

HOME

AUSTIN

THE STYLE ISSUE

BEAUTIFUL SPACES, COLORFUL IDEAS AND TIPS FROM THE PROS



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PRO TOOLS

TAKE IT FROM DESIGN LEADERS

Drowning in papers and want a stylish rescue plan for your home office? Building a new home and searching for the right look? Or maybe it's time to update a room with a completely fresh feel. It's a jungle out there when it comes to design, and it takes more than an active Pinterest board and a trip to IKEA to pull a space together. But don't fret, just read on. We hit up a slew of local design professionals to learn how they achieved some amazing room rehabilitations. Their inspiration ranged from sleek modernity to turn-of-the-century elegance, and even the smallest accessories made big impacts in their work. But the best part? They're here to let you know how they pulled it off.

BY KATE HARRINGTON / PORTRAITS BY CODY HAMILTON





THE
INFLUENCES



FURNITURE

LEGENDARY DECORATOR FRANCES ELKINS' PIECES, INCLUDING HER FAMOUS "LOOP CHAIR," PROVIDE INSPIRATION FOR A MODERN YET TIMELESS LOOK.



FABRIC

VELVET HAS A BAD HABIT OF VISIBLY AGING, BUT IN THIS CASE THAT WORN-IN LOOK FIT WITH THE HOMEOWNERS' GOALS. THE BRIGHT ORANGE-RED IS A PLAYFUL WAY TO BREAK UP THE BLUES IN THE ADJOINING MASTER BEDROOM.



ART

A PAINTING BY ABSTRACT ARTIST MEREDITH PARDUE TIES ALL THE COLORS IN THE ROOM TOGETHER



COLOR

BRINGING A DOSE OF THE FEMININE INTO THE SITTING ROOM WAS ONE OF THE MAIN GOALS OF THE REDESIGN.

THE SITTING ROOM

GET SOFT AND SOPHISTICATED

ANNIE DOWNING

The owners of this Pemberton Heights home had already updated the decor throughout most of their house, with the exception of this sitting room off the master bedroom. They enjoyed sitting there at the end of the day and spending time with their three sons, but large, leather armchairs and a dearth of color made it overwhelmingly masculine. Annie Downing Interiors and Decoration worked with the homeowners to update the space and bring a bit more femininity into it, while also pulling some pops of color into the room to break up the light blue palette in the master bedroom. A variety of colors and textures in the fabrics, from the grass cloth wallpaper to the throw pillows, give the room a fresh feeling. The inspiration was a feminine look that would also be welcoming to the males in the family.

1. A lighter-colored and streamlined lamp and sconces from Visual Comfort replaced heavier, wrought-iron lighting and matched the simple feel of the ottoman.

2. The armchairs and ottoman punched up the room by adding texture and color and brought a little more of a feminine/masculine balance. Both the chairs and ottomans were made by Lee Industries. Downing found the persimmon velvet from Kravet and used it to customize the chairs. The ottoman's fabric is white with a slight shine and is meant to be large and comfortable while also conveying a more feminine taste.

3. Grass-cloth wallpaper carries the slight shimmer that the ottoman's fabric and throw pillows have, and its cool gray tones complement the blues from the master bedroom. It's subtle enough that Downing also put it behind the shelves.

4. The desk chair was the big splurge in the room. Downing went all out for a Frances Elkins chaise, made by a California company that has the rights to the design. "We wanted the real deal," Downing says. "We didn't want to do a ghost chair, something that everyone else had, so we did a white lacquer."

5. Throw pillows from Groundworks at Lee Jofa, a New York store, also have a slight shimmer and are done in a tweed-like fabric that echoes the fabric covering the headboard in the master bedroom. The window seat is done in fabric from Robert Allen.

6. The homeowners already owned many of the books on the shelves, but Downing found some older books as well as the stone bookend by hunting in Round Top antique shops and at its famous antiques fair.

7. A cylindrical table from Made Goods serves a functional purpose without adding bulk to the room.

