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MELLOW DRAMA

WRITTEN BY NANCY MYERS

PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHEN KARLISCH

MARY ANNE SMILEY SELDOM NEEDS A CALLING CARD—AND SHE CERTAINLY DIDN'T NEED ONE FOR THIS PROJECT. When the owners of this North Dallas dwelling saw how the interior designer transformed their daughter's house, they knew that Smiley would be perfect for their own interior renovation.

Recognizing great potential in the sweeping spaces, classic millwork, and sensational stairwell and entry, Smiley was intent on making the most of the home's interior architecture. "I wanted to add drama but bring it down to human scale," says the principal of Mary Anne Smiley Interiors in Dallas. At the same time, she would elevate the level of design to accommodate her clients' appreciation of Western and contemporary art. The result: an offbeat mix of safari chic, museum-worthy works, and unexpected spots of shimmer.

The work started in the living room, where Smiley swapped heavy swags for lighter window treatments and chose a pale, almost transparent blue for the walls. The piano was moved to an area under the staircase, opening up the entire space. In came chic seating for 10, with ivory silk velvet

INTERIOR DESIGNER Mary Anne Smiley

BEDROOMS 5 **BATHROOMS** 6 **SQUARE FEET** 14,000

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DRAMA TO THE HOME WHILE BRINGING

IT DOWN TO HUMAN SCALE



STYLE SELECTION

This hand-painted, black scalloped table with Chinoiserie design, gold trim and cabriole legs adds balance to bright spaces. *Scalloped Table*, \$1,700; decorativecrafts.com

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sofas, vivid Fortuny pillows, and chairs in hand-printed textiles from Sabina Fay Braxton. The fireplace, once "totally vanilla," is now the focal point of the room, adorned with gilded millwork and antique mirrored panels. To unify the space, Smiley searched the Internet for six bright, coordinating glass works by artist Dale Chihuly, finally locating them at a gallery in Canada. "They had to be symmetrical, and they had to be six different colors, to reflect the contemporary art we chose for this room."

For the dining room, the clients wanted a table that would seat many, and they wanted it to be unique. While combing antique stores in New York,



ARTISTIC IMPRESSION

A rich gold, caramel and royal blue color scheme echoes the shades found in the home's Western art. The furniture layout accommodates relaxation and fireside conversation.



WATER ARBOR

The homeowners' fondness for sculptural elements and their sense of symmetric style are reflected in this tailored poolside setting.



WALK ON AIR

Smiley emphasized the dramatic arch of the floating spiral staircase by placing a round settee in the curve of the piano.

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Smiley unearthed what would become the tabletop—a screen with panels of antique mirror *églomisé* embellished in a Medici pattern in gold and silver, framed in 22-karat gold leaf. She calls the fabulous find another “aha! moment,” second only to discovering the Chihuly’s. “I thought it was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen,” she says. “I chose exotic zebra wood for the table apron, thinking that it would lend a linear effect and contrast the glitz of the table’s top. And the Greek key 22-karat-gold-plated bronze adornment around the apron is the icing on the cake.”

The evolution of the front rooms led to updates of the adjacent spaces, and Smiley next wanted to lighten up the powder bath. “After I found



SADDLE UP
Cowhide chairs and an antique game table complement the fine leatherwork and sculpture in this bay window nook.

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the fabulous Maya Romanoff wall covering with the gilded background and beautiful acanthus pattern with crystal beads, I knew I had the wall treatment that would tie in with what was going on in the dining room and living room."

The den and study both house multiple pieces of the homeowners' Western art collection. For the den, Smiley chose pedestals and custom acrylic "horses" to showcase sculptures and antique saddles. Complementary furnishings include a pair of cowhide chairs alongside an antique game table. The study was modernized with a custom semicircular Nancy Corzine desk, J. Robert Scott chairs with cowhide covers, and



COMFORT CORRALLED
Gray-green millwork and a light-tiled floor create a soothing backdrop in the study. The custom Nancy Corzine pedestal desk was found at Allan Knight & Associates.



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Emperor marble. With the homeowners' nod of approval, Smiley decided she would backtrack from the den and rejuvenate the breakfast room. She repeated certain themes and incorporated black and a soft yellow-gold for the walls and antique pieces.

"When you have guests, you're going to have flow," the designer notes. "It wouldn't do to exit that fabulous living room and dining room to go to the beautiful, comfortable family room via a breakfast room with heavy window covers and country furniture. What you're seeing from every direction is really important. And the house just continues to evolve." **L**

SILVER AND GOLD

A custom window bench in silvered linen reflects the antique wood chairs, Venetian glass chandeliers and Tibetan rug in the dining room.



DO WEST

The breakfast room look was such a hit with the homeowners that Smiley carried the theme into the kitchen, and created a Western art display at its threshold.