

PRESERVATION RENOVATION

ARCHITECT:
Michael Wenrich

BUILDER:
Charles Clayton Construction

INTERIOR DESIGN:
Shannon Lazic and
Blair Kersenbrock,
Steele Street Studios

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT:
Joe Knight

PHOTOGRAPHY:
Gabriel Volpi





Tackling the renovation of a revered James Gamble Rogers II Winter Park architectural work was no small task. Undertaking the bold interior revision while remaining true to the original exterior was a challenge met by a collaborative team who all wanted the Miller family to live comfortably within the home's historic character.

“THE ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS WERE DEFINITELY TRADITIONAL, BUT THE MILLERS WANTED THE FURNITURE TO HAVE A BIT OF AN ECLECTIC FEEL. THEY LIKED TO INCORPORATE NEW PIECES WITH OLD ONES IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP THE SPACES FROM FEELING TOO COLD. WE WANTED TO MAKE SURE ALL THE FINISHES AND MILLWORK WERE TIMELESS AND SPOKE TO THE ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE HOME. WORKING WITH THE LOWER CEILING HEIGHTS WAS CHALLENGING, SO WE KEPT EVERYTHING WHITE TO MAKE THE ROOMS FEEL BIGGER,” SHANNON EXPLAINS.

“We’ve always been drawn to older homes and to this one in particular. We used to slow down as we drove by to try to get a glimpse of it. When it went on the market at the same time as we were looking for a larger home and bigger yard, we knew we had to see it. The previous owners had done an amazing job 20 years ago updating the home and adding square footage in a way that felt seamless with the original 1933 home, but the layout required updating for our family,” says homeowner Tiffani Miller.

It was a full gut renovation of the interior while the exterior was lightly updated. “Modifying and updating an architecturally and historically significant structure like this is an honor and a challenge. It is important to understand the original architect’s design intentions and priorities. Replacing the windows, shutters and roof with the right materials and colors was key to maintaining the architectural and historical integrity of this house,” adds architect Michael Wenrich.

AS THE HUB OF THE HOME, THE OPEN KITCHEN WAS KEPT LIGHT AND BRIGHT WHILE INCORPORATING ALL THE MODERN AMENITIES. THE FOYER AREA INCLUDES A WELCOMING BAR WHILE THE TIMELESS FINISHES AND MILLWORK SPEAK TO THE ORIGINAL ARCHITECTURE OF THE HOME. COLORFUL ARTWORK, CONVENIENT STORAGE AND LOTS OF TEXTURE ADD INTEREST AND DIMENSION TO THE WORK-FROM-HOME AND HOMEWORK SPACES.







Inside the home was a different story though as the myriad of rooms with low ceilings was just not in keeping with a modern family's lifestyle. "Despite the exterior's character, the floor plan on the interior was just too chopped up for the Millers and how they functioned as a family," says Shannon Lazic, Steele Street Studios.



Currently the 6,400-square-foot home, with five bedrooms, seven baths, two laundry rooms, two studies, a library and gym, is just what the family ordered and exactly what the team delivered. "This renovation was truly a collaborative project, and I just can't say enough about our team. Charlie's team — and George in particular — was great and their experience with complicated renovations gave us a lot of confidence. Michael was exactly the right architect for helping us to create a modern home while maintaining and enhancing the historic features of the house. Shannon understood our goals immediately. She was key in bringing it all together in a way that met our design goals but was



AS IS EVIDENCED IN THE BATHROOMS SHOWN HERE: "THE HOMEOWNERS LIKE TO INCORPORATE SOME FUN PATTERNS AND TEXTURES THROUGHOUT TO KEEP THE SPACES FEELING LIGHTHEARTED AND QUIRKY. THE KIDS ALSO LOVED SPENDING TIME IN THE UPSTAIRS LIBRARY. THEY ARE AVID READERS, SO YOU COULD ALWAYS FIND THEM IN THIS SPACE," SHANNON SAYS. THE EXTERIOR EXUDES THE HOME'S HISTORICAL ROOTS WITH ARCHITECTURALLY APPROPRIATE UPDATES.



also very livable. Joe did a remarkable job transforming the backyard into a space for entertaining and spending time with our family,” Tiffani elaborates.

Those sentiments were echoed by builder Charlie Clayton: “Gabe and Tiffani Miller were engaged and awesome to work for as they had a vision to keep the history along with a new level of sophistication to the home. The new, open floorplan from Michael allows for family interaction and vista views of Lake Osceola. His design offered exacting attention to the home’s history and then Shannon and Blair removed the colorful pastels for the more appealing whites and neutrals, adding textures with interior brick walls and trim work, implemented sparingly but strategically. The existing architectural elements coupled with the more contemporary transitional touches made the home not only one of kind but relevant and tastefully appealing.”

