

SPRING GARDEN GUIDE: FLOWERS, FOUNTAINS, TOPIARIES, TOOLS & MORE!

# COLORADO HOMES & LIFESTYLES™

SPECIAL ISSUE

**AMAZING REMODELS**

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*before you get started*



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ON THE COVER: Interior designer Michail Dantes and residential designer Ken Pleper worked with homeowners Jennifer and Todd Crosbie on a dramatic transformation of their Genesee home. Maximilian feeds his favorite stuffed cow "Moo" in the newly updated kitchen.



MICHAEL FECK



# PERFECT UNION

two homes become  
ONE to create a  
secluded retreat in  
the heart of  
Denver.

Linda DuVal  
reports.

Photography by  
Michael Peck.

Produced by  
Niña Williams







"The living room evolved naturally as we gravitated toward luxurious fabrics with a soft gold palette," says designer Cassandra Lohr. "The space creates a setting for the art collection without competing." She located the plushest fabric she could find to cover the sofa, custom-woven, cream chenille, Egg & Dart, Denver Design Center, (303) 744-1575, and paired it with jewel-toned accents. Large antique Chinese wicker basket (holding forsythia) and antique Chinese red and black lacquered handled food carrier, Cash Gallery, Denver, (303) 722-2545. Red and tope Andlun throw, Susan Ungar pillow with teal olive applique, The Brass Bed Fine Linens and Furnishings, Cherry Creek North, (303) 322-1712.







Greenhouse windows create a light-filled kitchen space while ample cabinets keep the countertops free of clutter. An Oriental rug provides unexpected softness underfoot and protects the red Brazilian cherry wood floors. Just off the kitchen, a distressed, hand-hewn refectory table, Ellis Woods, Shanahan Collection, DDC, (303) 778-7088, anchors the dining area. The faux-glazed walls "turned to butter," says Lohr as they spread caramel glaze throughout the home. "The rooms just naturally gravitated toward that color. We used it to provide cohesiveness between the different rooms."

Once upon a time, a tiny 1904 farmhouse stood alone outside Denver until the city grew and eventually surrounded it. In 1982, a contemporary home was built immediately adjacent, sharing a wall with the farmhouse to wedge the new home into the 50-by-125-foot city lot.

When the current owners purchased the property in 1999, they realized the potential for creating an updated living space that would combine the best of both homes. They worked on the project bit by bit, first remodeling the 1982 home, then renovating the 1904 house, and finally merging the two into one 21st-century urban retreat. That transformation was the collaborative effort of interior designer Cassandra Lohr, architect Richard Henry and general contractor Tom Haverley.

Lohr was first on the scene five years ago and followed the project to its recent completion. "My first job was to bring everything up to date" in the newer home, she says. The bathrooms had to be gutted and completely redone, and for this she brought in Tom Haverley of Primo Construction. With suggestions from the owner, they moved the bath entrance to open up the room, added gold fixtures, mirror sconces and a new glass-block window over the sunken tub, which allowed light to enter, but ensured privacy.

On the second floor of the 1982 home, the master bedroom was redecorated in an "Ernest Hemingway, almost safari theme," Lohr says. The room's focal point is a handcrafted one-of-a-kind armoire with faux crocodile leather and copper trim that houses an entertainment center. Masculine overtones are tempered with touches such as lace window coverings that imbue femininity, according to Lohr.

Off the master bedroom, an oversized outdoor terrace overlooks the courtyard entry to the home. This sunny space is warm even on chilly winter days, capturing the light and sheltered from wind.

Leaving the master suite, the homeowners can either enter an open office with a balcony rail that overlooks the living room or descend the stairs. At the bottom of the stairs lies an airy, spacious kitchen. A bank of greenhouse windows on the south side makes the space sunny and bright throughout the day. Dark green granite





Black and gold lamps echo the striped dining area chairs while framing a pansy painting by artist Daniel Sprick. A brightly-hued gabbeh rug punctuates the floor, Shaver-Ramsey, Cherry Creek North, (303) 320-5363. Large antique red lacquered Chinese storage box, smaller antique red Chinese tea box, vintage Bolivian textile, antique handled red and black Chinese basket, pair of small Philippine wooden bowls, Cachi Gallery, Denver, (303) 722-2545; mossed pot and shells, HMK, Denver, (303) 321-5878.



