner inventoried every spoon and spatula and identified where each item in the kitchen should go. ABOVE Smart planning, such as a warming drawer under the pass-through to a dining room, make the kitchen a workhorse as well as a showboat.