IDEAS, TRENDS AND TIPS FROM THE PROS TO TURN YOUR HOUSE INTO A LIVING SPACE YOU LOVE

TRY THIS AT HOME

THE TIME THE PRESIDENT CAME TO DINNER

Treasure hunt in Fredericksburg for charming antiques or modern design (here, at Red). PAGE 52
Favorite SPACES

EXPERT SAYS
Alexandra Matthews,
on the magic of lighting, Lucifer Lighting, luciferlighting.com

WHEN A ROOM IS UPDATED it often involves painting, hanging something on a wall or adding new furniture or a rug, but without light accenting these things, the impact can be lost. Lighting can make a room look bigger or crisper, or create a room within a room.

DECORATIVE LIGHTING like chandeliers or lamps get a lot more attention than architectural lighting, but it shouldn’t be ignored. For example, fixtures that are flush with ceilings or walls—what we call zero sight lines—are popular right now. Also look at the hardware and finishes. Unifying the look of fixtures with other hardware in a room can bring it all together.

WHEN IN DOUBT, call in a lighting designer. They can help take into account what kind and how large of a space you’re lighting. A 15-foot ceiling and an 18-foot ceiling need different things. The International Association of Lighting Design (iald.org) has a searchable list of registered industrial professionals who can provide guidance, especially with things like energy codes, which can be difficult to navigate.

LOOK TO MAGAZINES and websites for ideas and to learn a little more. Great industry magazines include Architectural Lighting and Mondo Arc.

Case Study

A small post-WWII era tract home was transformed with contemporary vision and a keen understanding of the active family’s lifestyle by Tobin Smith, one of the region’s architectural “young guns.” Smith then partnered with fellow young talents, Clay Hefty and Kristin Weise Hefty to form a super group of sorts they call Dado Group. These talented practitioners of the design/build integrated approach are creating habitats for living, recreation and enterprise.

After purchasing a home in 2004 in a quiet neighborhood lined with mature trees, Katie and John Case made a few modifications and settled in. Several years and two young sons later, the family needed more space. They decided to explore the possibility of transforming their existing house into a home that would respond to their future needs and excite their design sensibilities.

“It’s a great neighborhood and we love our neighbors,” John says. Katie adds, “There are so many young children on our block who our sons can grow up with. We really didn’t want to move.”

The objective was to sensitively add to the existing composition in a manner that would not overwhelm