Lohr added Old World appeal to the powder room with a 19th-century antique reproduction commode, topped with a carved crystal bowl and antique gold finish faucetry. Eurobath & Tile, Denver, (303) 298-8453. Antique sconces with hand-cut Austrian crystals, a hand-etched antique mirror and deep red walls with gold glaze complete the luxurious space. Mustard yellow Fino Lino guest towel and aqua Anichini guest towel, The Brass Bed Fine Linens and Furnishings, Cherry Creek North, (303) 322-1712.



countertops are a striking juxtaposition to white cabinetry. "The kitchen needed very little work," says Lohr. "Instead of overhauling the whole room, we sanded and repainted the cabinets. Then we replaced the countertop and laid an Oriental carpet to cushion the cook's feet."

The slightly raised kitchen opens into the dining and living rooms, creating a great room with defined-use areas. A hand-hewn, distressed refectory table anchors the dining area while black-and-gold-striped dining chairs are echoed in the striped lampshades on the sideboard. The alabaster chandelier sheds a warm, luminous glow.

The entrance to the property gives way to a private courtyard, complete with swimming pool, waterfall and lots of space for gardening and entertaining. In summer, tropical plants create a resort-like atmosphere. From the courtyard, French doors lead into a gracious foyer that was once the farmhouse kitchen. Now the space sets the stage for the rest of the house, with a small antique carpet, round marquetry tripod table, a recessed chandelier and a glass-enclosed wine room. Visitors can then enter the living room on the right or the family room on the left. It was at this juncture—both literally and figuratively—that Lohr called in architect Richard Henry to blend the two houses into one.

One clue that the space on the left belongs to the old farmhouse is the intermittent exposed brick on the interior walls. It provides the room, adjacent powder room and stair wall with a rustic aesthetic. Henry also added two glass-block windows to bring light while ensuring privacy.

The architect's biggest challenge was the upper level, which he brought up to current building codes. There, he transformed a tight staircase and three tiny rooms into a guest suite. "From a design standpoint, there weren't a lot of ➤







bedroom. The armoire is a focal point of the room, and the French doors lead to a sunroom with a potted tree.

Designer Cassandra Lohr was inspired by Ernest Hemingway's African safari tales. The focal point of this plush bedroom, a hand-crafted armoire with faux croc leather and copper trim, The Collection by Cassandra Lohr, Egg & Dart, DDC, (303) 744-1676, conceals an entertainment center. Bed, Columbine Showroom, DDC, (303) 722-4400. Anichini throw, wood pulp Legna bed linens by SDH and Susan Unger olive leaf gillow, The Brass Bed Fine Linens and Furnishings, Cherry Creek North, (303) 322-1712; Large antique Chinese bamboo basket, red lacquered antique Chinese round wooden storage jar, Cashi Gallery, Denver, (303) 722-2545.



BEFORE



## Design Details

### INTERIOR DESIGNER

Cassandra Lohr Design International  
Denver  
(303) 377-7121

### ARCHITECT

Richard Henry  
Denver  
(303) 293-3300

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Tom Haverley  
Primo Construction Co.  
Denver  
(303) 758-8101

The round marquetry tripod table greets visitors in the foyer, while the glass-enclosed wine room offers a glimpse of the homeowners' extensive wine collection. This space, which was once a farmhouse kitchen, attests to the seamless blending of two distinct residences—one built in 1904, the other in 1982—that originally shared a common wall. Rug, Floor Coverings by CPA, Denver Design Center, (303) 722-4700. Kitchen towel by SDH, The Brass Bed Fine Linens and Furnishings, Cherry Creek North, (303) 322-1712.



options," he says. Henry opened up the staircase. One of the three rooms became a bathroom and dressing area, the middle room became a sitting room and the third room became a sleeping area. The suite has two private balconies that overlook the mountains to the west and the courtyard below.

Soft buttery, faux-glazed walls tie the home's separate interiors together and create a backdrop for a rich color palette defined by the red Brazilian cherry floors and lush golds found in fabrics throughout. Lohr continued this warm color palette upstairs, adding accents of muted jewel tones, such as cranberry and salmon. Here, as elsewhere in the house, the homeowners' contemporary art collection brings life to the walls and richly colored area rugs punctuate the floors.

It is rare when a home remodeling project is dubbed "painless" by the owners. But that is just how they describe the artful merger of these two residences. Of course, they note, that it helps if you can live in one house while the other is being remodeled.

The homeowners are delighted with the final result. They now have a fluid, light-filled home that opens into the courtyard where they enjoy Colorado's climate year-round; a perfect match for their urban lifestyle. ■