



New dormers on the attic windows and a new limestone surround on the entry way are visitors, first clue that the Cooneys' house has undergone a dramatic transformation.

by STEPHANIE NAMAN photography by SYLVIA MARTIN

NEW AGAIN

A GEORGIAN HOME GETS MODERNIZED WITHOUT SACRIFICING CHARACTER





THIS PAGE: Once a bedroom, the Cooneys' study is wallpapered with a toile from The Wine Growers. The wood floors are accented with a zebra pattern rug from King's House Orientals and the red sofa will convert to a bed to accommodate guests. **FACING PAGE:** The entry hall is an eclectic mix of locally found treasures: the marketry chest, Dutch side chairs, and a French mirror came from King's House Antiques.



THIS PAGE, TOP: Decorator Marjorie Johnston used a love seat instead of a couch and floated it in the middle of the space to define the Cooneys' long narrow living room better. **THIS PAGE, BOTTOM:** French doors invite the outside in, making garden an integral part of the interior décor. **THIS PAGE, RIGHT:** "Debbie likes beautiful things and lives casually with antiques and traditional furnishings. We wanted her house to feel very friendly and personal," says Marjorie. **FACING PAGE:** A Welsh cabinet holds Debbie's French tableware with its pretty pink border.



house, is flooded with natural light from generous windows.

In the family room, the same green paint on the walls and the trim open the room to the outside for an uninterrupted view of the garden (renovated by Robert Wetzels) and the courtyard beyond French doors. A favorite place for gathering, this room boasts a flat screen television, one of the home's three working fireplaces and a deep bay window that is home to the Cooneys' Christmas tree

during the holidays.

Not that all the changes to the house were merely decorative. There were plenty of structural modifications as well, working with architect Hank Long, contractor Roddy Sample and the kitchen design firm of Cantley and Company. On the façade of the house, three dormers were added, French doors and new windows were installed and the wood columns at the front entry way were changed to an elegant limestone.

Inside, the kitchen was completely reconfigured. In keeping with the rest of the home's character, it's not a sleek commercial kitchen but one with quiet charm, thanks to its pretty finishes and warm materials like marble, tile and rich wood. The refrigerator is hidden behind wood panels and its brass handles once belonged to an old bank building. Marjorie likens the gorgeous German silver sink to jewelry in the kitchen. A



RESOURCES

ARCHITECT

Hank Long
Sprott & Long
323.4564

DECORATOR

Marjorie Johnston
Timeless Interiors
870.5723

CONTRACTOR

Roddy Sample
621.6621

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT

Robin Wetzel
999.8036

PORTRAIT ARTIST

Portrait Brokers
879.1222

KITCHEN DESIGNER

Cantley and Company
325.2400

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

A.D. Antiquity
Robert Hill Collection
Circa
Christine's
Clay Metal and Stone
Les Trois Marche
Dinah Toro at Charlotte Woodson
HenHouse
King's House
Marguerite's Conceits
Mary Adams

long table provides informal seating overlooking the garden. As a whimsical touch, more of the couple's bronze animals also call this room home. And the two wall clocks? One is set to Birmingham time, the other to London time because that's where the Cooneys' daughter has lived and the couple often visit.

By the time the transformation was complete, every room, including the bathrooms, upstairs bedrooms and a

downstairs study/guest room had experienced some degree of change. Again, Marjorie credits the success of the project to the expertise of local merchants, the collaboration between creative minds and an involved homeowner.

"Debbie was involved in every step of the project," she says, "and that resulted in a home that is classic, timeless and very, very personal. It perfectly suits the way the Cooneys live." ●