



# FAMILY CLASSIC

Sensitive Updates Transform a  
Shorewood Tudor

By Manya Kaczowski • Photography By Jerry Luterman



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**W**hen they moved to Shorewood in 2004, Tom and Linda knew they had a home with good English Tudor bones. Designed in 1927 by architect Perce Schley, the home has loads of character and is filled with lovely period details: curved archways, a built-in library window seat, and rich, red oak trim.

Thankfully, the previous owners had taken excellent care of the property. "It had been really well-respected," says Linda, "but it was time for the next round of maintenance." They focused, at first, on getting the home up to snuff, hiring Potter the Painter to infuse the English plaster walls with cream and gold, and to restore the painted trim upstairs. But they knew that the kitchen needed some serious updating, and they wanted to add a family room for

relaxation time with their children: Grace, age 10; Eve, 7; and Mae, 3.

**A Crazy Beginning**

Linda remembers the day that Todd Badovski, architect and co-owner of Cream City Construction, came over to discuss the design. The baby was 3 months old, the dog was on the loose, yet Badovski took everything in stride. "At one point we were outside," Linda says, "and I looked around and said, 'do you know where the dog is?' And he said, 'I think he's in the neighbor's garage licking the grill!'"

That slightly hysterical beginning led to a strong partnership. Badovski and Bill Hicks, co-owner and project manager, kept a close eye on progress. The kitchen and two bathrooms were gutted and redesigned, a family

The 1927 English Tudor home (opp.) was well-cared for, but the kitchen needed updating. The finished design (above) blends in beautifully.



The cozy living spaces are filled with books and plenty of places to read them — there's a window seat for each of the children (above and opp).

room and mudroom was added, and the garage was torn down and relocated.

#### The Great Indoors

Today, custom white cabinetry shares kitchen space with high-tech appliances and a deep single-basin farmhouse sink, striking exactly the right balance between new and classic. And although the kitchen was virtually rebuilt from the studs, a few choice relics remain, such as the original annunciator, which, once upon a time, used a numbered system to summon servants to specific rooms

of the house. The homeowner can also ring the bell by stepping on a button hidden under the dining room rug. But the most charming tribute to the home's age is the mature ivy spreading a lacy pattern across one window.

The kitchen opens into the heart of the home — the new family room, where comfortable furniture and heated flooring surrounds a fireplace and television. Linda points at the various window seats, each with a set of bookshelves and cabinets. "This one is Grace's, that's Eve's and this is Mae's," she says. A Pakistani rug warms up





Cream and gold colors in the newly renovated spaces (above) reflect the hues featured in the original rooms of the house (opp.).

the room, and a casual breakfast table sits beneath 7-foot-high casement windows. To the right, Coco the cockatiel lives in the bright new mudroom, chattering a welcome as the girls remove their boots and coats.

Schermer Enterprises used paint colors of cream and gold in the new areas, echoing tones in the original rooms, while the woodwork is painted white. The diamond-shaped panes in an original door are also seen in the kitchen cabinets, and the family room windows were inspired by those in the dining room.

#### Exterior Improvements

Outdoors, the garage relocation opened up the yard enough to hold a play set, a casual brick patio, and a more formal space,

paved with bluestone, for outdoor dining. Jane Frank, from David J. Frank Landscape Contracting, designed the new outdoor spaces — just in time, as it turns out. “In September, nine new children moved into the neighborhood!” says Linda. Their new backyard is a kid-magnet.

Linda and Tom are delighted with their new home, and now have plenty of room for family gatherings. And they have a story: at one point in the project, a worker lost his balance while standing on a ladder, and fell through the kitchen wall onto the main staircase. “I was walking out of the living room with the baby, toward the kitchen,” says Linda, “and suddenly, there he was!” Luckily, he was not injured, and they did a fantastic job repairing the plaster — all you see today is gorgeous home.

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