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THE HOME DESIGN ISSUE



Gold leaf applied to the barrel vaulted ceiling of this traditional dining room adds warmth and a hint of modernism. Photo by Ryan McDonald

AS GOODE AS IT GETS

Joseph and Dina Goode trust a local designer to add modern flair to their traditional Tudor.

BY NICOLE BELL

WHEN JOSEPH AND DINA GOODE PURCHASED THEIR 1925 HOME IN MILWAUKEE, they fell in love with its traditional feel and footprint, but wanted to make the house feel more modern while maintaining its original elegance. The pair immediately knew to whom they should turn.

Nick Konzal, owner of Nicholas Carl Design, worked with the home's original, hand-drawn blueprints, molding his modern sensibility and materials around the Tudor's historic feel. In keeping with what he saw in those blueprints, Konzal restored the home's original floors, plaster and fireplace, then followed the plans to authentically restore elements, such as the molding, that had gone missing.

"The attention to detail in that capacity is [incredible]," Dina enthuses. "I just appreciate it so much, because we love old homes — and while he brought a modern flair, he also incorporated some of the essence of the original home."

For the social homeowners, space to entertain was a must-have. While their second floor houses all four bedrooms and three bathrooms, their lower level, Konzal explains, functions as a continuous loop floor plan, connecting the kitchen, dining and living rooms — a floor plan that proved perfect for hosting family and friends.

"The house is one of the best houses I've ever been in for entertaining," Joseph says of the layout. "Thanks to Dina's suggestion of opening up the dining room and living room to have doors that go out to the front patio, it is literally a 360 degree circle. The flow on the first floor in particular is just brilliant."

Formerly a garage, the current living room was converted to add more footage to the first floor. The tall ceiling and sunken floors make the room feel separated from the rest of the main floor's spaces.

When it came to the decor, Dina notes that the duo gave Konzal their preferred color palette, which favored various shades of blue, then allowed the artistic designer to blend their color scheme with his vision.

To keep the dining room feeling classic, but inject a touch of modern, Konzal worked with Chuck Maercklein at Finishes of Design to add gold leaf to the barrel-vaulted ceiling, which, he explains, adds a feeling of warmth and interest as light plays off of the finish.

Konzal also brought about big color changes to the office, which had previously boasted cherry cabinets with varying shades of stain. To keep with the traditional aesthetic, carpenter Geoff Slater added moldings and Konzal painted over the wood with a high-gloss black lacquer.

"[It] makes this room look so much bigger than it did originally," Dina says. "... It's just become a room that is ... so enjoyable,



because there's a couple of nice windows in there that bring light in. The whole room just seems to pop more than it ever did before."

"It's different," Konzal notes. "It all works. But each room is slightly different. ... We really wanted each room to stand on its own, but also to work together."

In addition to restoring elements of the home to their former glory, Konzal also had a few of the Goodes' antique and meaningful pieces of furniture restored to add to the decor, like the blue velvet chairs in the living room.

"When I was a little kid growing up in Whitefish Bay, those chairs were green velvet. They had a long history in my family — had come from Illinois where we once lived," Joseph explains. "I think they were purchased as green velvet chairs, and then they found their way up to a cottage that my father owned. They were reupholstered by my dad at some point, and then we took them back when my dad passed

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Top: Once belonging to homeowner Joseph Goode's father, the velvet chairs were reupholstered from their original green shade to the Goodes' preferred blue color palette. *Photo by Ryan McDonald*

Bottom: The cherry-stained wood paneling in this beautiful office was updated with a rich black lacquer. Nick Konzal, interior designer and owner of Nicholas Carl Designs, added light wallpaper, curtains and rugs to balance the room. *Photo by Ryan McDonald*